

# LABOR UNITY

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## MINERS, NO SURRENDER TO OPERATORS

ON the eve of the expiration of the Jacksonville agreement, all reports indicate that a struggle between the miners and the operators is inevitable.

The attempts to settle the differences by negotiation and to arrive at a new agreement have failed. The operators are determined to reduce the standard of living of the organized miners to the low level of the defenseless slaves in the unorganized fields. The United Mine Workers is faced with the choice of either surrendering to the attack of the operators, or to fight with its back against the wall.

Miners, there can be but one answer. **NO SURRENDER. STRIKE AGAINST WAGE CUTS. FIGHT FOR YOUR UNION.**

### Life of Union at Stake.

In the present struggle much more than your standard of living is involved. The very existence of your union as a weapon for your defense against the bosses is at stake. The miners remember too well the widespread violations of the Jacksonville agreement. In every district the operators openly flouted the "sacred" agreement. And in the last few months, in the negotiations and outside of the conferences, the operators have shown that they are determined to weaken your union and to reduce it to impotence. Unless you prove that your United Mine Workers of America, the union that was built with immeasurable sacrifices of two generations of miners, IS STILL CAPABLE OF FIGHTING and can bring the operators to terms, you will be practically defenseless against their ever increasing insolence. **YOU MUST FIGHT TO SAVE YOUR UNION.**

In this grave crisis the LABOR UNITY would do an ill service to the miners if it were to fail to present the situation in all its seriousness and as it really is. Your enemy knows too well every weak point in your defense. The miners must therefore take account of the real situation, to do everything in their power and to force the leaders to take the necessary measures to assure victory for the Union and the miners.

### Organize Non-union Fields

The greatest menace to the strike lies in the unorganized fields. The unorganized miners have proven that they are eager to join the ranks of the union. They can and they must be organized. But as yet there is not the slightest indication of an organizing drive among them. **DEMAND OF YOUR LEADERS** that a most energetic campaign be immediately initiated in the unorganized fields.

Persistent rumors that there will be separate district agreements have not been denied by John L. Lewis. Separate district agreements would mean defeat for the miners. The betrayal of the coke miners in 1922 is still remembered. They joined the strike and saved it from defeat, but when the settlement was made they were left in a lurch. A policy of separate district agreements will cause distrust among the unorganized miners and will make it impossible to bring them



The Answer

## Reactionaries of Needle Trades in Dire Straits

AFTER almost four months' warfare against the New York locals of the ladies garment and fur workers' unions, the reactionary officials of the two Internationals in alliance with the bosses, the Tammany police and the capitalist press, find themselves with few followers among the workers. Their terroristic union-smashing campaign has not succeeded. The registration in their "unions" is a flop. Their vociferous statements in the obliging capitalist papers, that the left wing leadership elected by the rank and file is "played out" fool no one any more. The attempts of the bosses to force the workers to desert their unions and to join the Sigman and Schachtman so-called locals were countered with determined strikes and picketing. Finally, the two Joint Boards formed a Joint Unity Committee, to give single, unified direction to the struggle against the "triple alliance"—the bosses, the union-betraying officialdom, and the police.

### Frame-Up Against Gold

Even the frame-up against Ben Gold, the fighting leader of the fur workers, brought them little comfort. Gold and nine other active members of the fur workers' union were arrested on charges of assault in connection with the strike of last summer. At the hearing they were held without bail, the judge declaring that he made this decision

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into the strike. **DEMAND A DEFINITE DECLARATION AGAINST SEPARATE DISTRICT AGREEMENTS.**

Demand an aggressive strike policy that will arouse the fighting spirit of the union membership and will inspire confidence among the unorganized miners. Demand that your leaders keep you informed and keep in constant contact with the membership. Demand the reinstatement of Alex Howat, Powers Haggood and the other progressives, who were expelled because they advocated a fighting policy for the union.

Beware of all schemes of co-operation with the mine management, of "efficiency" schemes, that mean harder toil for less pay.

