INVESTIGATION PROPOSED ON WPA PROJECTS

House of Representatives Votes for WPA Truck Investigation

Resolution Claims Farmers Wracked from Projects

Thursday, January 16, the Minnesota State House of Representatives passed another publish and ridiculing resolution for which they are becoming famous.

This one called for an investigation of "suspected discrimination's under this truck farming on WPA projects.

Representatives Tigue, Wayman and Stayer were the authors of the joint resolution. The resolution claims that farmers from even non-bound Minnesota County have been denied WPA work and members of the group charged to drive a general strike on all projects in the state" was threatened.

Representative L. E. Broppe of Minneapolis, farmer-truck contractor, immediately took the floor and launched into a bitter arraignment of Local 674 and an attack upon all unions.

Representatives Wier, Bellman, and Benson, both of Minneapolis, entered the discussion. It carried, however, by a vote of 67 to 11.

In a statement issued to the press by Local 574, January 17th, Local 574 presented its side of the story and publicly given the resolution that had been passed by the House.

Our organization, Local 574, represents a large majority of the independent contractors in the district who are hired on the various projects. When this WPA setup was initiated, we made inquiries regarding the classes of equipment that would be eligible for the various types of work. This inquiry was made for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not such types of equipment as had been hired or used under the CWA and ERA would be permitted under the new setup.

We were informed by representatives of the WPA administration that the same classes of equipment was for the national organization coming from the U.S. Treasury Department. This office would outline in detail various types of equipment which would qualify and would work.

When the members of our organization were asked to submit bids on these projects, it was necessary to list the type of equipment which they had for hire and proof of ownership of the same. It might be said here that many of these men did not exist for any of this work on account.

Continued on page 5

Chicken Pickers! Under a Littlefield list the following facts and inside the Minnesota article appears: "A new union, Local No. 104, International Brotherhood of Truck Drivers, Chauffeurs, Wreckers and Helpers, with jurisdiction also over poultry and dairy workers, was formed here with the charter of official of the A. F. of L. There are 49 members. What? Chicken Pickers, Mr. The.

Building Laborers Strike Project

The summer field Stum Clearing Co. fan dancer have battled the strike of the Minnesota Common Laborers Union who demands that their union scale of 67-4 be paid for the labor on the quakingas, who claims that is a preliminary to the building of the so-called low cost housing.

McDonald Supply Co., successful bidder on the contract, is also employing the wrecking laborers 40+ per hour. As the wrecking operations is progressing on the city site, it was accompanied by pickets from the Laborers Union. The few workmen employed on the project turned over.

Employers are seeking to replace the men who have been sent to the job to haul the wrecked material, turn him when they learned that the job was being struck.

The Stum Clearing Project, which is a PWA venture, calls for all labor to be supplied through the Reemployment Office, Second Avenue South.

This office reports that they are unable to supply labor for the job on account of the low wage and the hours.

The hours on this project are nine hours per day, 15 hours per week. The workers on this job would have the minimum wage of $45 per week, and less than the subsistence wage on WPA projects. To date no settlement has been reached.

The Common Laborers Union Memos states that they will continue the strike until their demands are granted by the Rose Bros. Lumber & Supply Co.

WPA Fan Dancer Is Given the Air

The gyrations of the Minneapolis Dancer were the only entertainment provided on the Theater Relief Program, was reported to have put on her spot in various CCC camps. Apparently fearing for the moral welfare of the young tree planters, the women overruled the funds and closed down the project.

Sub Committee Held Session Sunday

The committee alerted by the Market Workers meeting Wednesday night met Sunday morning at ten o'clock in the Drivers Hall.

The committee had been increased by several members of the union who are employed on the market and who volunteered their services.

The principal achievement that can be recorded for the committee was the meeting the was setting up a conference with Dunne who were to contact and get a meeting with the heads of the houses with a view towards helping producers in producing the food by the government.

The sub-committee which consists of Lambach, Alquist, Peterson, Trask and Fickman, were presented with the grocery unions, Central United.

Federal Workers Dance Is Success

The Federal Workers dance held Saturday, January 19th, attracted the largest crowd that has ever attended a dance in 574 halls. Over 500 people were present.

