

A Ten Billion Dollar Federal Housing Program Would Provide Jobs For All

160 Membership Votes Unanimous Approval Negotiating Committee

Demands Northern States Power Co. State Position on Disputed Questions

As negotiations between the Utility Workers Union Local 160 and the Northern States Power company head towards a showdown, the membership of the union, meeting January 18th, unanimously approved a lengthy resolution reciting in detail the history of negotiations, and calling for an enlarged negotiating committee.

The union membership voted enthusiastically, to a man, to approve the interpretation of negotiations presented by its negotiating committee, and instructed its enlarged committee to obtain from the company definite answers on all disputed questions.

At the present time, no working agreement is in effect between Local 160 and the company, the old agreement having expired December 31, 1939. The company, through its personnel man, Frank J. Miller, is still seeking to bind the union to the involved arbitration clause contained in the expired contract.

Recently the enlarged union negotiating committee met with representatives of the company, but little progress was reported.

In order that the union movement may obtain an understanding of the situation, we suggest all readers study the full text of the union resolution on negotiations, published below:

WHEREAS, the 1939 agreements between the company and the union state the following as to the expiration date of such agreements (Section "c" under heading "Agreement"):

This agreement shall take effect the 20th day of January, 1939, and shall continue to and including December 1, 1939. It shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter unless written notice is given by either party hereto to the other on or before sixty (60) days prior to the annual expiration date requesting that the agreement be amended or cancelled. If amendments are desired, such amendments shall be contained in such notice;

AND WHEREAS, on October 31, 1939 (sixty days before the above-mentioned annual expiration date), the union submitted proposals to the company to amend the 1939 contract, which after amendment would become the new 1940 agreement; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 1939 (also sixty days before the expiration date), the company submitted its proposed amendments to the union, stating in a letter from Mr. Frank J. Miller accompanying the amendments that the "Company is ready and willing to meet with you at any time to negotiate a new agreement for 1940"; and

WHEREAS, the company used this exact language in letters to the union concerning its agreements with the Construction Department of the Northern States Power company, the Minneapolis Mill company and the St. Anthony Falls Water Power company, and the Minneapolis General Electric company; and

WHEREAS, a considerable amount of negotiating between the union and company representatives has occurred since November 1, 1939; and

WHEREAS, considerable progress was made towards reaching satisfactory settlements, though no final agreement was reached before December 31, 1939; and

WHEREAS, the three important points, among others, that remained unsettled were the following:

1. The right of the union to deal on conditions of employment other than those specifically mentioned in the agreement;
2. The union shop;
3. A 5 per cent increase in wages;

AND WHEREAS, it being obvious that no agreement could be reached before December 31, 1939, the expiration date of the contract, the union wrote the company on December 30th asking "to extend our present agreements for thirty days," pointing out to the company that such an extension was in line with past practices; and

WHEREAS, the company refused to agree to the union's request for an extension of the contract and on January 2, 1940, wrote the union to that effect; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 1940, a meeting was held between representatives of the company and the union during which time the question of the three above-mentioned points of disagreement were again discussed with no agreement resulting; and

WHEREAS, on that date the company took the position that the 1939 agreement was still in effect, inasmuch as the union had proposed amendments and not out-and-out cancellation of the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the union contends that the 1939 agreement terminated on December 31, 1939, based on the wording contained in section "c" quoted in the beginning of this resolution, which section states with crystal clarity that the agreement shall expire on December 31, 1939, if either party gives written notice within sixty days prior to expiration that it requests amendments or cancellation; the union contending that the word "or" implies that in the alternative either of amendment or cancellation, the contract expires; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 1940, the union in a letter to the company presented in detail the union's interpretation of section "c", and the basis for such interpretation; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1940, the company replied in a letter stating "the company is very anxious to meet and negotiate your suggested amendments to our present contract, strictly in accordance with the terms of our present contract," implying that the company rejects the union's interpretation, and further refusing to

(Continued on page 3)

Miners Aid Strike vs. Nash Finch

Ottumwa, Iowa—The strike of the Drivers Union Local 388 against the unfair Nash Finch wholesale grocery concern rounded out its second month Monday with the union in a strong position. Latest ally of the Nash Finch strikers is the United Mine Workers Union Local 553 of Centerville, Iowa.

On January 22nd Carl Nilson, representing the Drivers Union, spoke at the membership meeting of the coal miners and asked their cooperation in winning the strike.

The miners voted unanimously to place on the unfair list any merchant, restaurant or beer tavern in

Centerville accepting deliveries from the strike-breakers working for Nash Finch. The miners union has mailed letters to various local business houses asking their cooperation in refusing service from the strike-breakers. Merchants who ignore this request will have their places of business listed as unfair at the Miners' Hall and will be publicized as being unfair to organized labor.

Thanks to the Centerville miners, the Nash Finch business is buttoned up in one more town in this area. As a means of aiding Local 388's fight on the anti-labor Nash Finch company, union men throughout the area are refusing to drink Nash coffee or Pabst Blue Ribbon beer, or to eat the Our Family and Golden Valley food brands. The above products are handled by the anti-union Nash Finch company.

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FIVE CENTS

18 WPA Strikers To be Sentenced By Court Saturday

Will Receive Sentences in Two Batches, at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m.—Agreement Between WPA Defense Committee and Department of Justice Pends, Whereby Charges Will be Dropped Against 125 of the 130 Remaining Indicted Strikers—Five Would Enter Pleas of Nolo Contendere

The eighteen men who, with fourteen women, have been tried and convicted in the WPA strike trials will be sentenced this Saturday by Federal Judge M. M. Joyce, the WPA Defense Committee revealed this week.

Only the men will be sentenced Saturday. Sentencing of the women has been deferred indefinitely.

It is understood the men will be sentenced in two equal batches, one group to receive sentences Saturday morning at 10 a. m., the second group to be sentenced at 2 p. m.

O. John Rogge, head of the criminal division of the Department of Justice, has been in Minneapolis during the week conferring with federal officials and the Central Labor Union's WPA Defense Committee, on the question of disposition of the cases involving the 130 indicted men and women who have not yet been tried.

Special Plea Seen
It is understood that charges may be dropped against 125 of the 130 strikers, and that the remaining five strikers may enter pleas of nolo contendere to minor substantive charges, but not to charges of conspiracy to violate Section 28 of the relief law passed last July.

A nolo contendere plea means in essence that one presents himself in court, and states he does not believe himself guilty of the charges leveled against him. Such a plea subjects him to judgment at the hands of the court, and he forfeits his right to appeal any decision made by the court.

The eighteen WPA strikers to come up for sentencing Saturday face possible prison terms of two years on each count of "conspiracy" to violate Section 28 of the relief law, and on each count of violence, plus fines.

Those to be sentenced Saturday include: Carl Pemble, Richard Connell, Myron Phillips, Ben Palmer, Leslie Wachter (convicted in the first of the three WPA trials); Milton McLean, Charles Connors, William Riley (convicted in the second trial); Eddie Alberts, Ralph Core, Max Geldman, Oscar Schoenfeld, Frank Stevens, Edward Palmquist, Floyd Hurley, George Toteno, and Charles Grier. Wachter was also convicted in the third trial.

Organized labor throughout the United States is watching Minneapolis with intense interest, to see what the outcome of the trials will be.

John Boscoe Re-elected CLU Head

Last Wednesday, January 24th, the Minneapolis Central Labor Union held its annual election. John Boscoe of the Printing Pressmen was unanimously re-elected president, a post he has held since 1938. William Sinnott of the Milk Drivers was opposed for the post of vice-president, as was Roy Weir of the State Employees for the post of financial secretary-treasurer and organizer.

Tom Pierce of the Building Service Employees was chosen as registry clerk in place of Myrtle Harris. The CLU's failure to re-elect Harris was believed due to her breaking away from the Minneapolis caucus at the 1939 State Federation of Labor Convention.

Tom Jordan of the Bricklayers was re-elected sergeant-at-arm. Carl Skoglund and Nels Anderson, trustees of the central labor body, were not up for re-election as their terms do not expire this year.