Every miner must be awakened to the danger of the present situation. Every mining center must resound with the slogans:

**FIGHT FOR THE UNION!  
NO WAGE CUT!  
ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED MINERS!  
NO SEPARATE DISTRICT AGREEMENTS!**

### LEWIS AUTHORIZES SEPARATE AGREEMENTS

As we go to press news dispatches relate that the Polley Committee has authorized not only district agreements, but also separate agreements with individual operators.

## STAND BY THE MINERS!

The Miners' Union, and with it the whole labor movement, faces a crisis in the combined attack of the coal operators and the treachery of the Lewis administration. Combined action of all miners and loyal support by the whole labor movement can defeat the operators' attempt to cut wages and smash the union.

The striking miners in the central field are surrounded by enemies and it will require the most energetic action by the whole labor movement to defeat the operators and to prevent Lewis from repeating such a betrayal as that of the Fayette miners in 1922.

Lewis has failed, purposely, to organize the unorganized miners. He has then made agreements with operators in outlying districts to mine coal during the strike. This is treason to the miners.

The whole labor movement must stand 100 per cent by the strikers.

The rank and file of the miners must refuse to scab on the miners of the central competitive field. They must demand a special International convention to lay plans to win the strike and to defeat the reactionary Lewis machine.

All labor must aid to bring every bituminous miner in America into the strike as a member of the United Mine Workers.

All labor must organize relief for the strikers, their wives and children.

All labor must stand shoulder to shoulder with the miners against the operators.

Save the Miners' Union!

## Reactionaries in Needle Trades

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on the basis of confidential "special information" against these workers. The source of this information can be judged from the following:

On the very night when these workers were in jail for strike activities, Matthew Woll, speaking before a "local" which was formed by Schachtman with men who scabbed during the strike, declared: "We've got Gold where we want him, and we'll keep him there." And two weeks earlier Edward McGrady, the A. F. of L. organizer, declared that the Joint Board leaders would soon be "in jail."

But the "special information" from the reactionaries notwithstanding, the court was finally forced to admit the fur workers, including Gold, to bail. In due time they will have to stand trial in a capitalist court. But in the meantime they are again on the fighting line, and the hope of the reactionaries to have Gold packed away where he would be unable to direct the fight for the right of the rank and file to elect their leaders and to determine the policies of their union, was frustrated.

### Green to the Rescue

The reactionaries sent an S. O. S. to the High Moguls of the A. F. of L. The result was a special meeting of the Central Trades and Labor Council, called at Bill Green's request. This was an unusual meeting. All the fat boys were present and listened to the pleadings of their chiefs to raise cash for the holy war against the progressive rank and file. Saint Matthew, the specialist in red-baiting, pounded the patriotic drum and pleaded with the boys to help save the U. S. government from the "reds." Green denounced the expelled locals as "dual unions." But he rather spoiled his case when he declared: "If the whole International Furriers Union follows Gold, then the whole union must be expelled, and will be a dual organization." Dual to what, Brother Green?

But Organizer McGrady brought a really joyful message: "The police department has agreed to cooperate with us in every respect." And again: "Police Commissioner McAughlin has given us assurances that the picket lines will be broken up."

### Police on the Job

It must be admitted that McGrady delivered the goods. The following noon the Industrial Squad invaded the fur district and, in their special fashion, began to propagandize the fur workers in favor of the kosher Green-Schachtman "union". The club was used senselessly and indiscriminately, and known militants, pointed out by right wing stool pigeons, were picked out for arrest.

But the indignant mass of fur workers soon made it so hot for these A. F. of L. "organizers" that they had to call out police reserves. The police were unable to make a case against the arrested militants and they had to be discharged.

No Surrender to Terror. With strong enemies arrayed against them, the expelled locals still have a hard struggle ahead of them. But it is certain that the workers will not be terrorized into submitting to a dictatorship of the reactionary clique. The latest injunction obtained with affidavits supplied by the reactionaries and restraining the Joint Board of the cloak and dressmakers from calling strikes, will be fought as these workers have fought this weapon last summer, with mass violation. And they'll fight on until their rights are safely established.

