

# Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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## Court Upholds Security Act

### Third "Liberal" Ruling Throws Court Reform Into Crisis

The administration's weak and ineffectual Social Security Act was upheld by the Supreme Court in separate decisions, validating its unemployment insurance and old-age pension provisions. The usual liberal-conservative division resulted in 5-4 decisions. The "liberal" wing declared that states' rights were not invaded by such federal legislation, primarily on humanitarian grounds. The accustomed arguments of the bitter-enders were used to oppose this point of view, enlivened by McReynolds's extraordinarily bitter words in "defence of the Constitution," denying the right of anybody to interpret the provisions of the Constitution in the light of contemporary needs.

Now that, temporarily, the right of Congress to pass social legislation has been validated, the mist that has enveloped labor's vision can be cleared, and its struggle for real social security need no longer be limited to the stop-gap fraud that is Roosevelt's Act. The fight for a labor social security bill now must be a fight against the administration measure.

This third "victory" for the administration's program, plus the resignation of Van Devanter, has put a serious crimp in the New Deal's superficial attempts to reform the court. So long as the whole issue has been raised on the basis of personnel, it becomes difficult to gain support on the basis of "5-4" decisions—when these rulings are favorable. Next week's *Workers Age* will carry a detailed analysis of the new situation in regard to the Supreme Court.

## CIO TRANSIT UNION WINS CONTRACT WITH IRT LINE

The Transport Workers Union, affiliated to the CIO, which had received about 95% of the votes in a recent NLRB election, signed a contract with the Interborough Rapid Transit Company of New York. This is the first time in the history of the IRT that it has been forced to deal with a bona fide trade union. The agreement came after the Transport Workers Union had affiliated with the CIO, having been given the runaround by the AFL thru the Machinists Union. The agreement also is the death warrant of the twenty year old company union on the line, the Brotherhood of Interborough Employees.

The significance of this agreement was symbolized by the counter-signature of John L. Lewis. It is expected that with this victory a real basis has been laid for the creation of a nation-wide transport union under the aegis of the CIO.

The contract provides for a 10% wage increase, a basic 48 hour week, a minimum wage of \$25, vacations with pay, and the closed shop.

\* \* \*

Further gains in winning more workers to the banner of the CIO

## DIRECT STRIKES AGAINST STEEL INDEPENDENTS



VAN A. BITTNER  
SWOC Director for Chicago area



PHILLIP MURRAY  
Chairman of the SWOC

## Spain Accuses Mussolini; Negrin Gov't Moves Right

### New Valencia Cabinet to Restore Property to Expropriated Capitalists and Return Civil Rights To The Catholic Clergy

On the home front the temporary set-back of the Catalonian revolutionists (Anarchists and POUM) and the subsequent establishment of the Negrin Cabinet was expected to result in a swing to the right. This has not been long in coming. The Negrin Cabinet is said to be contemplating the return of certain privileges to the Catholic clergy which they had lost because of their counter-revolutionary and pro-fascist role. In addition, plans are said to have been made for the restoration to capitalist owners of

all confiscated property (land and factories) except certain war industries which will remain under government supervision. These steps, tending to secure a restoration of pre-revolutionary class relations in industry and agriculture, are laying the basis for even greater dissatisfaction among the masses of toilers and for possible new clashes with the Valencia government.

The military situation has remained practically unchanged except around Bilbao where desperate Basque resistance has stopped Fascist Mola's advance. The frontal attack having failed, Mola is now trying to break thru at the very southernmost tip of the battle front.

In the field of international relations Spain has come forward with an exhaustively documented White Book, entitled "Italian Aggression," in which Julio Alvarez del Vayo tries to prove to the Council of the League of Nations what children in their cradles have learned to accept as a fact—namely that Italy and Germany have violated the mythical neutrality pacts and have flooded Spain with "volunteers" sent against their will or without their knowledge.

But where international diplomacy is concerned ordinary rules of common sense do not apply. What may be evident to all undiplomatic souls simply does not exist for the astute diplomat who realizes the sad consequences of recognizing facts as facts. If the Spanish representatives intend to convince the world of the justice of its case, that has already been achieved in the course of its heroic struggles against tremendous odds. But if it really hopes to secure League of Nations' action against Italy or Germany it is doomed to bitter disappointment. The league of democratic nations is not at all interested in precipitating action against any fascist power. Hence its determined effort not to see the things it does not want to see.