CLU Favors Expanding Security Law

Last Wednesday evening the Minneapolis Central Labor Union unanimously endorsed the resolution presented by the Private Chauffeurs Union Local 912, demanding of Congress that it extend the benefits of the Social Security law to all domestic employees and all others not now covered by the law.

The resolution had previously been endorsed by the Teamsters Joint Council. Local 912 plans to start a nation-wide campaign in the union movement to extend the Social Security act to cover all workers.

Day-Labor System In City Threatened

Reactionary forces in Minneapolis are again up to their old game of seeking to abolish the city's day-labor system and substitute for it the costly contract system with its accompanying lower wages.

This was the warning issued this week by leading union officials.

Chief forces working to introduce the wage-cutting contract system are the "Town Hall" meetings sponsored by the Civic Council; the Minneapolis Taxpayers Association; and the General Contractors Association.

At stake is the livelihood of 2,000 city day laborers and the efficiency and economy of the city government.

The January bulletin of the Taxpayers Association contains a devious and dishonest attack on the day-labor system, an attack which paved the way for Alderman Robb to reintroduce the same old ordinance favoring the contract system which has been presented unsuccessfully to the Minneapolis city council for the last twenty years.

What Taxpayers Assn. Is
The Minneapolis Taxpayers Association is an organization made up for the most part of wealthy owners of down-town real estate, seeking special tax privileges for themselves at the expense of the city's thousands of small-home owners.

Many members of the Taxpayers Association don't even live in Minneapolis, but live at Lake Minnetonka or other suburban spots in order to avoid paying their fair share of taxes to the city in which they make their fat incomes.

The Taxpayers Association suddenly has become concerned about the costs of the city's water-softening plant. The truth is that the Association is not so much concerned about the above as it is in seeking a wedge whereby it can put across the contract system on the people of Minneapolis.

The Taxpayers Association has known and approved of the sale of bonds by which the water-softening plant has been financed. The Board of Estimate and Taxation has been controlled for many years by people aligned with the Taxpayers Association.

By expressing a faked concern about the cost of the water-softening system, the Taxpayers Association, with the support of the Civic Council and the General Contractors Association hopes to force the Robb ordinance through the city council.

It is generally known that the General Contractors Association

Pliam Linoleum To Get New Pact

A new agreement to succeed the present pact which expires February 5th will be presented by the Warehouse Workers Union Local 359 to the Pliam Linoleum company this week.

At present these workers have a 40-hour week with a 60c hourly minimum. A meeting of the Pliam workers will be held soon.

Hearing on L. Glotzbach This Week

Robley Cramer, editor of the Minneapolis Labor Review, will present protests of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union against the President's appointment of S. L. Stolle as Minnesota PWA administrator and of Linus Glotzbach as regional WPA director, before the U. S. senate appropriations subcommittee in Washington this week. The senate subcommittee is headed by Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee.

Roosevelt presented the names of Stolle and Glotzbach to the senate last July following their strike-breaking roles in the local WPA strike. Interim appointments of the two were approved, but reconsideration was granted after Farmer-Labor Senator Ernest Lundeen protested on behalf of the Minneapolis union movement. At this session of congress President Roosevelt has again sought confirmation for Stolle and Glotzbach, and the hearing this week will examine their qualifications and the protests of organized labor against them.

ADT Police Risk Lives For Pittance

Last week-end the Alexander check-cashing bureau on 5th street was held up for the second time this winter. One of the American District Telegraph special policemen was shot in the mouth by the robber and is in serious condition at the hospital.

Investigation shows that these special policemen, who act as guards for buildings equipped with the ADT system, receive only \$22 a week, yet they risk their lives every time they go on the job.

National Jewelry Is Still Unfair

Union people are staying away in droves from the National Jewelry store, 426 Nicollet avenue, because this establishment continues its bitterly hostile attitude toward organized labor.

It is estimated that if all the people who have ceased patronizing the National Jewelry store were stood end to end, they would reach from here to there.

Members, Speakers Rally to Defend 544 in Fink Suit

Don't Forget Defense Dance This Saturday

Union men and their wives and friends will attend the dance being given by the Women's Auxiliary of the Electrical Workers Union Local 160 this Saturday evening at 257 Plymouth Avenue North. All profits will go to the WPA Defense Fund. Tickets are only 25c each, a fine union orchestra will play, and a good time is promised all.

Ticket sales have been large and a big crowd is anticipated.

FWS Adjusts Grievances In Villages

Last Thursday evening representatives of Local 544's Federal Workers Section attended the meeting of the Crystal Village welfare board to take up relief grievances which the board, on various pretexts, had failed to act on. FWS officials were able to adjust grievances for the two families and the one single man involved.

A small army of village and county police attended the board meeting, as did many interested observers and relief recipients.

The meeting was conducted quietly and the FWS spokesmen were praised by the board for their clear-cut presentation of the issues involved.

Two weeks earlier the FWS was successful in adjusting relief grievances in Hopkins.

When Buying Gas, Look For This

Members and friends of organized labor can aid the AFL Filling Station Attendants Union Local 977 in its drive to complete the unionization of the city's oil stations, by insisting that every station attendant who serves you wears the button of Local 977, reproduced herewith.

The Sears Roebuck station at Elliot and Lake street is unfair to the union, as are the Standard Oil stations listed below. Help the cause of unionism by refusing to patronize any of these stations until they see fit to operate with union station attendants.

Standard Stations—Downtown
18th and Harmon Place
104 Glenwood Ave.
7th and 3rd Ave. South
5th St. and 2nd Ave. N.
Standard Stations—South
50th and France Ave. S.
22nd and Hennepin Ave.
45th and Nicollet Ave.
43rd and Nicollet Ave.
Lake St. at Lake Calhoun
50th and Xerxes Ave. S.
50th and Penn Ave. S.
44th and Morningstar Ave.
38th and Minnesota Ave.
32nd and Lyndale Ave. S.
Garfield and Lake St.
24th and Bloomington Ave.
51st and Hiawatha Ave.
River Road and E. Lake St.
27th and Hennepin Ave.
48th and Hennepin Ave.
48th and Chicago Ave.
38th and 2nd Ave. S.
22nd and Hennepin Ave.
40th and Nicollet Ave.
46th and Bryant Ave. S.
Excelsior and Minnetonka Blvd.
26th and 1st Ave. S.
54th and Lyndale Ave. S.
58th and Chicago Ave.
Holmes and Lake St.
Standard Stations—North
Girard and Plymouth Ave. N.
Penn and 6th Ave. N.
Plymouth and Oliver Ave. N.
37th and Fremont Ave. N.
Broadway and Rockford Road

Large Local 544 Membership Meeting Expresses Confidence in Union and Leadership—Officials of Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor Pledge Aid to Union in Fight Against Labor's Enemies—544 Officials Warn Against Anti-Labor Propaganda, Frame-ups—IBT Officials Praise Union for Its Defense in Fink Suit

Tuesday evening a spirited mass meeting of General Drivers Union Local 544 members that packed the third-floor auditorium in the Drivers Hall heard speakers from the city and state labor movement explain the book suit against the union, and express their confidence in Local 544 and their willingness to support the union to the finish in its fight against the finks.

The union committee that just returned from conferences with international officials of the Brotherhood of Teamsters and the American Federation of Labor reported that such officials expressed implicit confidence in the Minneapolis Drivers Union, and admiration for the way in which they have conducted the fight to protect Local 544's books and record from the enemies of organized labor.

Among the speakers Tuesday night were Robley Cramer, editor of the Labor Review; Harold Seavey, president of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council; George Murk, chairman of the Central Labor Union's WPA Defense Committee; Robert Olson, president of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor; Vincent Dunne and Miles Dunne.

Brother Cramer was introduced by President Carl Skoglund who presided at the meeting. Cramer pointed out that labor's enemies are not so much interested in Local 544's books as in the pay envelopes of all members of organized labor.

Why This Suit?
"No one ever bothered looking into the books of the old General Drivers Union when it had but few members," Cramer reminded the large audience. "But since Local 544 has become the keystone of the labor movement in this area, the enemies of labor are trying to cripple this union and all unionism."

"No matter what the court may say, we know these plaintiffs don't come into court in good faith. They don't have the interests of the union membership at heart..."

