

ON-THE-SPOT REPORTS FROM NATIONAL STRIKE FRONTS

Youngstown Steelmen Out Solid In Strike

By George Weissman
(Special to The Militant)

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 21.—Over 70,000 steel workers went on strike at 12:01 this morning, completely blacking out steel and iron production in this Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania area. Not a pound of iron or steel, and practically no coke, is being produced. Joining the local Electrical and Packinghouse workers, the steel workers have swelled the ranks of strikers in this area to over 85,000.

Half of these striking steel workers are in Youngstown and immediate suburbs. The biggest Youngstown companies closed by strike action are Carnegie-Illinois, whose three plants here employ 9,000 workers, Republic Steel Corporation where 8,000 are out, and Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company with 11,000 on strike.

Steel workers at the Ohio Works of Carnegie (Big Steel) were the first to establish picket lines in the Youngstown district. Infuriated by a last-minute double-cross on the part of the corporation concerning the agreement on those authorized to enter the plant, the men went directly from a meeting to the mill gates and started picketing at 10 o'clock last night.

Throughout preparations for the strike the corporation has made and then broken a series of agreements with Local 1330 (Ohio Works.) The last agreement was that the company would submit the list of 15 top managers, inspectors, etc., who would be permitted to enter the plant. The union agreed to this proposal. At the last minute the company broke its word and, in emphatic reply, Local 1330 closed the plant two hours before the deadline.

Although the union had agreed to furnish the necessary maintenance men to prevent deterioration of equipment during the strike, the company, again breaking its agreement, has brought food, beds and foremen into the plant for the strike's duration.

Despite the cold and snow, the pickets were in high spirits. Their oil drums, converted into stoves, lit up the gates. Coffee was served to everyone on the line. News of the early arrangement of the picket line was passed on by telephone and word of mouth.

As new pickets arrived, they would pick out one of their buddies in the line, then suddenly emerging from the darkness, would make a dash as if to enter the gate, always lunging into their best buddy. Although this happened scores of times, it never ceased to send a thrill of excitement down the line. Then, as soon as the new arrival was recognized as a militant, a wave of laughter followed.

REPUBLIC HELPLESS
Republic Steel, which in the 1937 "Little Steel" strike led the union-busting campaign, today sat back helpless as 8,000 workers pulled the switch and cut off production.

At Stop 5 gate—the scene of the 1937 gun and gas attack on strikers in which two workers were killed—a crowd of pickets stopped everyone except those authorized by the union.

The coke plant, manned 90 per cent by Negro workers, is setting a fine record in militancy and discipline in reporting for picketing. Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. likewise was shut down solid by 11,000 strikers at its three plants in Campbell, Struthers, and Brier Hill.

Mass Picketing At Chicago Stockyards



Chicago Packinghouse workers defying city police, block the 42nd Street entrance to the Chicago Stockyards on January 17. These pickets are part of the 325,000 CIO and AFL workers now on strike nationally.

Chicago Packinghouse Strikers Show Fighting Spirit On Lines

(Continued from Page 1)
of the Chicago police have been withdrawn from regular duties and assigned to the packinghouse and other strikers. Three hundred cops from each shift are assigned to the stockyards area.

Democratic Mayor Kelly has issued an appeal for 500 to 1,000 new policemen on the pretext that they are needed to patrol the streets to check the growing crime wave in the city. Union officers state they will attempt to extend the picketing to thoroughfares inside the yards in spite of company contentions that the area is privately-owned property. So far picketing has been limited to the entrance gates to the yards.

"PRIVATE PROPERTY"
Two pickets distributing union leaflets inside the yards were arrested today by stockyards police and turned over to the city police. The leaflets appealed to the office workers, explaining their stake in the outcome of the strike. Police broke up the mass picket line at the 41st and Ashland entrance when workers attempted to stop cars from entering the yards.