## SWOC STRIKES 27 STEEL PLANTS FOR SIGNED CONTRACTS

### Republic and Youngstown Sheet and Tube State Opposition To Signing, But Union Calls Out 80,000 To Force Contract

ONE SIXTH of the entire steel industry, embracing 80,000 steel workers, is affected by the strikes called in the plants of the stubborn independent corporations: Republic, Youngstown Sheet and Tube, and Inland Steel. The Steel Workers Organizing Committee had earlier in the week signed a contract with the Crucible Steel Co. Republic Steel Co. is the backbone of these last remnants of open-shoppism in the steel industry, a major part of which has already been brought to terms by the SWOC.

## Terror Spurs Ford Drive

### Beating Of Organizers To Be Protested In Mass Meet

Ford Special Police ruthlessly attacked and beat Richard Frankenstein, Detroit District Organizer for the United Automobile Workers, Walter Reuther, and a group of auto workers who aided in the distribution of union leaflets. This was one of the first attempts to distribute leaflets in the great drive to organize the last citadel of open-shoppism in the auto industry.

While Harry Bennett, infamous ring leader of Ford's hordes of thugs and criminals who make up the Special Police, declared that "Ford workers" simply expressed their opposition to the union and their undying loyalty to dear old Ford speed-up, published photos of the attack have belied his words, showing these attackers to have carried the usual paraphernalia of the company police: handcuffs, etc.

According to the story of an eyewitness, Rev. Sandford, Frankenstein and Reuther were each attacked by four or five men and pinioned down so that they could be kicked in the groin and stomach.

A mass protest meeting will be held, and an investigation both locally and by the LaFollette Committee is being demanded by the UAWA.

## ALP BACKS BILL BANNING PAY ENVELOPE PROPAGANDA

The Public Affairs Committee of the American Labor Party has appealed to Governor Lehman for favorable action on thirteen bills, asked for a veto on two and requested an investigation on two election law amendments.

The bill in which the committee took the greatest interest was the measure sponsored by Assemblyman Sutor to outlaw pay envelope communications designed to influence the votes of employees.

This measure clearly restrains the use of "threats, express or implied," on the part of employers or the posting of any political placards in plants or plant grounds within 90 days of election day.

Other bills which the committee favored are creation of a commis-

Phillip Murray, leading the organization drive, has publicly charged Republic Steel with being a "veritable arsenal, loaded with guns and ammunition." One person involved in the strike has already been shot by one of the company police.

Both Republic Steel and Youngstown have issued statements declaring that no signed statement is needed since the Wagner Act guarantees collective bargaining and the law of the land needs no additional props in the form of union-employers written agreements, and, furthermore, the SWOC is really aiming at a closed shop, to which they declare themselves in unalterable opposition.

Murray replied to this latter as follows: "I say to you nothing could be further from the truth, and you know it. The strike which is now going on at your properties was precipitated by you and your associates through your refusal to do what 140 other steel companies have done—sign an agreement to pay certain wage rates, recognize certain established hours of work and conditions of employment for a stipulated period."

The argument of Republic and Youngstown that now written agreement is unnecessary because of the Wagner Act is, of course, negated by the very fact that the conditions the CIO and the SWOC are fighting for can and have been won and maintained only through union agreements. Why was there a union movement in the first place if any law granted conditions? So-called "labor laws" have followed the strengthening of organized labor, not cleared the road for it.

tion to study the economic and social condition of colored people, salary increases for junior clerical assistants in high schools, the State Wagner Act and three maximum working day and week acts.

The committee also opposed the limitation of educational requirements in Civil Service examination and the exemption of unincorporated associations from the Social Security Act.

In the case of the two amendments to the election law still before the Governor, the committee requested a ruling from the Attorney General. The question at issue is whether the information required under these bills must be filled in by the individual petition signer.



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TRUE TO FORM

THE Cincinnati conference of the A. F. of L. ran true to form. It was expected to be a lynching

The employers of labor should be happy for the American Federation of Labor has thus written upon its banner the slogan "DISORGANIZE THE ORGANIZED!"

A number of organizations openly declared their intention not to pay the tax. The executive council will soon also feel the widespread resentment and indignation from their own local unions to these shameful acts.

The decisions of the Cincinnati conference will go a long way to speed the American Federation of Labor to its doom.