So crowded was the program that the committee in charge of the distribution of the various prizes were unable to dispose of all the gifts that had been donated by various merchants. The prizes were given away in an auction.

Chernik's six piece union orchestra enlivened the occasion. The committee in charge of this affair are to be congratulated on the success paid at the dance, it was a special occasion.

Most of these prizes will be forwarded in a report to the union committee.

The Central Labor Union Votes

The next meeting of the Central Labor Union will see officers elected who will guide the destinies of the Minneapolis Central Labor for the coming year. Irrespec- tive of how unmanned and impotent the Minneapolis Central Labor appears to be, it is nevertheless supreme important to the development of the center of the Minnes- ota Trade Union Movement to be progressed in hand.

With the turn that is taking place in the A. F. of L. brought about by the division of the Green and Lewis and support high during the coming years, the question of the safety of the out- and Green supporters is in some way stayed.

The sense that everywhere in the United States, the A. F. of L. organizers will deeply concern themselves with the elections that take place in Central Labor. The prohibition of the exclusion from the membership of the workers will be a small voice still among the ensuing.

Power Workers End Long Hard Fight for Union Agreement

At the River Terminal Coke and Coal Company, 29th and Aldrich Avenue, was held a meeting of the contract between the contract. The company P. R. F. Puck, president of the company.

The terms of settlement were announced by unanimous vote of the firm that Local 160 in a special meeting held on January 15. The meeting had been called, by a request of the general manager, for the purpose of taking a strike vote. After the taking of a vote, the company representative reported that the company refused to discuss a written agreement. With the announcement of the impending strike vote, the Lat- mer Employes' Association Board attempted to step into the contro- versy...Meyer Lewis, not belonging to the American union with Local 160, issued a long statement to the press demanding Buck's resigna- tion. The company considered that this action would be to the benefit of the Local 160 members, with consid- erable emphasis. Having no confi- dence in the company, they felt that Buck's influence, on or off the job, would be still felt, and that the board would even less capable of making a fair de- cision.

A few days prior to the Janu- ary 15 deadline was es- tablished between the union and the company by Attorney Fred A. Ossana, acting as a special medi- ator. On January 14 the union committee conferred with the Secretary- Treasurer of Local 160 with their leader, a man who was a former high officials of the company. The discussion centered around the de- mands of the company, recogni- tion, security guarantees and wage increases. According to Mr. Puck, the agreement to raise wages and to recognize the union, and the meeting of the company to settle with its members. He stated, however, that he would not put it to a vote that could be read the board even less capable of making a fair de- cision.

No further meetings were held. Continued on page 2

Make Minnesota a Union Town!
Bill Brown Says—

Let's have all of the unions in Minneapolis get together and make a noble protest that the Government is trying to break the Wall Street Labor Ex-

All one is the New Clearance Project in Minneapolis. It is said that after it started by the Building Laborers Union with a strike they called that a "Wealth of Labor," they don't think the work of these 100 old men is worth the price of one of those old shacks, when it is fifteen be-

When they are finished, and these people live? You couldn’t rent one of them the shacks they are working on $7.50 a week.

Bill Brown

President of 574

Local Employers Challenge Olson

Once again Minneapolis employers have come before the federal court, to challenge the right of the voters to pass the wage, as it applies to declaring marital lia-

The owners of the Strutwheeler plant in collaboration with a group of Minneapolis anti-union employ-

ers have come into federal court demanding that the Governor,aley, say in his message, and show cause why the troops should not be withdrawn and the Strutwheeler strikers get their wages.

Paying over the question of what the employers plan to do or bad for the striking Strutwheeler workers, the challenge is be-

cause there is no evidence of peculiar and significant in-

terest to all concerned.

The court rule that the Governor is unlawfully raising wages with the rights of busi-

ness to settle their labor difficul-

ties as they see fit, such a ruling could not be sustained by the employers, when if their organizational or strik-

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INVESTIGATION PROPOSED ON PROJECTS

(Continued from page 1)

of accounting, for trucks bearing T licenses. In the event that some of our state representatives show that under the law in the state no one bearing a T license is not for hire, we can further show that farmers who purchase from the proper licensees and equipment are now being employed on these jobs.

The reason that prompted our investigation was that 158 districts in Minnesota there were approximately 2,700 trucks registered by the Minnesota Fifth District, which comprises Polk County, there were approxi- mately 907 registered from this district.