The city maintains that streets in the yards are "private property" while the union insists these are public thoroughfares. The arrest of the pickets for distributing leaflets to office workers urging them not to go work

businessmen, who are dependent for their livelihood on the incomes of the workers in the yards, one merchant said: "We are 100 per cent behind the workers. We will do everything we can to help them, and that means financial as well as spiritual help. So far we have given what they asked for. We are prepared to give them what they need in the future."

Another stated: "We sell to the workers, not the packing companies. Where do you suppose we stand?"

Joseph Meegan, secretary of the Back-of-the-Yards Council said: "It is our people, it is our case, it is our fight. And these people out here have never been afraid to fight for their rights. We are hoping for a short strike, but we are prepared for a long one."

A seven-man planning committee, headed by Oscar Brown, local president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been set up to rally the support of the large Negro community for the strikers.

No Scab Can Slink Past Lackawanna's Pickets!

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

LACKAWANNA, N. Y., Jan. 17.—Some 11,000 members of five CIO steel locals out on strike against the Bethlehem Steel Corporation here are now rounding out their first week on the picket lines. Undaunted by rain, snow and bitter cold weather, the pickets have done a first-rate job in carrying out their intention to keep the plant shut down tight.

Called last Friday night, the strike took place when the company was discovered to be making preparations to hose and feed strikebreakers in the event of the national steel strike taking place on January 14 as originally scheduled. This, together with the company's refusal to come to an agreement with the union on maintenance of furnaces during the strike, precipitated the walkout.

All during the week the picket lines have remained solid. The men are clearly filled with a sober determination to fight through to a victory.

WORKERS' INITIATIVE
This vast steel plant stretching over more than three miles of lake front with many gates, miles of fence, fields and open spaces, has presented a difficult problem in organization. But right from the start the men have shown their ability and initiative in solving this problem and every day sees a steady improvement in the functioning of the picketing system which has effectively sealed off all entrances to the plant.

Reliable reports indicate that the few scabs in the plant are running low on food. The plant police, members of an AFL union, are complaining bitterly about the food situation, as the scabs get first choice of the little there is on hand. The situation in the plant is so bad that the secretary of Plant Superintendent Entwistle has to do the cooking for the few executives marooned there since the surprise walkout last Friday.

But the pickets are getting plenty of food through the excellent organization by the food committee and through the generosity of the local merchants, whose sympathies are clearly with the strikers.

The "Lackawanna Striker," daily strike bulletin put out by a strikers' publicity committee, headed by Wilfred Baines and Phalen Ghan, keeps the picket line informed about the daily developments. Items such as the following show the hazards scabs are meeting trying to sneak into the plant. "It is reported that two strikebreakers fell off the overpass near the strip mill."

Another reads, "Wouldn't you think scabs would have enough sense not to fall into the creeks at Woodlawn and the strip mill?"

UNION ORGANIZES
A meeting of the picket committee was held on Monday, with Scotty Jackson, picket captain, presiding. At this meeting, a dispatching system was organized with Vincent Copeland, Local

the workers of the Worthington Pump and Machinery Corporation walked out at midnight Sunday. The reasons for calling the strike were the failure of the company to put in effect a WLB decision granting all employees a five-cent an hour increase retroactive to May 15, 1944 and sympathy with the Bethlehem strikers.

PROSPECTS GOOD
Prospects for the strike at Lackawanna are good. The organization of the strike is at a high level of efficiency and the morale of the men is high. Although the union negotiating committee made up of the local presidents and other officers have repeatedly attempted to come to an agreement with the company on the maintenance question, the company has remained adamant.

This company attitude has convinced the strikers more than ever that it is only their own fighting action on the picket line that will win them a living wage.

Pittsburgh Steel Workers Form Solid Strike Front
(Continued from Page 1)
was in the Hazelwood local's office, phone calls came in from the supervisors inside the mill, begging piteously for union escorts to guide them out of the gates. That brought the laugh of the week and an answer you can well imagine.

BRADDOCK IS SOLID
The entire population of Braddock is backing the strike. The borough officials of Braddock and New Braddock are scheduled to go on the picket line.