THE CONNERY BILL

THE Black Connery Bill proposing to regulate wages and hours in industry, constitutes recognition by the present administration in Washington, that the tides for social legislation are still running high in the ranks of labor.

To the extent that the bill provides for outlawing from interstate commerce commodities produced in factories employing persons under 16, strike breakers or spies, or subjecting labor to inhumanly long hours and starvation wages, to that extent it is a great step in the direction of recognizing the evils under which labor has been forced to work; to that extent it tends to bolster some of the positive features of the Wagner Labor Relations Act.

But what about rectifying the ills that labor is suffering in industry? Regulation of minimum hours and wages presupposes stipulated minimums below which industry cannot go on pain of governmental action. But these minimums, understood to be 40 hours per week and 40 cents per hour, are not provided for in the Bill.

For labor, especially that section which has not yet been involved in the whirlwind organization campaigns unleashed by the CIO, guaranteed minimums in hours and wages are of incalculable significance. But the stipulated minimums are woefully inadequate. Without federal regulation of hours, the most important inter-state industries show a work-week of slightly more than 41 hours, according to the National Industrial Conference Board.

Where these minimums would actually constitute an improvement of conditions—the South and other rural communities—the Presidential message stipulates that the Board will have the power to adjust the rates downward because "there are geographical and industrial diversities which practical statesmanship cannot wholly ignore."

There is always the danger that the 40-40 minimums may tend to become the maximum. This occurred during the NRA days. It can be obviated only through the strength of trade union organization.

(Continued next column)

MINE UNION SHOWS WAY TO END HARLAN TERROR

By EUGENE COEBURN

This is the second article in the Harlan County terror campaign, written by a Negro miner who has spent many years working in that region.—Editor.

HARLAN COUNTY is the largest coal producing county in Kentucky, the total tonnage output being almost as great as the next three coal producing counties. The principle mining towns are Lynch, Benham and Cumberland. These three are the source of approximately 60% of the captive coal production of U. S. Steel.

Focal Point of Probe

The focal point of the investigating committee centered upon the abuses of the privately paid deputy system. The system itself has been in long use throughout the entire coal fields of eastern Kentucky. It grew up with the industry. Being a vicious by-product of the company town, it discards all the subtleties of upholding so-called law and order and openly declares its real purposes of serving the best interest of the company or operator.

Prior to the hearings, committee investigators had been working quietly in Harlan, interviewing prospective witnesses and acquainting themselves with the general structure of the county government. Most of this work had been ably covered by the UMWA, who actually pushed and laid the ground-work for the investigation.

Governmental guarantees, even were they adequate, can never take the place of trade unions as class organs for defense of the conditions of the workers.

Labor should accept the principle of federal regulation of hours and wages but cannot accept the proposed minimums. Increases in hourly minimums are never a certain indication of an improved living standard.

unionism, deputy sheriffs on the pay-roll of the HCCOA, various petty officials of coal companies, the sheriff and commonwealth attorney of Harlan county. The committee took great pains to "localize" the investigation, for at no point was the investigation extended to those who actually formed the Harlan county labor policy.

It was revealed through Sheriff Middleton's own admission that he had amassed \$102,722 during the four years he has served as Sheriff. This former Harlan boot-licker disclosed that he had close business connections with several coal companies which employ his deputies as mine guards. He also testified that he owned about \$1,500 worth of stock in one of the coal company commissaries, which paid him 170% dividends annually.

Controlling both county political machines, the Harlan County Coal Operators Association has permitted the allocation of large sums to the sheriff's office, which in turn has provided the personal fortune of the Sheriff through speculation with these funds under the guiding and protective hands of the Harlan bankers and coal operators.

Links to Political Control

Another interesting aspect of the investigation was seen in the indications of revolt in Middleton's private "army of deputies." Not against the "Murder Regime" but against Middleton's unusual "kick-back" system of paying off.

Deputy Sheriff Ben Umthank "Lord High Executioner" for the Harlan County Coal Operators Association and Middleton's chief competitor for the more lucrative office of sheriff, "disappeared" before the investigation to the delight of the coal operators.

George S. Ward, secretary of Harlan County Coal Operators, told

George F. Miles

TRADE UNION NOTES

THE convention of the International Union of Fur Workers is now over and altho CP spokesmen had foretold dire consequences should the union affiliate with the CIO, precisely that has occurred and by a majority of 94 to 4.