"Labor's enemies know this suit against Local 544 is just a beginning; that if they succeed against Local 544, they will make the same attempt against every other effective union in Minneapolis and the nation. Organized labor in Minneapolis will stand back of Local 544 until the real conspirators are exposed, and until the union has won a complete victory over its enemies."

Brother Harold Seavey, president of the Teamsters Joint Council, told of the support the Council has given in the book suit to date and pledged continued support in defending itself against the finks and those who are behind them.

George Murk made the observation that the same people who were responsible for attacking the Minneapolis unemployed are pushing the suit against Local 544, with the aim of undermining the living standards of the workers. "Through the efforts of the drivers and the rest of the labor movement, wages in this city have been raised from about \$12 a week to \$30-35. The employers hate unions like Local 544 because they can't have the concessions and privileges that they used to have. The people behind this book suit want to create doubt in the minds of the members of this splendid institution. These people must be

(Continued on page 2)

Laundry Drivers Dance Set for February 21st
The Laundry Drivers Union Local 131 will sponsor a dance to be held Wednesday evening, February 21st, at the Royal Arnum Hall, 2011 1st Ave. S. It was announced this week.

Tickets are 25c, and the famous Bobby Phillips dance band will provide the music. Refreshments of all sorts will be available to guests.

Grave Fuel Co. Has Hard Winter
The Graves Wood & Fuel Co., 2539 Minnehaha, is unfair to organized labor in Minneapolis. All union men are to remember this fact when making fuel purchases.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

544 Members Rally To Defend Union Against Enemies

(Continued from Page 1) defeated in their shameful efforts."

President Robert Olson of the State Federation of Labor briefly told of the growing number of law suits in which labor's enemies are involving the union movement. He pledged the State Federation would back Local 544 to the best of its ability in this fight.

Tells of Conference With Tobin
Ray Dunne, member of the committee that had just returned from interviews with President Daniel Tobin, Judge Padway, legal council of the American Federation of Labor, and other national union leaders, dwelt at some length on the history of the book suit since it was first started on February 17, 1938.

When the suit was filed, Dunne said, "the heart of every fink in town bounded with joy. Every labor-hating boss who had to dig up living wages for his employees took out a new lease on his old hatred of all militant, stable and worthwhile unions. These finks, and those directing them, have failed for two years to disrupt this growing union. They have tried every scheme, angle, device and truck, without the desired results. For two long years now, the employers have thrown thousands of dollars into this book suit."

Dunne presented the unsavory record of Svenndal, Asplund, Fisher, Ryan and Corbett, and the few who lent their names to the fink suit. "These five men came from nowhere, from the outside rim of the union movement. With no funds or resources of their own, they have yet had one of the highest-priced attorneys in Minneapolis working for two solid years on this case. What we are fighting is not just some misguided men, but men who are being used as whips by the bosses. Our union stated from the start of the suit that it was brought for ulterior purposes, not to examine the union's finances, which are an open book to all union members."

He reminded the thronged hall that Local 544, two years ago, reported the suit to the Central Labor Union and suggested that the CLU choose an auditing committee from the union movement to go over Local 544's books. "We have nothing to hide from honest union men, we have always been willing to let union men know the union's state of affairs. We have made monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports to the membership. We are willing to show our books to union men. We are unwilling to show our books to labor-haters."

Discussing the progress of the court trial, Brother Dunne stated the union "proved in court that these five men came in just before February 17, 1938, and got paid up in good standing just so they could bring the contemptible suit. . . . We have worked as we did to make it impossible for ANY finks to pull this stunt again, on ANY union. Supposing we had permitted the plaintiffs to get hold of our books, without putting up any defense. Then two weeks later, another batch of finks could be induced to do the same thing, and the union would be put to no end of expense and disruption.

Hands Not Clean
"We proved in court that the plaintiffs did not appear with clean hands. We proved they were organizers for the fink 'Local No. 1.' We caught them in lies on the witness stand, and caught their attorney in a lie. We convicted Svenndal, from his own testimony, of being an active organizer for 'Local 1.' Let the judge said he was not completely sure that these men had bad intentions.

"Unless further legal moves are made between now and Monday, the examination of the union's books will start then. As the examination progresses the judge will from time to time hear separate issues in the case.

"We are not only interested in seeing that the Central Labor Union and the State Federation of Labor know all the circumstances surrounding the case, but that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters understand in detail the meaning of the suit. We have conferred with President Tobin and Judge Padway."
Padway Praises Union Defense
The speaker told of Judge Padway's high praise of the union in defending the important union principle involved in the suit, and his praise for Local 544's attor-

neys, John Goldie and Gilbert Carlson.

President Tobin was reported as expressing the complete confidence of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' leadership with the fight being waged by Local 544 against the plaintiffs.

Warns Against Frame-ups
"I know what Local 544's membership will do in this situation," closed Ray Dunne. "They will keep on fighting. They will not be swayed by false reports and propaganda. They will have complete confidence that the case is as well in hand as it can be. They will bat down all the anti-labor propaganda. The fight today is of a different character than a fight on a picket line, but it is fully as important to the welfare of the union. We must all be prepared for false propaganda, even for attempts to frame-up the leaders and the active members of this union. Do not be fooled or disturbed. We are not going to permit our enemies to hurt this union. They may strike us blows, certain members may have doubts, but our enemies ARE NOT GOING TO HARM THIS ORGANIZATION. Local 544 will stand solid because the best ranks of the union understand what we are up against."

The thousand and more drivers who were present expressed their agreement with these sentiments by prolonged applause.

President Arthur Hudson of the St. Paul Drivers Union Local 120 was unable to appear Tuesday night as a speaker because of pressing union business, and the closing speaker was Miles Dunne.

"Our union is in one of its perilous crises. I would be lonesome without them. I always feel secure when I know our enemies are trying to bat us down, because then I know we are doing the right things for the union. When the labor-haters quit attacking local 544, then we will indeed know we are in danger."

Praised ITO
Miles Dunne praised the Independent Truck Owners section for the splendid help they have rendered the union in the fink suit, and in aiding to track down the records of the plaintiffs.
"We will proceed in the same fashion as we always have, with one objective in view: How well can we make this union function to protect its members, to safeguard the wages, the working conditions, the jobs of our members. If we proceed in this manner, everything we do will tend to preserve and strengthen our union. Criticism from our enemies be damned, we will continue to do the right thing.

"The employer-controlled daily press is going to say much about us. They aim to make you doubt whether the union can continue to do everything you want it to do. A trade union is only a stop gap, but it is the only thing at the present moment we have to defend us against the bosses, who want above all to return to the conditions they enjoyed before 1934. The bosses want most of all to have the power to adjust your wages, your hours and conditions according to his desires and his greed for profits. Only the union protects you. I warn you to reject the lies of the capitalist sheets."

The membership expressed its deep confidence in the union and its leadership by frequent applause. Following Miles Dunne's address, President Skoglund declared the meeting adjourned.

NOT A BAD IDEA
The new soldier was walking post for the first time. A form approached. "Halt!" cried the soldier. "Who are you?" "The officer of the day," was the reply. "Advance." The officer advanced but after a few steps was again ordered to halt. "This is the second time you've halted me," complained the officer, "what are you going to do next?" Never you mind what I'm going to do," was the stern answer. "My orders is to call 'Halt' three times and then shoot!"

Independent Truck Chatter

By R. F. Hornig

It has finally shown up. I mean the notice for the civil service examination for truck drivers. Place, North High School, Time, Feb. 6-7, 7 p. m.

This column will carry news of the governor's conference next week. What about? All union labor engaged in road and bridge work under the jurisdiction of the highway department will have representatives at hand to establish with the highway department officials and Governor Stassen a uniform code for wage rates in all specifications for bids sent to the contractors.

Looking over newspaper clippings received last year on the results of the WPA bidding system as operated in Cleveland and Toledo I find that conditions existing there at that time were repeated to the letter right here in the last six months. . . . Now the city council is squawking about discrimination to Stoltz about lack of WPA jobs for the city. They are going to ask for 2,000 more jobs.

We could have supplied you with fifteen jobs at least on the ice-hauling if there had been any desire on your part to have a platform available. Those who took the work made about seven days at eight hours per. Not bad at a scale ranging from \$1.75 to \$2.50.

