

LABOR VIEWS

NO. 7.

JUNE 29, 1946

PREPARE FOR WAR *Against* ILL. WORKERS

ILL. NATIONAL GUARD TRIFLED HALF TO BE IN CHICAGO 60 NEW ARMORIES PLANNED

Governor Green announced this week that the Illinois National Guard is to be increased to nearly three times its pre-war size. The guard will consist of 34,805 troops including two infantry divisions, 2,623 air corps troops, and other auxiliary units. Of this total Chicago will have approximately 19,000 ground troops and 1,923 air corps men or approximately 50% of the total. 60 new armories will be built. It seems that Govern-

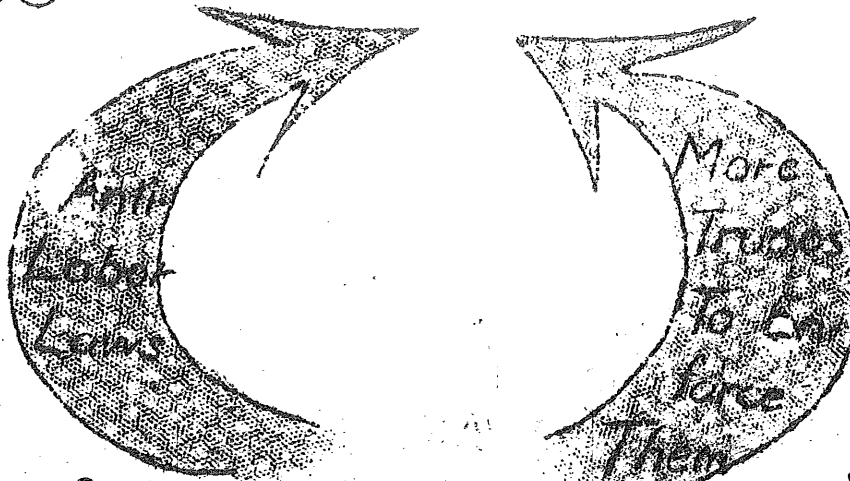
nor Green is preparing the state of Illinois for war, and particularly the Chicago area.

Many workers remember last summer when the army was called into Chicago to break the trucker's strike. It is not more than a few months ago that Captain Barnes police labor detail broke up the mass picket line at Jones Foundry. Only last month similar action was taken at Dearborn Glass.

It becomes obvious against who Governor Green is preparing for war. In the coming period when workers are again

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Ruling-Class PINCHERS PLAN against Workers



* MASS

SMASH THIS PINCHERS

* INTER-UNION,

DEMONSTRATIONS

INTER-INDUSTRY

AGAINST ANTI-LABOR LAWS

FLYING SQUADS

* NATION-WIDE RANK-AND-FILE DEFENCE COUNCIL

OF ALL WORKERS

MILITIA EXPANDED

(FROM PAGE 2)

forced to walk the picket line to get a real wage increase, and to meet the still soaring cost of living, Governor Green is prepared with the State Guard if Captain Barnes Labor Detail can't handle the job, of restraining the militant actions of the workers to defend themselves.

The capitalist class is preparing for the next strike wave of the workers with their anti-labor bills. Congress has just passed the Hobbs Bill and is loading even bigger legislative guns against labor. But they know what strength militant workers have when they stand united for their just demands. The capitalists aren't taking any chances. If they can't shackle the workers down to the law of their courts, they are prepared to use the armed forces.

The National Guard lived up to this tradition as in 1894 when it was used to smash the railroad strike. Recently when workers of the Pratt & Whitney plant in Hartford, Connecticut went out on strike, and set a mass picket line around their plant, Gov. Baldwin sent 50 state troopers "to preserve law and order". They did so by breaking up the picket line with night sticks. Said Governor Baldwin, "we went in because I felt it was our duty and I still feel it is our duty. I felt we were directly charged with the responsibility, and that it was not up to us to run to the courts and ask them to interpret the law". Obviously it is the "duty"

LABOR VIEWS is issued by the Chicago Committee of the RWL to further the struggle of the working class against the constant attack of the industrialists and bankers.