The leaders of the New York organization, among them Ben Gold, now international president, opposed a motion to affiliate with the CIO on the very eve of the convention. Since the convention voted in exactly the opposite manner, it became necessary for them to explain the complete change of face in a matter of some ten days.

In this quotation even the factional bias of Gold is forced to admit that the Lovestonites were in the forefront of the fight for CIO affiliation and that the CP was against it. But we quite agree with the Daily Worker on the reason for Gold's and Potash's opposition. No, they did not oppose the proposal because the Lovestonite's favored it, they opposed it because the Communist Party opposed it.

In other words, the statement that they opposed affiliation to the CIO because of a desire to get a unanimous decision is throwing sand in the workers' eyes. They opposed it because the CP opposed it, they later favored it because the CP had changed its mind and favored affiliation.

SEVERAL times we remarked in this column on the strange case of the fur union delegates to the last A. F. of L. convention casting their ballots for suspension of the CIO unions. On one occasion we expressed our doubt about Ben Gold's declaration that he had not the slightest intimation of the manner in which the delegation intended to vote.

These remarks rankled in the breast of Ben Gold for he called time out during this convention in Chicago to take issue with Workers Age. Mindell, one of the three delegates to the Tampa convention arose and "declared as just a 'plan lie' a report circulated by the Lovestonites through their paper that Gold had anything to do or advised the three to vote as they did."

This Gold-inspired declaration for the record explains nothing and clears up even less. It still does not answer the question we posed even tho the every word of it were the gospel truth—which it isn't. The day before the above statement was made, the same Mindell said in the course of a meeting of the Resolutions Committee that he did not see why he should be criticised for his vote at the Tampa convention, that he understood from Lucci and Begoon that Gold had agreed to give them a free hand in the convention on the CIO question.

It seems to us that Gold had better have let matters rest where they were. His explanations have not helped him in the least. Nor will a new denial by Mr. Mindell be of any great assistance.

(Continued on Page 6)

BOOKS of the AGE

INTERRACIAL JUSTICE. John LaFarge. America Press, New York, 1937. \$2.00.

Reviewed by George Streator There seems to be no end to Christian miracles. The American section of the Roman Catholic Church, after a "brief" lapse of four hundred years has undertaken the task of recruiting the Negro for salvation. Heretofore, only those colored people born in dominant Catholic regions chanced to be blessed with proper holy waters.

Father John LaFarge, S.J., one of the outstanding liberals in the ranks of scholarly Jesuits (many leading Catholics are where they are by a combination of Tammany politics and blarney), has given us his treatment on "Interracial Justice." But like most of the heathen works on the varied subjects of human cruelty to its fellowman, Father LaFarge's study misses most of the points. After all, the rank and file of the faithful seldom know what the cultured few are dreaming.

The upper crust of the Church is dreaming world empire, political power, capitalist investments, stocks and bonds. The lower part of the great organization is occupied with confessionals and small political favors. The Negro membership in America gets neither. The Southern Church is as Jim Crow as the great university of Notre Dame, the outstanding temple of big-time football for the holy white. And to watch a Knights of Columbus parade looking for a Negro, is one of the best tests devised for patient, unrewarded watching. (Try it, when restless.)

"The historical causes of race prejudice among Catholics have not yet been satisfactorily and completely analyzed," says Father LaFarge (page 134). But, in keeping with all majority groups involved in this sort of slumy reasoning, Father LaFarge proceeds to point out that "Every social tendency produces a reaction, and it would be strange if white prejudice against the Negro were not met by a certain degree of Negro prejudice against the white." Do not make me laugh. Father. If I kick a poodle in its belly and the pup yelps at me, how would it sound if I ran about whining that the pup did not smile when I kicked it?

The appearance of a scattering of black men as conductors on the City-owned 8th Ave. subway system seems not to have decreased travel. But if some filthy New York daily launches a pogrom against these, there will be enough half-wits to fire shots at them from the station platforms. When Lenin outlawed anti-Jewish pogroms, and supported his common sense by proper force, the Cossacks began to lose their bloodthirstiness, and they did it without recourse to reading sessions in Dostoevsky!