Red Hohenstein is back again after a nice vacation in California. Red took a whack at assembly work in the airplane factories out there but decided rivet pushing on the line at 51c was no go for him. Hollywood, Tia Juana, etc., were all right too, says Red, but the Belt Line pays better.

A neat little monthly paper published from Chicago called The Transport Driver will cost you \$1 a year. Here are three new wrinkles taken from the January issue: Molded rubber fenders for trucks and busses are the latest. Just try putting a crease in them. Diesel motors are available for replacement in 1940 Fords. You oil-eaters please take notice: Differential hubs are the latest invention for better non-friction driving and greatest tire mileage. In the cast dual front wheels with differential hubs are being used on heavy hauling tractors.

Our little exposure on the latest WPA bids created quite a bit of serious talk among the boys about how great an importance should be given to the principle involved. Anyhow, here is a follow-up. The Begin family has evidently demonstrated how profitable the 80c WPA work can be because the rest of their community along Rural Route 11 has moved in on the program at the same scale.


Why don't you fellows on the park board list find out why the WPA truckers get the best break on winter work while we must wait around till summer for the leftovers? Check with your park commissioner. Here is the Board of Park Commissioners: Maude D. Armatage, Edward H. Chalmers, Francis A. Gross, Paul C. Johnson, H. G. Knight, George E. Leach, Alexander A. McRae, Lucian C. Miller, Walter J. Murphy, Alfred F. Pillsbury, Walter P. Quist, Clinton L. Stacy, Horatio

Dy-Dee Wash and Star Valet Unfair
The Dy-dee Wash company, 718 Washington Ave. N., and the Star Valet Cleaners, 2744 Lyndale S., continue to be unfair to the Laundry Drivers Union and to organized labor. It is reported both firms are tottering through the winter months, staggering under the scorn of union men and women.

Rex Bar & Cafe
1231 Washington Ave. N.
Rex Hamilton Pete Iverson

Jos. W. Du Four Coal & Oil Co.
100% Union Concern
COAL - COKE - WOOD FUEL OIL
DUport 9331
COAL IS 50c LESS FOR CASH
2919 Hiawatha Ave.

Scissorbill Sam, The Boss's Man



I'm all for sending help to Finland. If Herbert Hoover and Governor Stassen and Mayor Leach are all for it, it can't be wrong.

Farmer-Coop-Labor Council 1939 Report Shows Progress

The solid progress made by the Minnesota Farmer-Cooperative-Labor Council is reflected in the report covering the past year's activities of the Council, just released by Paul Rasmussen, executive secretary of the Council.

Rasmussen summarizes the public supper meetings of the Council held at Montevideo, New York Mills, Alexandria, Cloquet, Blue Earth and Northfield. He lists the numerous instances in which the Council has been of benefit to the farmers, the cooperatives and the unions.

Program of the Council
Describing the Council's program, Mr. Rasmussen writes: "An attempt has been made to have a uniform labor policy become characteristic of the three cooperative wholesales, and to have a uniform cooperative policy characteristic of the labor groups represented. Such a policy is based entirely on mutual aid and should work out to the advantage of all groups concerned. It is very evident that the interest in the cooperative movement has been greatly increased on the part of organized labor in Minnesota because of the activities of the Council. The credit unions, group health, cooperative oil stations, and cooperative grocery stores have benefited considerably because of the Council's activities. A series of interesting meetings have been sponsored by the Council throughout the state of Minnesota, and the results have been definitely gratifying."

Labor Aids Tornado Victims
Rasmussen sketches in the yearly report the aid given by the Minneapolis Central Labor Union to those farmers in Anoka who were victims of the tornado last summer. The CLU contributed over \$500, through the Council, to eleven farmers in Anoka whose buildings and homes had been destroyed.

Proposes 1940 Program
For the coming year, Mr. Rasmussen proposed the following program:
1. To continue educational meetings, presenting programs in behalf of organized labor, cooperatives and agriculture before community groups, cooperative or-

ganizations, educational and labor organizations.
2. To complete the state organization of the Council, with the aim of establishing representative committees in all of the 87 counties, and to have these county committees established in such a way "that they could function as legislative committees whenever necessary to bring pressure in behalf of labor, cooperatives and agriculture."
3. To plan for a state convention where "a definite permanent agricultural program" can be formulated to submit to the present session of Congress.

The board of trustees has left in the hands of John Wisdorf, E. L. Smith and Paul Rasmussen, acting as a Conference Committee, the responsibility of considering a conference of farm, labor and cooperative leaders for the purpose of considering a permanent farm program.
John Wisdorf, a Fulda farmer, is chairman of the board of directors of the Minnesota Farmer-Cooperative-Labor Council. Other board members are William Gydeson, St. Paul unionist; Gene Larson, treasurer, Minneapolis unionist; C. R. Crews, secretary, Superior Central Coop Wholesale; E. I. Smith, farm organizations, Montevideo; Andrew Jensen, consumer cooperatives, Minneapolis; and Ed Marinen, Duluth unionist.

544-ITO BOWLING LEAGUE
Team Won Lost
City 47 10
Dials 33 24
Committee 32 25
Dralgine 32 25
Gravelers 32 25
Minnesota 26 31
Muckers 19 37
High scores: Palaia, 515; R. Mengelkoch, 539.

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(Comprised of Minnesota Wholesale Wine and Liquor Dealers)

Gassing With 977

The Standard station at Penn and Broadway North is now a union-operated station, and is on the FAIR list.

Congratulations are extended Mr. and Mrs. James Martin, parents of an eight pound boy born January 21. Jim is steward for the local at the Petroleum Service bulk plant.

The name and address of each member who takes advantage of the medical care offered by the local is forwarded to the union doctor; whenever you need medical attention, present your dues book to him as proof to him that you are in good standing. It is essential that each member keep his dues book stamped to date. If your dues are paid and you do not have a stamp, mail your book to the office to be stamped, it will be returned immediately.

Again we remind you that medical service is available at the low cost of \$1.20 per member per year. Address of Dr. H. P. McCrimmon is 716 LaSalle Bldg.

Those who helped out by donating to the WPA Defense fund, will be glad to know that the sum of \$7.40 was collected and turned over to the committee in charge.

Dave Jacobs, who formerly operated a station at 720 Plymouth Ave. N., is now in a new station at 1400 Lyndale Ave. N.

ANOTHER LOAD From City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664
By Wally Raze

From the news angle, pickings have been very slim this past week, so I shall be compelled to limit my comments to impersonal topics, with one exception. Brother Charlie Martin wants it noised around that he too went fishing with Al and Lars. He, also, didn't catch anything.

The B.P.C. has just acquired two new Mercury-powered dump-trucks and boy! Are they big ones. My heart goes out to the unfortunates who will be compelled at some future date to shovel "over the side" into these rubber-tired box cars.

Many of us sweeper-operators are prone to comment as follows: "Ye Gods, every year the same thing." This is followed by caustic epithets never seen in print except at times in Esquire.

Incidentally, how come the writers for the magazine just mentioned get good money for such naughty language, designed for public consumption when you and I would get the works in short order.

Dr. R. S. Maybury Dentist
Sixth Street at Nicollet Ave.
628 SYNDICATE BUILDING
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- Anderson Bros., 1117 East Lake Street
- Anderson, Henry W., 1839 East Lake Street
- Anderson, W. A. (Ehrenstrom), 1825 Riverside Ave.
- Billman, Dan, 2518 Central Ave.
- Burr Funeral Home, 3040 Lyndale Ave. South
- Davis, Harvey, 4084 West Broadway (Robbinsdale)
- Enga Memorial, 1300 Lowry Ave. North
- Heinrichs Funeral Home, 902 West Broadway
- Kozlak, Peter Funeral Home, 1918 University Ave. N. E.
- Larson, O. E., 2301 Central Ave.
- Peterson Funeral Home, 1838 Central Ave.
- Sullivan, Frank D., 2617 Hennepin Ave.
- Swanson's Mortuary, 1610 Lowry Ave. North
- Sundeth Funeral Home, 2024 Lyndale Ave. North

All others considered unfair until such time as their name appears on the above list.