We propose independent working-class action beginning at the shops, mines and mills against this ruling-class and its government - its police forces, its courts and laws - operating as its "big stick".

LABOR VIEWS recognizes that although today the working class fights to defend its living standards, tomorrow it will face the task of abolishing this rotting system of capitalist slavery, and creating a government which will organize society for the welfare of all who labor. The chief instrument needed for achieving this goal is a Revolutionary Workers Party.

of the Governor to defend the barons of business against the workers - especially when workers use one of the most effective weapons they have to gain a decent living - mass picketing.

Governor Green's "duty" to the capitalists of Illinois is equally obvious. It is to defend them against the workers when they have "gotten out of control". Both the state and federal governments have passed laws restricting worker's rights to fight for a decent living. They knew workers must choose between starvation wages or breaking these laws, to a brutal new police army - the expanded National Guard - is made ready.

Workers can prepare against this private army of the lords of money by forming a military defence of their own. Workers should organize flying squads which are prepared to defend workers in other industries. They should form defence councils - permanent inter-union, inter-industry defence councils of both union and non-union workers. This must be done soon, now, to be effective.

THE WORKING CLASS CAN AND SHOULD MEET THE TERROR OF THE RULING CLASS BRUTE WITH A UNITED MILITANT DEFENCE.

A WORKERS DISCUSSION
 "The American Revolution"
 LED BY RWL SPEAKERS
 FRIDAY, JULY 5

 Open Meetings
 EVERY FRIDAY EVE., 8 P.M.
 NEWBERRY SQUARE
 DURING SUMMER MONTHS

GOOD HOUSING WHEN ?

landlords.

(Page 3)

A "veterans' housing program", then, is an illusion. It can only discourage the whole working-class movement, waste its efforts. Only when the entire working-class, including the millions of vets brings its tremendous weight to bear against the lords of finance and property - can the housing problem be solved. Then it will be solved not in a capitalist "housing program", but as part of a complete social revolution.

Two days ago (June 27) the Chicago Housing Authority announced that the 2,334 veterans' temporary housing units being constructed for the past four months have been abandoned. The other 2,760 which were planned won't even be started. The reason given: lack of funds. Three million dollars was needed.

the wages they earn. So the two-thirds of the people at the lower end of the scale are doomed to take broken-down housing-often houses cast-off by the rich. This is what their money can buy and this is the only kind of low cost housing that makes profits for the

Here is the ludicrous spectacle: Congress has approved a seven billion dollar budget for the "peacetime" army. The Chicago city government has spent \$115,000,000 in the last year on street lights, sewers and other political patronage plums.

TRAMP! TRAMP! TRAMP!

Since June 12, on and off, for an hour or two a dozen, sometimes two dozens members of the American Veterans Committee have been picketing the city hall. They want homes. They have had enough of fox-holes. They desire to get back to "normal".

More than 100,000 families need permanent homes in Chicago. The capitalist government cannot even provide five thousand temporary ones.

It was somewhat strange to observe these veterans move slowly about the city hall. That huge chunk of concrete, a block square's worth, emphasized more completely the puny protest of these dissatisfied ex-soldiers.

What is so dramatically illustrated is that the "great free enterprise system" can never provide adequate housing for the majority of people - working-class people.

The leaflet they distributed stated that they were "fighting mad". But their demonstration - if one can call it that - did not indicate this. In fact it was difficult to realize that here were the fellows of Tunisia, Casino, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Okinawa. 9,723 Chicago area men killed..the highest casualty rate for any county in the US... These were the Chicago men who had lived with the death and hell of modern war while it enriched the greedy barbarians running this country - and now a large section of the world. These were the men who had endured all this - against their interests and even against their will.