Father LaFarge is dependent upon Protestant studies of education to reach conclusions even of the Catholic, segregated membership. "Oh yes," the holy one might have said, "We have some Negro work going on in the South, but bless me, I have never heard of it." A few segregated mission schools, frequently inferior in quality to anything the Baptists and Methodists have produced, is the Catholic contribution. And do not forget it, the Catholic Supreme Court Judge who grew up with Negro friends, voted against Herndon like

The Labor Front--School For National Socialism

(This is the second of two articles on the WORKER IN THE THIRD REICH. Last week the author dealt with the Nazi set-up in the factory, the employer as FUHRER, and the revival of the serf-like work book.—Editor.)

By G. S.

The Labor Front includes workers, white collar workers and bosses. Jews are excluded. It is made up chiefly of members of the old Trade Unions that the Nazi Party seized on May 2nd, 1933, by throwing out the old leaders and replacing them by devoted national socialists. In theory, joining the Labor Front is optional; in fact, it is obligatory. Workers are forbidden to form any other trade or professional union. The regime has given the Labor Front all rights "within the social domain". Many factories employ only members of the Labor Front. Any worker who does not join is considered hostile to the regime and the consequences of this, during these times of depression, is the loss of his job.

While the seizure of the old trade unions was accomplished without any great resistance, due to the pressure of the Nazi Party and its SA men and the state power, the problem of incorporating the employers in the Labor Front was much harder to accomplish. For a long time many employers' associations continued to exist independently. The employers were not actually in until March 1935. But even now, the employers' organizations keep their former cadres, and separate sectional organization and leadership, in contrast to the workers who have been wholly absorbed into the Labor Front. It is interesting to note that, in the authoritarian state, only the employers are allowed a certain amount of autonomy.

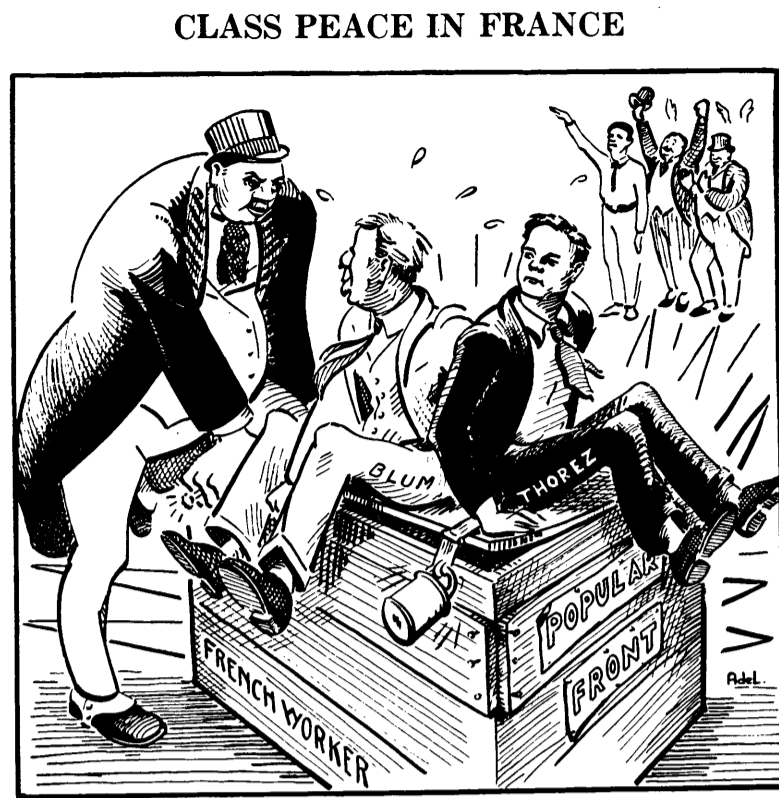
The Labor Front--School of National Socialism

The internal structure of the Labor Front is based on regional and professional divisions. The workers of a certain branch, for example the miners, the metal workers and the food workers, are organized in large units. As to regional organization, this is determined according to the jurisdiction of Treuhander. Each local and district is organized and administered along the lines of the Nazi Party. The Labor Front is really a sub-section of the Nazi Party and is controlled by the Party. The head of the political organization of the

Justice Van Devanter.