Party Saturday To Benefit Workers' Summer School

The scholarship fund for the University of Wisconsin summer school for workers in industry announces it will give its 16th annual benefit card party Saturday, February 3, 8 p. m., at the recreation hall of the YWCA, 11th and Nicollet.

Tickets are 25c each. Cards and bunco will be played and there will be refreshments and prizes. The scholarship fund has enabled several Minneapolis trade unionists to attend the workers' summer school at Madison, Wisconsin.

der were we to quote the same remarks audibly in public? Perhaps the ear is more easily offended than the eye.

Looks like Local 544 is getting all set for the book-opening ceremony IF and WHEN it takes place. It's time all union members in Minneapolis get wise to the schemes now under way to destroy all labor unions in our city.

Some Standard oil stations and the Sears-Roebuck station are anti-union. Keep that in mind when buying gas and oil. When you purchase ANYTHING demand the union label.

The by-laws committee met last week and a thorough set of working rules is also being drafted. We hope to have both completed by March 31. Any suggestions or ideas from the membership will be appreciated.

Well, guess I'll listen to Charlie McCarthy now and get a different slant on things for a while.

See you tonight.

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BILLMAN Funeral Chapel
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Red Caps Demand War Referendum

The International Brotherhood of Red Caps voted January 14th in their second annual convention to change their name to United Transport Service Employees of America. The Interstate Commerce Commission has ruled that station porters are railroad employees, and the change in name is being made for this reason.

The transport service employees endorsed the Gavagan anti-lynching bill now being debated in congress, urged the country to stay out of war, and recommended passage of a law establishing a popular referendum before this country makes any military move.

LAWYERS AND MEN
"When did the robbery occur?" asked the cross-examining lawyer to a witness.
"I think—" the witness began.
"I don't care what you think—I want to know what you know," the lawyer interjected sternly.
"Well, then," replied the witness, "I might as well get off the stand, I can't talk without thinking. I'm not a lawyer."

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160 Membership Votes Unanimous Approval to Negotiating Committee

(Continued from Page 1)

meet and answer the issue raised by the union in its letter of January 11th; and

WHEREAS, a number of experienced trade union negotiators have studied this matter and fully and unanimously support the union in its interpretation; and

WHEREAS, it is evident that the company is in reality evading the important issue at stake, including the right of a union to reach agreement through negotiation by its own selected representatives, rather than through compulsory arbitration under terms of an agreement already expired; and

WHEREAS, finally, the union, while it does not contend that under all circumstances it will refuse arbitration, does contend that it is no longer bound by the arbitration procedure outlined in the expired 1939 agreement, a procedure almost hopelessly and needlessly involved and complex and which subjects the union to arbitration of basic questions which no union could confine to arbitration without greatly weakening itself and the welfare of its members; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the membership of Local B-160 assembled in meeting this 18th day of January, 1940:

1. That the membership approve the steps taken by the negotiating committee and the officers to date;
2. That Local B-160's negotiating committee be increased from three to not less than eight persons, the additions to be appointed by the president under the rules laid down in the International constitution.
3. That the representation from St. Paul Local B-160 be increased from one to four members, the appointment of such members to be left in the hands of Local B-160;
4. That a meeting be arranged between the enlarged union negotiating committee and the company on Monday, January 22, 1940, or as soon as possible thereafter;
5. That the union negotiating committee be instructed to obtain from the company its position on all disputed questions with the union, including the sequence of negotiations for the St. Cloud agreement, the Construction Department agreement, and the Minneapolis Mill company and St. Anthony Falls Water Power company;
6. That the present negotiating committee, for such time as it deems advisable, be empowered to retain the enlarged committee.

Card of Thanks

To Local 544:
Gratefully acknowledging with deep appreciation your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy.

Mrs. Walter Stuart and family
Mrs. Alonzo Stuart and son

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FEED THE BIRDS

WE HAVE NO SYMPATHY WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY GAME EXPERTS THAT FEEDING AT THIS TIME IS UNNECESSARY - ASK YOURSELF THE QUESTION - CAN THE BIRDS GET FOOD WHEN THE GROUND IS COVERED WITH DEEP SNOW?

FEDERAL CARTRIDGE CORPORATION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Watt Notes

By Amps and Volts

This column was in error two weeks ago when reporting Brother Haack in the Meter Department as being sick. He was very much excited that day and took the day off and paced the halls at the Swedish Hospital. A baby girl arrived January 16th. Congratulations and best wishes to mother and child.

Brother John Williams was operated on Tuesday of this week and is in Northwestern hospital. Let's drop in and see our brother "Honest John."

The ladies of the Auxiliary are to be complimented on the efforts they are putting in to make their dance this Saturday night a big success. Let's get behind them, boys, and attend the dance in big numbers.

Remember their dance is for a worthy cause. The place is 257 Plymouth, third floor—this Saturday, February 3rd. Tickets are only 25c. We'll be seeing you there.

Mrs. Heigel was admitted to Fairview hospital Monday of this week. This column wishes her a speedy recovery.

Brother Johnson from Local 110 of St. Paul is becoming a very able speaker and was well received at our last membership meeting.

The Organization Committee is still hard at it, and many new applications for membership are promised in the near future, not to mention the new ones already obtained.

That new baby girl must be quite an inspiration. Brother "Jerry" Connell is around with a big smile and walking on thin air.

No non-member will be able to say "He hasn't had a fair chance" or "pleanty of time" to become a member.

News is scarce this week. We will be seeing you at the membership meeting Thursday night and at the dance Saturday night.

Card of Thanks

To Local 544:
Acknowledging gratefully your kind expression of sympathy.

Family of I. Michaud

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289 Bowlers Increase Lead

The Bakery Drivers keglers stepped a little further out in front Monday by taking a double from the second place Kenzies. M. Mikkelson got over being mad in the first game and went out and got a 597. Curran had 550. Soft Drinks crept up a little by taking two from the Meat Drivers. Murphy had 547, Gillespie, 513. Oasis Bar took a double from Local 544. E. Klein had 529. W. Sinnott hit his first 200 game. Local 359 took three from the Ice Drivers. Bruce Vincent and Cliffin were missing. What's the matter, boys?

Team	Won	Lost
Local 289	37	17
Kenzies	33	21
Soft Drinks	31	23
Meat Drivers	27	27
Oasis Bar	26	28
Local 359	23	31
Local 221	21	33
Local 544	18	36

LOCAL 1859 Knots to You

By Richard B. Gilmore

Workers Receive Back Pay
Payments of back pay were made last week by three Minneapolis concerns and by two in St. Paul. The money was owed to the workers under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act according to L. A. Hill, regional director of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor. The fair labor acts call for a wage of 25 cents per hour which is not so much but it was more than the workers in these five concerns were getting since its enactment by about \$3,240.50. The concerns forced to cough up the money they had so successfully gouged out of their loyal employees were as follows:

K. Aslesen company, 509 Washington Ave. S., paid \$1,244.21 to 42 employees.
C. F. Anderson company, Inc., 901 Marquette Ave., paid \$462.67 to eight workers.
Meves Products company, 1415 Third Ave. S., paid \$111.15 to eight workers.
Olson - Keogh company (St. Paul), paid \$543.28 to 36 workers.
St. Paul Scrap Iron and Metal company, (St. Paul) paid \$879.19 to three workers.

The scrap iron company had sure been taking these babies for a ride. They better give it back to the boss or they will get canned. The federal fair labor act may force the boss to dig up some back pay, but there is no assurance that the boss will keep these ungrateful workers, who have the greedy and ungrateful crust to keep this back pay, on the payroll. Of course, if they give it back it will show how much they appreciate what he has done for them and you know how

it works. Such an employee would be very "satisfactory" and should be kept on.
Cases like this have been observed by the United States Chamber of Commerce (and by the way, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce is conducted by prominent industrialists and has no more connection with the government than the U. S. Bedding company) for the last 18 months and the chamber goes on record that its opposition to the act at the time it was passed "was right and that the chamber should continue to advocate its repeal."