We had reasons to believe that certain fleet truck owners and un- authorized dealers were using our laws, were using these trucks regist- ered in the names of some indi- viduals to engage in work on these projects in an illegal manner.

We are not apologizing for any work that we have done in an investigation where results that to date have clearly shown that our investigation was entirely correct in spirit. During the investigation, we have not at any time urged or ad- duced to intimidate either the WPA officials or any individual worker of the WPA or the WPA officials that asking all workers that qualified to work on these projects be given an opportunity to do so, and we will welcome any investiga- tory information or written documents to support our conten- tion.

GENERAL DRIVERS UNION NO. 574

Wm. S. Franklin, President

The passage of the resolution offers definite proof that unity- minded WPA workers can always be rallied to vote for resolutions or laws pointed at discriminating or ar- restations of the WPA workers.

In particular case, General Drivers Union not only welcomed this investigation but insists that the investigation be carried out. We will show that nine out of 10 workers who have brought these cases to the attention of the Union, projects, with trucks, are not on the jobs because of the state motor vehicle department. The same thing is being done by the same legislative body that adopted the resolution calling for the in- vestigation.

Whether or not these stipulated actions know it, we can inform them that T licenses, issued only to farmers, prohibit the owner of a truck bearing such license to hire for hire.

If the proposed investigation accomplishes nothing more, it will at least, demonstrate to the people of the state the small number called 106 members of the lower House.

And for a five-star final; We recently received the famous Latimer's Christmas card: "Christmas Twelve months of the year. Christmas the one day of the year that pleasurable anticipation, buoyancy of spirit, and un- tainted end of kinship with our fellow voyagers in the bark of life that is so excellently true."

Thursday, January 23, 1936

The Railroad Brotherhoods

In its December 26th issue the Northwest Organizer extends an invitation to railroadmen to write their opinion of the Railroad Broth- erhood, the official mouthpiece of the Brotherhood leadership. The pro- posed investigation will enable us to circulate their own opinions be- side the views presented to us in laws in their constitutions and further supplemented by swept-aside resolutions, but not to lodge rituals. So don't expect too much from them, and with but keep on urging them to write. If the workers in railroad have the courage to write, the Railroad Brotherhoods in par- ticularly when the Brotherhood is only a beating drum for their opinions in the Organ- ize it will incite as its circu- lated laws and ratifying of the progressive wing of railroad union.

Brother railroad unionists, let's hear from you through these col- umns on any question pertaining to the organized labor movement on the railroads and its problems.

Albert Lea Scene Of Union Meeting

Friday, January 17th, the In- dependent Union of All Workers, has called an interunion get-togeth- her in Albert Lea, Minnesota. Speakers from 754 had been in- vited to this meeting, and Mr. H. F. Wallin and Miles Dunn were asked to speak in Albert Lea that night. A splendid crowd of almost fifty people were present,4 with Mr. Wallin speaking on "the Union: It was a well written and well presented speech that had the workers in Albert Lea local.

The mass meeting for Market Workers held by handbill for Wednesday, January 15th, was the best attended meeting of these workers that had been held for years.

The downstairs hall was filled to overflowing when the meeting was opened by the chairman, Mr. Dunne, at eight o'clock. Dunne called the roll and then the group elect their own chairman and secretary for the meeting.

At the request of the meeting Edie Dunne made a long detailed report of the history of the Market Workers during which he showed that although there is almost 100 per cent unionization on the central market, there is a third class men employed there now than two years ago. He attributed this largely to the fact that fruit and grocery houses in Minneapolis have not changed and, in part, to wholesale grocery houses who were supplying and produce to the various chain grocery stores.

For a possible general dis- cussion it was decided, by motion, that a table be formed, who would lay plans to correct the situation that now prevails on the central market.

The following committee was elected: Beairmon Fruit Company, W. J. Beairmon; Crabtree Fruit Company, W. E. Crabtree, S. F. Bentley and L. S. Holt; Masa Fruit Company, Ed Quick and C. G. Smith; Northern Fruit Corp., C. A. McGrath and Cookie; Northwest Produce Company, J. L. Lowe; Gamble-Robinson Com- pany.