Father LaFarge has devoted Chapter XII to the typical, hedging reasoning on social equality, intermarriage, and social justice. Is it impossible to do anything about it? The Ku Klux Klan talks race purity, and the Communist Party digs up a hoary piece of Negro nationalism, trying to construct a minor-league nation in a young, heterogeneous country. Dark people from the Levant and light-skinned people from Ethiopia are a fitting answer to all such intellectual straining.

It is impossible to do much thru the Catholic Church. With money deep in real estate, it will not open up a desirable low rent region to Negro tenants any more than it will open it up to Jews, if it is likely to lose a few pennies in the transaction. (As a rule, nobody loses money renting to Negroes). The Catholic Church is buried in bonds, stocks, oil wells, railroads, and steamship lines. The best place for Father LaFarge to concentrate is on Catholic capital. The exclusion of Negroes from the upper levels of employment is the great sin, Father. But a glance at Spain and Tammany Hall convinces nobody of the righteousness of the Church.



has to keep the "Peace of Labor", is a heroic and masculine socialism, a soldiers' socialism, strong and brutal, socialism based on action and not on theory, socialism not only for one class, but for a whole people; it was this type of socialism that stimulated our Prussian kings to build our army and our civil service, this socialism that rang out with the march of the Prussian Grenadiers.

Hitler's "socialism" is even more clearly defined. "The great mass of the workers want only bread and circuses. They can never understand an ideal. We can never hope to win over a considerable number of workers. No! We only want to make a class of masters who will not allow themselves to be moved by a moral system based on pity, but who will understand that their superiority of race gives them the right to dominate, and who will be capable of maintaining their domination over the great mass." Or else: "The participation of the worker in the ownership, that is, in the administration of industry, is nothing but Marxism. I can only allow this control to the State, under the hegemony of a superior class."

Now take the leader of the Labor Front. "Work is not a trial, it is a blessing. We had forgotten that word, or rather, it was the Jew with his diabolic method of Marxism who caused us to forget it." "Work is not for making money or to bring in wages, it is a good in itself, and its just remuneration is the necessary recognition of work well done." The German worker, according to his fatherly leader, wants first and foremost "honor and consideration." He fights for principles and not for the insignificant question of wages. You can easily imagine the enthusiasm of the German worker for a "socialism" of this type.

These quotations show how clearly the Nazi leaders have taken their stand for the bosses, how National Socialism is nothing more than the social demagogy that makes the regime. A demagogy that cannot be shown up too often for the "community of interest" that it preaches between workers and bosses, while hiding the fact that these two categories are not placed on the same plane. The latter are Leaders, and the former are Followers; the Leader commands and orders, while the Followers have no choice but to obey. The fact of the belonging to the same organization, the Labor Front, is not enough to hide inequality before the law and real physical inequality. Thus the Labor Front far from being any "community," is in reality a vast machine for the domination of the masses by the ruling employer class.

TWO NEW PAMPHLETS published by the Communist Party (Opposition) "The People's Front Illusion" by Jay Lovestone "The CIO: Labor's New Challenge" by Will Herberg An 88 page pamphlet for 20c A 24 page pamphlet for 5c Special Discount on Bundle Orders PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW! WORKERS AGE 131 West 33rd Street, New York City

## TWOCTackles Woolen Mills

Drive In Lawrence Aided By Lewis' Speech To Many Thousands

A further step in the organization of the 200,000 textile workers in New England was taken last week, when John L. Lewis came up to Lawrence to address a mass meeting of these workers, and, for the first time, participated in the textile drive of the CIO. The meeting was called in Lawrence for two reasons. As a result of the bitter strikes of 1912 and of 1931 the Lawrence workers have been slower to respond to the CIO than most textile workers. The drive there is directed by August Bellanca of the ACW and Anthony Valenti, secretary of the woolen and worsted federation of the UTW. Out of the 100 organizers in the New England area 22 are in Lawrence, and they have been working there for two and a half months already. Secondly, the next aim of the TWOC in New England is to crack the big woolen interests, namely the American Woolen Co. and its subsidiaries, most of which are centered round Lawrence. Their difficulties are accentuated by the fact that wages in the woolen industry in Lawrence are higher than in the rest of the country. The CIO has already broken into Worcester with contracts in three or four woolen corporations and into New Jersey with Princeton Worsted, but nothing has yet been gained in Lawrence.