The biggest single steel union local in this area is at the Carnegie-Illinois works in Homestead. It employs approximately 11,000. Last night from 9 p.m. to the time the pickets went on the lines, an enthusiastic mass demonstration was held at the Local 1397 union hall.

From the demonstration the pickets went out to cover all the gates of the mill. Favorite picket line slogans are:

"WE WANT A FAIR DEAL, NOT A FAIRLESS DEAL," and "WE WILL PICKET UNTIL WE LICKIT!"

Every striker feels that they are in for a long, tough fight, a fight for the very existence of the union. They have tremendous pride in the strength of their giant union.

For the first time in steel labor's history, these sons and grandsons of the strike martyrs of 1892, many of them veterans of the great 1919 Steel Strike, are entering the fight with the knowledge that they have a powerful organization in the forefront of this tremendous national fight of the whole American working class.

Mass Picket Lines Clamped On U. S. Steel's "Big Mill"

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—Solid CIO picket lines were formed this morning at the gates of Carnegie-Illinois "Big Mill" in Gary, largest steel plant in the world. Pickets turned back all cars, busses, and street cars, as well as workers on foot.

Members of the Foremen's Association of America voted not to maintain the fires in any of the furnaces after 6 tonight. In this event, the city of Gary will lose its gas supply. These furnaces also supply the fuel for the electrical power which operates Gary's water system.

AGREEMENT VIOLATED
The steel union and the company agreed last week to keep maintenance men in the plant. The union charges that the company failed to supply lists of men to whom these passes were

to be issued, thus violating the agreement. As a consequence, the union states that nobody will pass through and "the plant will be shut down cold."

The Carnegie management has stocked supplies, food and bedding in the plant, an obvious strikebreaking threat.

At the Carnegie Works in Chicago, the union states no maintenance men will be allowed through because the company insists upon using non-union maintenance men. The union states that only 16 men will be permitted through on passes, and these 16 must belong to the union.

No agreement on maintenance has been made at the South Chicago and Youngstown Sheet & Tube plants, and nobody is going through these picket lines.

BALTIMORE
Militant Labor Forum
Labor Comes Out Fighting
(The meaning of the Strike Wave)
Sunday, Jan. 27
Workmen's Circle Lyceum
Room 5
1829 E. Baltimore St. 8 p.m.

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800,000 Hit The Picket Lines In Mighty Steel Struggle

(Continued from Page 1)
proffer of an additional price-steel of \$4 a ton, it was clear that Big Business as a class had determined on nothing less than a showdown struggle against American unionism.

That is precisely what The Militant had warned, from the outset of the General Motors strike, was the main issue in the unfolding struggle. That is precisely what was confirmed when General Motors walked out of Truman's "fact-finding" hearings and bluntly rejected the government's recommendation of a wage settlement nearly 45 per cent less than the CIO auto workers' original demand.

FORECAST CONFIRMED
This forecast has received additional confirmation by the actions of the electrical and meat-packing trusts. Although the leaders of the CIO electrical union agreed, even in advance of the battle, to call off their strike if the companies would meet the 15-cent offer made by Fairless to the steel workers and negotiate the difference between the 25

percently insisting that its profits position be subsidized either by the public or its low paid workers. . . Apparently the sole interest of the packers is to continue their exorbitant war profits, irrespective of its impact on the nation."

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Diary Of A Steelworker By T. Kovalesky

Owing to his intense activities in connection with the steel wage struggle, Comrade Kovalesky writes that he is unable to send his regular column this week. We are therefore reprinting his column from the October 28, 1944 Militant.

The word "Socialism" means a lot of different things to different people, but what it means to me I can write down in just a couple of words. It means peace and plenty for all; it means sunshine and the laughter of children.

Notes Of A Seaman By Art Sharon

It makes no difference whether you walk into the American bar on 23rd Street in New York, the little joint next to the "dog house" at the foot of Broadway in Baltimore, the Sailors Cafe on Clay street in San Francisco or the Post Keller on Seneca street in Seattle - all well-known sailors' hangouts - it is the same story.