The splendid fighting spirit was again manifested at the meeting of the shop chairmen of the cloak, dress and fur workers unions. It

BY ANDREW OVERGAARD  
Secretary, Metal Trades Progressive Committee

IN spite of the fact that the Baltimore and Ohio (B. & O.) railroad boasts of the biggest profits in its history of 100 years, the year of 1920 giving it a net profit of \$28,494,294 in dividends, representing a gain of 25 per cent in a single year, the officials of the unions continue their ruinous policy of paying efficiency experts to help the railroad corporations to intensify their exploitation of the already miserably paid worker.

### Beyer a Liability

Instead of arousing the fighting spirit of the workers by insisting on the 1920 scale of wages, instead of setting the whole machinery of the unions in motion to organize the unorganized, the bankrupt leadership of Jewell, Wharton, Ryan, et al., continues to pay Captain Beyer \$750 a month to help the railroad companies and the metal manufacturers (such as the Speedomatic) to increase their already fabulous profits and eventually kill the unions as effective weapons of labor by making them an efficiency apparatus of the bosses.

According to Captain Beyer, everything is supposed to be fine and rosy on the B. & O. railroad, especially in the Glenwood shops, where the great "co-operation plan" was first put into effect. "The men are satisfied and sharing in the profits," etc. "There is no trouble in sight and no danger of strikes any more," claims Beyer.

### Let's Take a Look!

Well, let us look into this wonderful situation.

Now it happens that the B. & O. recently granted the shopmen the magnificent wage increase of 2c (spell it out—T-W-O C-E-N-T-S) an hour, which at 48 hours a week amounts to 96 cents a week. If you feel disturbed lest these men waste this two cents in riotous living, just hold your shirt till you hear some more.

According to the "leaders" of the unions, "everything fortunately came out peacefully and the best relations exist between the management and the shopmen." The stars in their courses were, it appears, favorable to the two cent wage raise.

But these preachers of class peace forget to tell what were the reactions of the rank and file and also omit to say what took place after this magnificent two cents were bestowed upon the Glenwood shop workers. They leave out any account of what the shopmen have lost in actual wages since the 1922 strike; how much they still have to get to restore the wage cuts they have suffered. But the men who enjoy the so-called "co-operation", in the shops don't see through the same spectacles.

### Where the Joker Comes In

The following statement is taken from a letter received by the writer from a "shopman" in Glenwood, and is typical of many others:

"The so-called wage increase is the bunk. We were given a two-cent increase, which gives us 96

was announced that Frank P. Walsh, well known in labor circles, has agreed to act as counsel for both Joint Boards. A resolution adopted by this meeting declares: "It is our firm conviction that through the united forces of both Joint Boards the struggle against the union splitters will be led to a victorious conclusion. We greet the unification of both Joint Boards as the first step toward the complete amalgamation of all the needle trade unions."

# The Joker in the B. & O. Plan

cents a week; but the joker came later. Prior to the so-called wage increase, we were allowed one hour a week to check in and out from work, but shortly after this supposed wage raise, notices were posted to the effect that this would be discontinued. Now one hour a week at 74 cents, subtracted from 96 cents, gives us the great amount of 22 cents a week as our share of Beyer's "co-operation".

"You can well understand that the men are up in arms about it and are beginning to doubt their leaders—who have been promising them great shares of the profits, etc. They are beginning to realize the need of a militant leadership that will fight for their demands and put a militant policy into effect for the realization of the 1920 wage scale."

### 22 Cents a Week!

This is what the shopmen got out of "co-operation" with their bosses—22 cents a week—hardly enough to buy chewing tobacco or a three-ride street-car ticket in Pittsburgh. The shopmen in 1920 received from 40 to 42 cents an hour more than today. The profits of the railroads have more than doubled, and still the so-called leaders have the audacity to tell the labor movement that the men are sharing in the profits!