As I said, the fair labor act calls for 25 cent hourly wage but the U. S. Chamber of Commerce can plainly see that such high wages will ruin industry, destroy our national institution, tear down our democracy, over-throw the government, close the factories and spread devastation and bankruptcy all over these here United States of America. Yet, in spite of all this, so perverted have the minds of the victims of this vicious taking system become, that its victims look upon these Gargantuan devourers of the public wealth as bread-givers. This monstrous perversion of the workers' minds is kept going chiefly by the loud and hefty promulgation of the emasculating propaganda that capital and labor are partners whereas these takers have merely separated capital from labor and are using it to build bigger and better institutions to separate labor from the fruits of its toil.

At this time, I can't resist calling your attention to a description of the St. Paul winter carnival parade in which the announcer pointed out that during the parade the big business men were marching shoulder to shoulder with the workers and it is—said he—a fine thing and symbolic of the fine spirit of cooperation and partnership existing between the mighty magnates and the lowly workers. How's that for some loud and hefty perversion?

We are very sorry to announce the passing of one of our beloved sisters in 1859, Mrs. Grace Goetz, who for the last 11 years has been employed at the Northwest Casket company. Mrs. Goetz was stricken very suddenly with a heart attack on January 13, 1940.

Glazer Box News
Brother Calvin Krien announces a blessed event at his home. Congratulations from 1859 to Mr. and Mrs. Krien. We understand Calvin is passing out cigars to all the boys at the Glazer Box company. How's about the press, Cal?

Frank Felix was the honorary chairman at the regular Friday night Executive Board meeting last week. Brother Felix's presence was very inspirational and the entire Executive Board wishes to extend its thanks to Frank for his fine "spirit" of cooperation.

Waino Suomela, Martin Caselius, Frank Eull and Dave Wood drove 280 miles north to Pelican Lake last Friday night to do some heavy ice fishing. Brother Suomela could have caught more fish if he had kept his mind on his work instead of chasing bluebirds all over the place. The bluebirds seemed to be looking for minnows and hung around Waino's fish hole. So Suomela cleaned out the hole but he couldn't catch the bluebird. Perhaps it didn't want to be petted. The boys don't know why the bluebird hung around Waino so much unless it was because he

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TAXI TOPICS

By Lunde

We extend our sympathy to Cyril Phelan at the death of his mother, Mrs. Mary Phelan of Graceville, Minnesota.

John Fredlund, a long-time employee of the Y.C. Baggage unit, sustained a serious injury in a fall. We hope John will recover soon.

H. Kuenen, also of the Y.C. Baggage department, is on the mend but it will be some time before he'll be back on the job.

William Warner of the Liberty Cab is convalescing from an operation at St. Mary's Hospital.

John Erickson is the unopposed holder of a record in the L.B.B. cause. He has carried the same java thermos for 18 annos domini. Eric first enjoyed the invention while employed at tossing "Irish confetti" in Chicago.

"Peace" is wonderful! Tony Manthis' voice is reduced by many decibels due to a bad cold. Now we don't like to see Tony ill, but the "Nite Owl" shift like to be known as strong, silent men.

O. A. Olson is confined to the hospital with pneumonia.

The Y.C. Aviators suffered a temporary setback when their flying instructor escaped without injury as the plane caught fire and burned to a "wash-out." (More details next week.)

Claude S. Masters, our Big Boss, at the Y. C., has had lots of driver-visitors since he hung up a picture of the new cabs in his office.

When turning in articles to the lost and found at the Yellow Cab, include the start and finish of trip as it helps identify the rightful owner and can be delivered by our supervisor if necessary.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Williams announce the birth of a six pound baby boy. This makes them a family of four.

Time: 4 a. m., Russ Wenell drives up to an address on West Franklin, loads up a lady and her baggage and is told to go to the Milwaukee station. When Brother Russ arrived at the place, he asked for further details on the destination, as he knew that no trains left at that hour. The erstwhile passenger compared watches and found, to her chagrin, that she was just two hours and 50 minutes early for her train.

Caton to Address F-L Veterans

On Friday, February 2, 8:30 p. m., at 818 Hennepin avenue, the Veterans' Farmer-Labor Club will hold an open meeting to discuss politics in education. Main speaker will be Thomas J. Caton, former member of the Minneapolis school board, handwriting expert and inventor of Caton's scientific shorthand.

Caton will present his views on child and vocational education and the American Book company trust.

had on a fur cap and it maybe looked like a nice, warm nest. When they left, the bluebird was still out on the ice and Waino wonders if it is still there, cold and blue.

Who wears the trousers in this man's home?

Visitors at the home of Fred Diederich last Sunday found him very busy washing and drying dishes. In a special statement for the press, Mrs. Diederich sez: "We have been married 20 years and Fred is now a model husband and I have him thoroughly housebroken."

ASK FOR UNION CLERKS

UP IN THE AIR
about "Where to buy it?"
Look in the **CLASSIFIED** Telephone Directory

To All Trade Union Members

So many workers applying for unemployment insurance have been rejected through their own negligence and misunderstanding of the law, despite the fact they are clearly eligible to receive such insurance, that the Federal Workers Section has set up a special department to deal with this problem.

All workers seeking unemployment insurance are asked to get in touch immediately with Ed Palmquist before applying for such insurance. Palmquist will be in the office of the Federal Workers Section from 8:30-10:30 daily except Saturday and Sunday.

With the Dairy Workers Local 471

George Bergquist

Last Tuesday evening we had a fine get-together with the executive board of the St. Paul Milk Drivers Union. They are a fine group of men and seem to have about the same problems as we do; it is hoped that through these quarterly sessions, by study and discussion we will always be able to step forward with the right foot at all times.

Our St. Paul brothers just wound up their "Ice Cream Contract" without going on a strike; some distinct gains were made; six days sick leave each year, five cents per hour increase for helpers and a guarantee of \$32.40 per week. St. Paul employers used some vicious methods to try to break the morale of the Ice Cream men. They tried personal propaganda and besides offered customers attractive prices if they would come after their own ice cream. Our contracts do not terminate in the "slack season" and we appreciate that fact.

Local 471 has taken action to have its 1940 dance sometime in the near future. We hope for two things in connection with the dance; first, that the weather will be reasonably nice and second, that every member of our union will attend and try to get acquainted with his brother and sister members.

The Sears Roebuck Gas station on Lake street and Elliot is unfair; it's no place for us until they sign up.

Cecil Fulk's handicap turned out to be a handicap; in the city tournament his team landed in the basement. We cannot understand the upset because Cecil always takes care of his end.

This week it is "hats off" to Bob Taylor of North Franklin; he came through with the crappies that are called "Slabs," 1 1/2 lbs. to 2 1/2 lbs. They hauled out 140 of them in an hour and ten minutes at Pelican lake, near Orr. It's a good thing Brother Bob connected because to us it looked like a season of C. C. crappies.

Congratulations to Moe Ratman on the new baby but why the extra days off on the mother's return from the hospital? We like union-made cigars, Brother Moe, but the book offered to you is on us; it is entitled "Parents' Talks with Children in Regard to Reproduction."

Northland employees will attend a Christmas party at the Radisson hotel, Saturday night, February 3. We hope customers will be a little forgiving if some milk is late on Sunday morning.

We looked up the word "panty waist" and got the definition; a tender trustee. If they would only stock the Arena, Gus Anderson could go ice fishing with the boys.

Card of Thanks
Local 544:
Please accept my thanks for the flowers sent to the funeral of my father, Isaiah Michaud, on January 24th. Thanks to Walt Hegstrom, Moe Hork, Nick Wagner, Milt Hodson, Bruce Vincent and Clarence Hamel for serving as pallbearers.

Dan Michaud

Sale Miscellaneous
BOY'S ZIPPER OVERSHOES, size 7 1/2, \$1; boy's dark blue sweater, size 14, \$1; boy's black broadcloth suit, one pair pants, size 14, \$3; All good condition. Outgrown. 3440 Emerson Ave. St. Apt. 6, Re. 2138.

FOR RENT - Upper duplex, 4 rooms, all modern but heat. No vermin. Available Feb. 14. Mrs. Gladys Harty, 2114 Milwaukee Ave. S., between 22nd and 23rd avenues south.

ORGANIZER WANT ADS
(If you are a subscriber, your ad will be published here free of charge. Mail or phone the Northwest Organizer, 258 Plymouth Avenue North, Bridgeport 8741.)