FEPC Filibuster

Last week the Southern Bourbon Democrats in the Senate were caught on the horns of a dilemma. They were torn between two frenzied desires. While anxious to speed enactment of anti-labor legislation, they were confronted by the unexpected "emergency" called forth by the sudden presentation of a bill for establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission.

By Joseph Keller

pose to exercise my right to speak twice on the measure—for 30 days each time." Cautious Senator Ellender of Louisiana merely promised to spout "as long as God gives me breath."

Thirteen More Mine Disaster Victims Die Due To The Negligence of Greedy Owners

More Murder For Profits



Rescue workers removing the body of one of the miners killed in the Havaco coal mine disaster at Welch, West Virginia. On January 17 a frightful explosion caused by the mine owners, criminal neglect of safety measures killed 13 coal miners and injured 38.

By Evelyn Atwood

Once again murder for profit stalked the coal mines when a violent explosion blasted through the shafts of Havaco No. 9 coal mine in Welch, West Virginia, on January 15, killing 13 mine workers and injuring at least 38 of more than 200 others who finally escaped the burning trap.

The "Bright" Side Of Mine Tragedy

Although 13 mine workers were killed and 38 seriously injured in the Welch, W. Va., mine explosion due to the operators' disregard of inspection warnings, the N.Y. Times, a chief apologist for the criminal capitalist system, did not fail to point out the "brighter" side of the disaster.

DANGERS KNOWN

A purely perfunctory report last September by inspectors from the Bureau of Mines, which every year reiterates it has no power to enforce its findings, listed at least three danger points in the New River and Pocahontas Coal Company mine. The mine was gassy, and equipped with dangerous electric installations.

Five women and children who were in the company grocery store at the time were taken to a hospital for treatment of injuries resulting from the blast. School children in a building 500 feet away were injured by flying glass. The entire tippie construction at the entrance was wrecked.

Western Electric Strikers Fight Injunction Threats

THE WESTERN ELECTRIC STRIKE but will push for \$2 per day for all phone workers. Ending of the nation-wide sympathy strike found the 17,400 strikers of the Western Electric Employees' Association (NFTW) further pressed by company attacks. Last Tuesday seven picket captains were arrested at the main gate of the huge plant here when they refused to permit taxi-cabs loaded with company officials through the gates.

Minnesota Packinghouse Workers Firmly Support National Strike

By Barbara Bruce (Special to The Militant)

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 16 — Packinghouse workers in the Minnesota area walked out nearly 8,000 strong today and closed up the nation's second largest meat-packing center 100 per cent. Plants affected in this area include Armour, Swift and Rifkin in South St. Paul; Superior and Bartusch in St. Paul; Cudahy in Newport; and Wilson in Albert Lea and Fairbault. The Wilson plant involves some 1,200 workers; the others are employed in the St. Paul-Newport area.

at every entrance to these great meat-processing citadels. Banners bore the slogans: No Meat Without a Living Wage; We Want Justice. Placards carried by young men in army and navy trousers stated: We Fought For Better Wages and Jobs.

What Strikers Must Guard Against

By The Editors

American labor stands at the most crucial juncture of a titanic battle for tremendous stakes. In this battle, now spearheaded by 1,700,000 strikers, every worker understands the dangers threatening from the enemy camp of Big Business. The workers are prepared to fight these dangers to the utmost.

ing to settle without a real fight for 17½ cents instead of 25 cents. It was only the tremendous pressure from the workers on the one hand, and the completely contemptuous and uncompromising attitude of the corporations on the other which forced these union leaders to finally, though reluctantly, give the signal for battle.

Thursday night, the Union was served with a surprise injunction issued by Vice-Chancellor James Fiedler of Jersey City, restricting pickets to 10 at the main gate. This brazen strike breaking injunction was illegally issued on complaint of the company without the union even being notified of the court hearings!

Baltimore UE Shuts 6 Plants

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT BALTIMORE, Jan. 18—Carrying out its slogan of "Every member a picket," CIO United Electrical Workers Local 130 has been maintaining large picket lines around all of the six Westinghouse plants here.