Instead of adopting a militant policy against the companies after

the 1922 strike, by amalgamating the weakened unions and mobilizing all forces for new attacks against the bosses, these misleaders are actually company-unionizing the once militant shopmen's organizations.

### In the Metal Shops

The same process is gradually going on in the contract shops. The "compromise president" of the I. A. M., Mr. Wharton, employed Captain Beyer to put "efficiency" into the Speedomatic plant in Chicago. The same hypocritical promises were given the men there as were given to the railroad shopmen, although experience should have taught Wharton and his kind to see their falsity.

Instead of paying Captain Beyer a big salary to help the bosses discover new ways for saving labor, it would be more beneficial for the Machinists' Union and the Railway Department of the A. F. of L. to employ a few capable organizers (not lame ducks) and bring into the union the great masses of unorganized workers in the railroad and metal industries.

Also, immediate steps should be taken to amalgamate all the crafts into a real, departmentalized industrial union, and carry on an aggressive struggle for better conditions and higher wages—not a fake increase of 22 cents a week.

## Win the Miners' Strike!

LABOR UNITY received a statement on the miners' strike issued by the Trade Union Educational League, which we publish herewith.

THE Miners' Union is facing serious danger. The hundreds of thousands of workers employed in the mining industry and mercilessly exploited by the mine owners are confronted by a determined effort on the part of the employers to strike a deadly blow at the union and to reduce the standard of living of the workers to a starvation level.

The arrogant offensive of the operators calls for the most thorough organization of all the workers' resources. It must be resisted with all the power at the command of the union. The thing that is at stake is the very life of the Miners' Union. A victory of the mine owners would mean increased misery and starvation for the miners, their wives, and their children.

The Lewis administration has failed completely to mobilize the workers and to prepare the union for the struggle. The vital task of the hour, the organization of the unorganized miners, was totally ignored. The demands of the progressive rank and file to put the union in shape for an effective strike was met with attack and persecution.

The coal operators are making all preparations in anticipation of the coming coal strike. The government, too, is making preparations to enter into the strike in its traditional role of strike-breaker to crush the workers and help the employers. The miners must be fully conscious of the nature of the class struggle in which they are about to engage and which will have to be prosecuted with the utmost determination and political consciousness in order to secure victory for the miners. This is a struggle which must heighten the political understanding of the workers, accelerate the movement for a labor party, and pave the way for an energetic struggle for the nationalization of the coal mines.

"Labor is entitled to the full value of its product" and a subscription costs only one dollar a year to show you how to get it.

The union cannot afford to give in to the demands of the mine owners. Acceptance of the employers' terms would mean destruction of the union and slavery for the miners. The challenge of the coal barons must be met by a determined and militant strike in the entire coal industry, supported by the labor movement as a whole. The proposal for separate district agreements, which is calculated to divide the miners and strengthen the employers, must be categorically rejected. A national strike for a national bituminous agreement must be the demand of all workers employed in the mining industry. Out of this struggle should come a strengthened Miners' Union and an aggressive campaign to organize every miner in the country.

Miners! Mobilize your forces for the strike on April 1st. Make the strike a national strike in the entire coal-mining industry. Demand a national agreement and resist district settlements. No wage cuts for the organized miners. Wage increases for the unorganized. Demand the utmost concentration by the union to bring the unorganized miners out on strike. Beware of the reactionary Lewis machine. Demand a special national convention of the Miners' Union to insure the victory of the strike. Defend your standards of living and save your union.

Workers of all industries! The fight of the miners is the fight of the whole labor movement. A defeat of the U. M. W. A. in the coming strike would be a defeat for every section of organized labor. Therefore the entire trade union movement must rally solidly behind the miners and extend them every possible support. The miners' strike must be won.

TRADE UNION EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE,

Wm. Z. Foster, Secretary.

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