New York, January 20, 1936

Mayor Evans and Sam Pick- ey; Thrift Mart Company; Puhl Meat Company, Mickey; Twin City Car Company, Frank; and Rosalee Friedlander Company, Paul Schwall. Morris held the meeting, Leif and Clarence. It was decided that this com- mittee meet January 15th at 10 a.m.

Market Workers Hold Mass Meeting for Chain Protest

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There was a collection taken up which yielded a substantial amount. Following the speech program there was dancing and dancing for the occasion.

N. Y. Tobin Union Runs Afoul of Law

Local 292, New York City, one of Tobin'sobby non-rocketeeting union, has been dismissed as a violation of the law.

Seven officers and members of the Wright Workers' Union, mem- bers in the railroad industry, have been indicted for violation of the Sherman-Coolidge ja- nual. The indictment, which was based on a "genuine bona fide A. F. of L. or C. and equivalent to a franchise, to a non- commercial union, in return for the information contained in the above" provision. The union had been engaged in a pack- age which was a so-called franchise and bombardment of the employees, to induce them to part with $50,000 to $1,000 per year.

About charter lifting and expulsions, Mr. Tobin? Or do you only reserve that for honest people?

Reeves Coal & Dock Co. 100% Union Concern

The Reeves Coal and Dock Co., a large corporation and a big portion of relief coal, have entered into new agreements with General Drivers League Local 574. All men have been put on the job, and no portion of relief coal, have entered into new agreements with General Drivers League Local 574.

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Another headline in the Tab- une: "21 Railroads Report Higher Earnings. But how about the 21 railroad brotherhoods. Did they report higher earnings?"
The Legislative Investigation

The threatened investigation proposed by the Lower House of the Minnesota Legislative Body is welcomed by the AFL. The Local Unions of the State have been the wife of those of the AFL as the way to properly secure the proper license and proper equipment. If those farmers who are not now on the job had been willing to use the vehicle they would have been earning a profit on the farm. The farmers who are threatened and coerced no one. We have merely insisted that the State WPA Procurement Officers must see to it that the farmers be paid for the work they perform and that the vehicles be properly used and taken care of.

Contrary to the vicious and lying statements that were made by the farmers, the investigation of the House of Representatives by enemies of unionism, union membership is NOT one of the reasons why the WPA workers are not working. We much may desire it, there is not now and never had been a closed shop condition for truck drivers on WPA projects.

So we say to the Minnesota State Legislature — on with the investigation. The sooner the better.

Slums and More Slums

The Summer Field Slum Clearance Project which has been struck by the Building Laborers Union, Local No. 561, is a grand example of the urgent need for the Federal Relief Administration. This project which is aimed to tear down existing slums and to provide modern homes, presents a contradiction that cannot be reconciled under capitalism. The Building Laborers Union, operating at the time, and the AFL at the time were aware that the WPA contractor was prepared to pay, has justly and rightly struck the project.

The forty cents an hour wage scale, proposed by the WPA contractor, would bring the worker employed on the project $825 per month for the one hundred and thirty hours he is allowed to work. This wage is $8.50 lower than the subsistence wage level on WPA projects. The Federal Relief Administration is put in the position, on one hand, of setting a subsistence wage level of $8.50 for relief recipients, who have been put on WPA projects, and on the other hand, allowing private contractors engaged on Federal finance projects to pay $825.

As has been often logically pointed out, the wage paid on some WPA projects will be adequate for these lowly paid workers will have to make their homes.

Teardown one slum district and at the same time erect others. Why the only end that can be accomplished by such starvation wages.

A Victory

The victory won by the Northern States Power Workers last week should hold great significance for the whole Minneapolis area. This union which at one time had a membership of over 1,000 a year ago, now has only a fraction left which is destroyed by a cleverly conducted red campaign initiated by the employer.

This union, now almost totally destroyed by the vicious red scare, the union for some months floundering about in a sea of despondency. But at the beginning of the strike the militant leadership, the union took on new light and fought its way back to a place in the heart of the industrial workers and was able to overcome the powerful company concessions that they have been unable to get before.

Their comeback should teach to every worker, organized or unorganized, in the present time, the class war and the importance of cooperation and courage plus a correct program. Now achievement of the working class is impossible without their aid and support.