Between 1930 and 1940 over 400 thousand families moved into dugouts, caves, shacks, old box-cars and unused warehouses (US Government Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Has there been a housing shortage for the last 16 years? Yes, and longer than that. Workers pay for their housing out of

That was why it was with a queer sort of feeling I watched how feebly they fought for their own interest. For the "right to live" not in the remote coconut groves of the South Pacific, but in their own cities. It was indeed a shame, twice and treble so because they can win their demands only with the same determination and militancy they squandered in the imperialist slaughter. But they have yet to learn this.

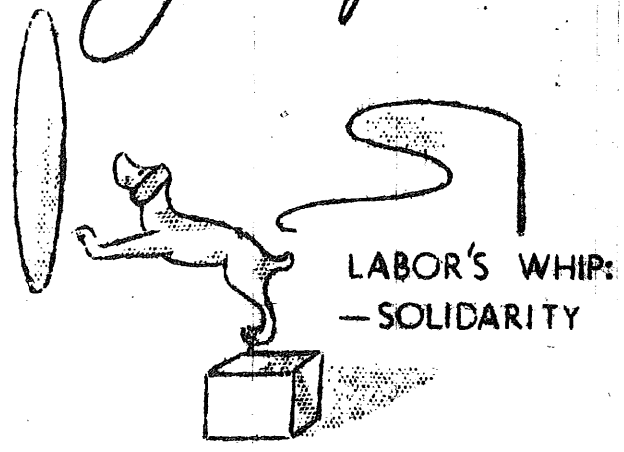
LABOR SOLIDARITY CAN MAKE WARD MANAGEMENT

Jump

Dear Brothers:

On Wednesday, June 19, the addressing machine operators of the M & A (Mailing & Addressing) Dept. here at Montgomery Wards carried thru a good demonstration of labor solidarity. Twenty workers - Negro and white - approached Mr. Kase, (manager of dept.) to demand a change in production rates. Mr. Kase was alarmed at the unity and fighting spirit of the girls and protested that he would see only one girl at a time, or a committee. The girls sensing the strength in unity, replied - "All for one and one for all; we came together as a group not as individuals." Mr. Kase sensing the fighting mood of the girls backed down and finally let all the girls come in.

The girls demanded a downward revision of production rates. For a long time the general feeling was that the rates were too high. In fact, even the most competent girls are unable to produce the rates set by the company. Since the girls are given a rating according to fulfillment of certain rates it becomes clear that no girl will get a rating high enough to qualify for an increase in wages. Girls who have for years consistently made the necessary output find themselves unable to make the demanded rate. To top everything off the methods by which they arrive at the production standards are so complex and vague even the supervisors have difficulty in explaining the girls how the company sets production rates. In fact, upon checking the rates Mr. Kase informed the girls that an error in computing the



rates had been made. But so far the company has been unwilling to revise the rates. These are the cheap conniving tricks used by the company to prevent its employees from gaining a few cents more an hour.

I am sure that there's a widespread feeling about the need for united action on the job to get pay raises, dump the speed up, and do away with Jim-crow practices (separate cloak rooms for Negro and white).

But the union leadership is blissfully asleep at the switch instead of seizing upon grievances and pressing the company to straighten them out. Because of this we members of the union feel that our union isn't gaining the support it would otherwise get. As long as there are no regular meetings where members can democratically thrash out problems and decide on policy, the union will be unable to enforce its demands against Sewal Avory & Co. We need regular meetings and democratic discussions on wages, grievances, vacations and seniority.

AN EMPLOYEE AT
MONTGOMERY WARD

LABOR VIEWS
has new office -
333 W. NORTH

July 1 marks the day when LABOR VIEWS gets a new home. This is not just a LABOR VIEWS office. It is open as a headquarters for all workers who wish to gather together to take up their problems. Drop around and see us.

Editor's Note:

Since this letter was written, the militancy of the girls resulted in a change of rates from 1150 stencils per hour to 823 per hour. However even these rates are too high.