20,000 people attended the meeting. Crowds of workers poured in from all the New England textile centres. From Lowell and Worcester, Holyoke, Fall River and New Bedford in Mass., Manchester and Nashua in New Hampshire; and a large auto parade from textile towns in Rhode Island. At the same time a meeting of 4000 shoe workers was called in Lewiston, Maine to listen to the broadcast from Lawrence, and Lewis started right off by complimenting the shoe strikers for their magnificent fight and by hitting at the judge responsible and the state for an "atrocious miscarriage of justice."

Lewis stressed two important points for the textile workers: the strength of the CIO movement and organization as the only protection for workers:

"There's not an employer who doesn't know what the CIO stands for. They are going to know more about it in the textile industry. Millions of workers are now alive to what organization means. Already leading bankers and economic leaders are putting a date to the next depression. If that is the best our industrial leaders can do, it is time for labor to organize and express its voice. . . . The CIO is

### TRADE UNION NOTES

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In closing we wish to express the hope that President Gold will drop some of the petty factional methods which characterized Ben Gold. Among such methods we would include the inspired statement in the Daily Worker which speaks of the four Lovestoneite delegates "whom the majority placed on its slate in the election in New York so as demonstrate completely united ranks."

Thanks for practically nothing, Mr. Gold. These four delegates were placed upon the ticket not out of the kindness of your heart but because the Progressives or Lovestoneites represent a force with which you have to reckon, and stand for policies which for many years past have proven constructive and far-seeing. The CIO issue is not the least of these.

ALLAN HAYWOOD



Recently appointed CIO director for organizing activities in New York area.

spreading organization over the land.

"If labor had been organized and in power in 1929 it could have made no more profound and tragic mistakes than were made by the leaders of finance and industry and the Republican Administration in failing to provide for the well-being of million of citizens. What is the answer now? It is for the workers to organize in unions and to provide forums for the expression of their ideas. The answer is to let more Americans into the business of running this country and expressing their opinion through the organization of labor. . . . Only by organization can labor hope to obtain the advantages guaranteed by the new legislation and protect itself against the next depression. . . .

"I come here that workers here may understand they have a right to organize and bargain for themselves. I come here because other workers in other industries have authorized me to come with a message to transmit to you: join us, join us, in this march for better things. In the textile industry is the basis for the largest union in the world. Figure out its strength. Think what it can do for you. The CIO is rolling on. Your throat has been gripped long enough. Brush away that grasping hand. Join these millions marching with us. We'll make in America the greatest labor movement ever seen."

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## Baltimore "Society" Gets Domestic Help from Asylum

From the American Psychiatric Association comes a story horrible and sordid enough to make anyone's blood boil. Dr. Leo Kanner, reporting at the annual meeting of the Association, told how Baltimore lawyers and society matrons connived to get cheap domestic labor by obtaining habeas corpus writs which released 163 imbeciles from the Baltimore Training School for the Feeble-Minded into their custody. Neither the victims nor their relatives knew about the writs; in every instance the writ was filed against the advice of the superintendent of the institution; the wages of these virtually helpless slaves (mostly girls) was always far below the average, and often amounted to nothing; some were so underfed and overworked that they died soon after their release; 29 became prostitutes; 51 married, producing 165 children of whom 108 were feeble-minded and 33 illegitimate. Keep in mind that this slave-trade had legal back-

## MINE UNION SHOWS WAY TO END HARLAN TERROR

(Continued from Page 4)

the committee that the Association had doubled its assessments on member coal companies three times during the last four years during periods of union organization drives. When asked whether the association took part in county politics, he answered in the negative but revealed that he was the Chairman of the Harlan County Republican Committee and S. J. Dickerson, the Association's president also held the office of county Chairman of the Democratic Committee.

### Impartial Justice

Another connecting link in the chain that has shackled the Harlan miners is the office of County Attorney. Daniel Boone Smith, the attorney, testified that he had accepted retainers from three coal companies since he took office in 1934. Smith who handles all prosecutions admitted there were "occasional conflicts of interest" between his employers and the "public interest" but naively insisted: "I made it very plain to the coal companies that I was a prosecutor first and represented them second" (Smith was the promising "white hope" of Harlan and served as defense attorney for the non-convicted miners in the "Battle of Evar's" case in 1931.)

As to the County Courts numerous witnesses testified that they were under the complete domination of the coal companies and it was impossible for a union member to get protection against the deputy thugs and killers. The Harlan County Coal Operators Association left no stone unturned, for this domination was even extended to the jury panels. The Harlan County Jury Commissioner testified that there was "no chance" of any one but a property owner being on a grand jury in Harlan. As the mine operators and a few farmers owned most of the property the miners living in company towns had little chance of being placed on a jury panel.

Thus the legal chain completes the circle of the "murder regime." Space will not permit recounting the many sacrifices organizers and sympathizers have made to bring unionism to a section where all the cards are stacked against them. The procession of witnesses from Harlan was almost endless. Each one told his gruesome story at a great price. For each knew that to return to Harlan was to sign his own death warrant.

For years these conditions have

existed in Harlan—so long, until Harlan County has become legendary in the American labor movement. These conditions have existed only because we have had a movement dominated by cliques whose self-interest precludes a real understanding of the movement they were privileged to lead and prevented a move in the direction of destroying the cess-pools around them. But with the new and virile blood now surging through the veins of American labor, Harlan County and other diseased spots will be healed by the very rush of this new and abundant blood.

The United Mine Workers, an organization in which realism has played a major role in its current organization activities, employed a master stroke in initiating the steel workers campaign. This stroke undermined the main source of strength of the die-hards (captive coal operators) in the coal industry.

Great gamblers, these captive coal operators. They thrive on a chaotic industry. Not being directly affected by the keen competition as in other sections of the coal industry, they have been the most bitter opponents of any form of regulation in the coal industry. While operators in the competitive sections were howling the virtues of the Guffey Coal Bill, the captive coal interests upset the cart, by carrying the bill to court for a few rounds with the fourteen amendment and its "due processing" clause. Today as new labor developments take rapid form, more and more significance is added to the now historic convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and its much discussed decision to align itself with the Committee for Industrial Organization. Not only can we mark the closing hours of that convention as the legal birth of a new movement of American labor, but we hear the first notes of the swan-song of corporate feudalism in the coal industry.

## Radio Men Strike Philco

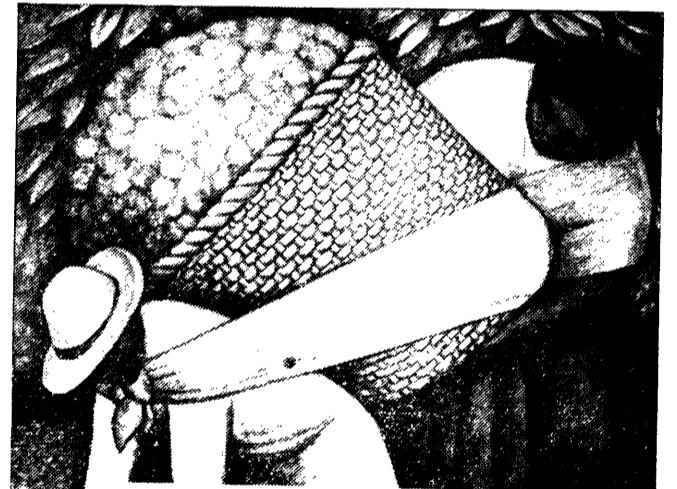
United Radio Workers In Joint Strike Action With Teamsters

The Philco Locals No. 101, No. 102, and No. 108 of the United Electrical and Radio Workers of America and Local No. 470 of the Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, are now going into their fourth week of strike.

For the past three years Philco has signed a closed shop agreement with the Philco locals providing for a thirty-six (36) hour week with time and half-time for all work over thirty-six (36) hours. The Company, during the past three (3) years, has also agreed to hire and rehire all Union members according to seniority and has further agreed not to purchase any parts from the outside when such part or parts could be made in Philco.

The strike was caused by the company's flagrant violation of this agreement. For three (3) months previous to the strike, while negotiations for a new agreement were being carried on, the Company had ignored the seniority clause and had broken the agreement by purchasing parts from non-union sweat shops, while thousands of Philco Union members were laid off due to lack of work. The Company further insisted that the work week be increased from 36 to 40 hours with no overtime until after forty (40) hours.

Eight thousand five hundred (8,500) Union men and women voted unanimously after three (3) weeks of strike to maintain their demands for a thirty-six (36) hour week. They felt that to do otherwise would betray millions of unemployed in the Labor Movement. They voted further, to maintain their rights in regard to seniority and repeated their demands for a substantial increase in wage rates.



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