FOR SALE - Cottage furniture. Good condition. Mrs. Gladys Harty, 2114 Milwaukee Ave. S. BOSTON BULL PUPS - Two months old. Screw tail. Reasonable. Cliff Adams, 102 S. 13th St., Apt. 28.

ICE SKATES, size 4, \$1.50. 259 Cedar Ave. S., Mrs. Olander.

20 ACRES OF STLAND, lots of timber. Elk River. Sell or trade. Mrs. Axel Olander, 259 Cedar Ave. Hy. 4895.

GLOCO OIL BURNER, good shape, very cheap. 615-S 9 St. Apt. 10, Gc. 6724.

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Northwest Organizer

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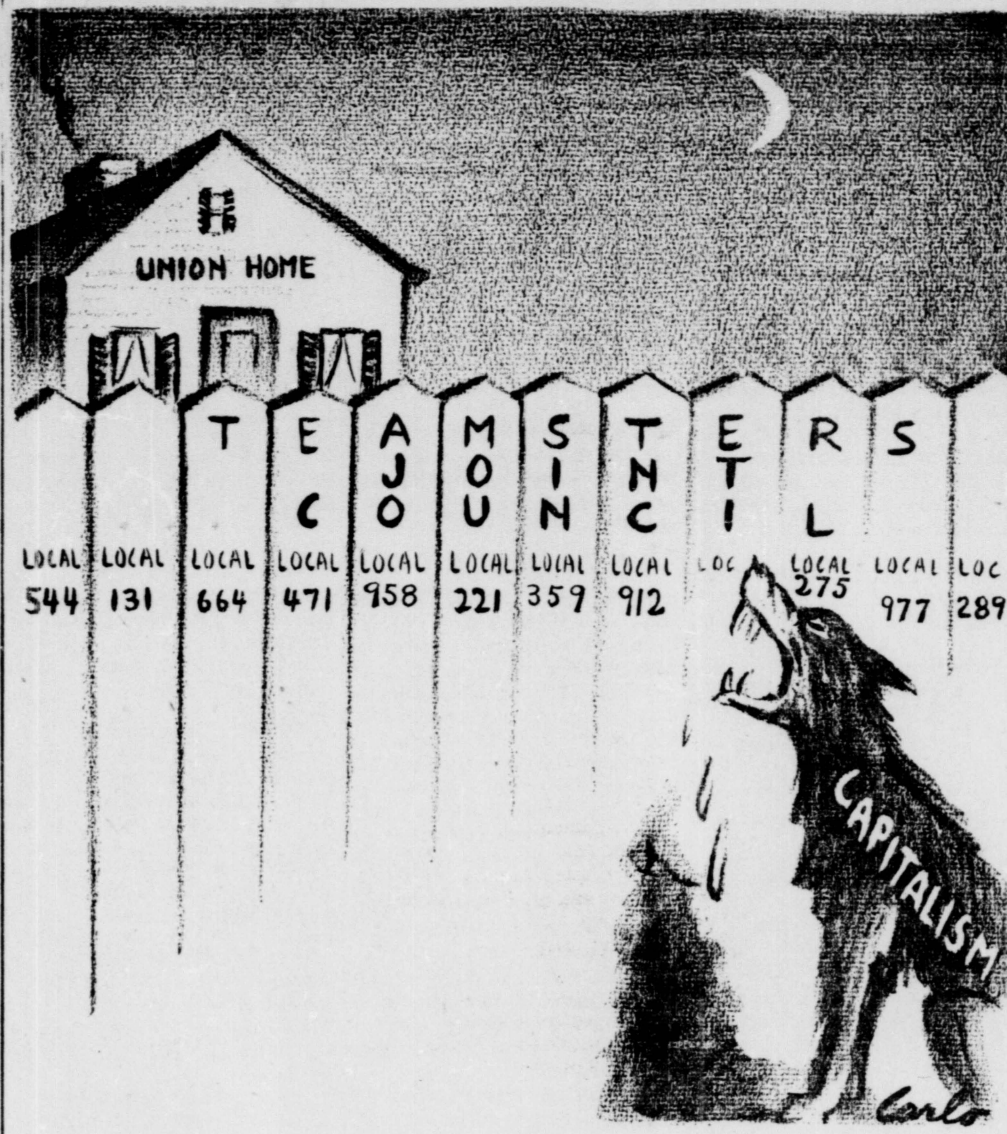
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People Want War Referendum

Despite all the efforts of the war-makers to whip up a martial spirit in the United States—with military recruitment, huge armament expenditures, intervention in Finland, the coming showdown with Japan—it is encouraging to note that the majority of the people in this nation still want a referendum on the question of life and death.

Monday night the Gallup poll reported that the sentiment for a referendum on war is still strong, 60% of the people replying "yes" to the question: "Should the constitution be changed to require a national vote before congress could draft men for service overseas?"

Only one in twenty said they were undecided about the question. Chief arguments reported by the anti-war majority for their stand in favor of the referendum were that the people do the fighting and should have the right to decide such fateful decisions for themselves; that there would be less chance of America entering the war if the drafting of troops were left with the public; and that "we have no business overseas."

The persistency with which the people have voiced their desire for a popular referendum on war must be quite discouraging to the war-makers—and is immensely encouraging to all those who are dead set against another "War for Democracy," whether in Europe or Asia.

On "Gone With the Wind"

On Tuesday the St. Paul Negro Labor Council protested to its city council against a theater showing the film "Gone With the Wind." The Negro Labor Council based its protest on the fact that the film "is against the best interests of the Negro people."

Generally, the national Negro press has criticized the film in the same terms, pointing out that the film, like the book from which it sprung, presents a distorted picture of the Old South and particularly misrepresents the Negro race.

Responsible film critics generally have stated the same thing. "Gone With the Wind" is soon to show in Minneapolis. Should any of our readers see the picture, let them remember that, in the opinion of the Negro people, this picture misrepresents their race and does not accept people have been generally slandered and misrepresented by the ruling class of this country for countless generations, and many of these lies have seeped down among the masses. Now is as good a time as any to start scotching these lies and to lend a hand to our black brothers and sisters.

A Cruel Guess

Last July Washington dropped more than 775,000 persons from WPA rolls under the 18-month clause. Both the Republican and Democratic parties voted with both hands for the relief cut. They justified the huge slash in relief by explaining that they anticipated an upturn in industry which would absorb those dropped from WPA.

Now it appears that they guessed wrong. Last Friday the Associated Press reported from Washington that Colonel Harrington has issued a release showing that only 23,250 of the 775,000 dismissed under the 18-month clause have been hired by private industry.

Colonel Harrington did not state what has been the fate of the 750,000 persons who, with their families, are now barred from WPA and rejected by private industry. One can only guess at the mass misery, the missed meals, that Harrington's figures indicate.

In the light of the failure of private industry to absorb those dropped from WPA last July, it appears that was a pretty cruel "guess" that the politicians made when they voted to cut down WPA.

Worse, it appears that Washington has learned nothing from its poor "guess." Just four weeks ago President Roosevelt proposed to slash another half-a-billion dollars from WPA. The president motivated his proposal by "hoping," just as was done last July, that "a continued expansion of business would diminish relief requirements substantially. . . . While the estimates are appreciably less than those for the current year, I am hopeful that they will prove adequate."

Horrible as it may seem, not a single congressman, Republican or Democratic, has yet indicated he recognizes the great injustice done the unemployed last July, the grave error made in slashing relief when it has now been shown that private industry cannot absorb the unemployed.

Business Is Getting Worse

Far from improving, business is again getting worse in the United States. Since the first of January every business index in the country has coasted downward. In the face of this, the WPA rolls, which on January 6th stood at 2,159,000, are to be cut down to 1,350,000 for the coming year. In addition, 250,000 PWA jobs are to be liquidated within the next few months.

These million workers, just as the 750,000 blotted out last July, are being condemned to a prospect of neither government relief nor private jobs. The only thing left for them is local relief. But local relief is collapsing altogether, as one crisis after another overwhelms the local relief systems. The city and state governments of the United States are in debt to the tune of seventeen billions of dollars, and almost all are on the brink of bankruptcy.

Only the federal government has the means to care for the unemployed, and the federal government is trying to divert this job to the city and state governments which can't possibly cope with it.

Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Dunne

The writer recently returned from a hurried trip to Miami, Florida, where a conference was held with President Daniel Tobin on the book suit. In spite of the fact the trip was made in extreme haste, by interest in wages and working conditions led me to question such workers as I had occasion to contact.

One fact stood out so clearly that it dwarfed all others. Where workers were unorganized and belonged to no labor union, wages were low and working conditions were universally bad.

The further South one travels, the poorer become the conditions of the working class. As the winter sun gets brighter and as the weather becomes more pleasant on a journey into the Southland, the lower become the wages of the workers and the longer become the daily hours of employment.

Truck drivers working for as

little as 25c an hour are common; cab drivers scrambling for a few dollars a week (all commission) is the order of the day. Over-the-road drivers sleep in their trucks and don't see their homes in months—this is the accepted thing. Helpers are hoboes without any status as steady employees.

I have reached one conclusion which I think must be reached by everyone who has had a chance to compare wages and working conditions on a nation-wide basis, and that is: Minneapolis and the Northwest is comparatively a working-class heaven as far as the trucking industry is concerned.

The trucking unions here have won wages, conditions and job security that stand out head and shoulders above any other place in the country. When the total score is counted, we have the winning union in Minneapolis.

I am proud to be a member of Local 544.

The 289 Blab

By A. M. Ogren

Next meeting will be the Retail Drivers, Thursday evening at 8 p. m. We'll expect you all here, as I think it important.

To Mr. and Mrs. Morris Huffman of Excelsior my sincere thanks for sending me that piece of your wedding anniversary cake. I just know I will like it because, to the best of my knowledge, it's the first piece of wedding anniversary cake I have ever eaten. Here's hoping you have many more of them.

After losing three games a week ago Monday, our bowling team was back in form last Monday, winning two. Let's not let that happen again, boys, 'cause you gave us a teeny bit of scare.

Zinsmaster bakery was the scene Saturday night, of the first party for employees held by the Zinsmaster Recreation Club. This club is in charge of all sports, bowling, diamondball, golf, etc. A good time was had by all; the party broke up at 1:30 a.m.

Ralph Anderson, Zinsmaster, left the Swedish hospital for home to finish recuperating, while Fred Poisson tells me he has two or

three more weeks in the hospital before he will be able to get home. Both, however, are getting along famously and have yet to have the old smile rubbed off their phizzes.

At the meeting last Thursday, after quite a lengthy discussion, the contract for 1940 was accepted by the membership with little or no change from the way it came from the contract committee.

Humor ad of the year, handed in by Reese Shoop of Continental, taken out of the Preston, Minnesota, paper: "WANT TO BUY—Outhouse in good condition. Write Box 346, Preston."

If any of you readers can help this party out, here's your chance.

By the way, the Retail contract as signed by the company and the union is now available in handy booklet form, as per request of the members and will be handed out next Thursday evening. Be sure to get your copy.

Greg Helwig, Excelsior, the new Recording Secretary, has been laid up for a number of weeks but will soon be ready to take over.

To the Ladeez: Don't forget Easter is earlier this year. Better begin thinking about those new Easter bonnets.

FOR A TEN BILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAM!

The unemployed organizations and the trade union movement must convince Congress that it made a cruel "guess" in 1939 and is preparing to make an even more cruel "guess" in 1940. Not less relief but a great deal more relief—that is what the unemployed need today! A ten billion dollar federal public works and housing program would provide jobs for millions of the unemployed and would mean decent homes for the millions of ill-housed families of this nation. This is what we must demand of Congress.

Day Labor System Is Threatened

(Continued from Page 1) would find it worth millions of dollars to abolish the city's day-labor system.

Municipal Construction Saves Millions

Minneapolis for years has followed out a cooperative system of doing construction work whereby the city itself bids against private contractors. In case after case, the city has underbid by hundreds of thousands of dollars the lowest bids proffered by private contractors. The city has thus saved millions of dollars. Not only has the city done this, but it has been able to hire workers under the day-labor system and pay them a higher wage than would be the case under the contract system.

For instance, in the construction of the sewage disposal plant, the Minneapolis work was done by the city under the day-labor system. Wages were higher here and costs much lower than for similar work done across the river in St. Paul by private contractors.

Federal officials have time and time again praised the city of Minneapolis for the high standards of its construction work.

What Is At Stake

It is this system of getting the city's work done that has enraged the greedy private contractors, the Associated Industries, and their friends of the Taxpayers Association. Now these forces are once again seeking to take away from the city its right to manage its own work in an economical and efficient manner which at the same time permits decent wages to be paid to the city's laborers.

All readers should understand what is at stake in this matter, and should follow closely the vote on the Robb amendment in the city council. If the anti-labor forces put over the Robb amendment, it would be the signal for an onslaught on the wages and conditions of workers in private employment as well as those doing city work.

... the last word

By B. and C.

Not long ago, in the Sunday edition of the New York Times, we came across an impressive article, filling almost a whole page, and entitled in large letters, "Leadership."

It began by saying, "The world takes its hat off to one who succeeds . . . especially in a burst of patriotism . . ." But you'd never guess to what this article was referring. It was nothing less than the French clothing industry, more artistically termed "La Couture Francaise." Despite the war, the art of fashion in France is still tops. As a matter of fact, rather than putting a spoke in the wheels of France's fashion industry, the war has inspired, accelerated, yes, even "purified" the manufacture of French draperies and adorn-

Many Southside Families Housed in Rat-Infested Fire Traps, Survey Shows

Public Officials Have Done Practically Nothing to Avert Danger of Other "Marlboroughs"—Labor Continues to Demand Public Hearing on Housing—Owners of Fire Traps Should Be Made to Display Signs Warning Inhabitants, Should Hire Night Watchmen

"About 20% of the 1,000 families served by the South Station are inadequately housed," the Community Health Service Nurses reported in their housing survey published in June, 1937.

Describing the situation at 5900 Logan avenue south, as it existed in the summer of 1937, the survey states:

"Parents with their seven children live in a small ramshackle house of three rooms. There is no running water or plumbing; the toilet is outdoors. The boys sleep together in the same bedroom with the parents."

Of District 20, bounded by Lake street, Lyndale Avenue, E. 40th street, and Portland, the survey notes that "the most distressing conditions in this district are one and two room attic apartments with no running water on the same floor, bathrooms used by a number of other people and poor ventilation." As examples, the survey cites 3219 2nd Ave. S. and 3600 1st Ave. S.

Many Fire Hazards

"A representative type of poor housing conditions is 3231 Nicollet Avenue. It has high dirty walls, coal stove, damp, musty odor, no windows in bedroom or bath, and is in a generally run-down condition. The large wooden buildings housing a number of families (along Nicollet and 32nd Street for instance) ARE UNDOUBTEDLY FIRE HAZARDS."

Many Rats

Of District 21, bounded by Cedar Avenue, E. 50th street, the city limits, and the river, the survey reports that "three-fourths of the families live in cheaply constructed houses. Most homes in this district have outside toilets, and as a result RODENTS ARE NUMEROUS. This type of home is found in numbers in the district. Many are garages which have been converted into homes."

An example cited is the place at 5240 29th Ave. S. where a family of five was living in a 5-room house "which is only partly furnished. The inside of the home is lined with paper and one wonders how they manage to keep warm in severe winter. There are no modern conveniences, which adds to the difficulties of living there."

Full of Bedbugs

Another example descriptive of conditions as they existed in June, 1937, was 4614 Nicollet avenue: "This family lives in three very small rooms on the second floor. Ventilation is very poor, and there are only three windows in the place . . . Walls are not finished and roof is slanting which gives very little room to move around. At the time the nurse visited it was very cold. Family had to shut doors to kitchen because of wind and cold air coming in through the open spaces in window and door. Water was frozen in the sink. The family said the place

ments for the French ladies of good taste and—of course, the article doesn't mention this—money.

Although insisting that there is no definite "war style" the article lists the names of the new colors: Magnot Blue, Royal Air Force Blue, Dipped Steel, Olive Branch Green, Camouflage, Legion of Honor, Finland Blue. It is easy to see just how the war influence has purified the fashion world—or is it?

This masterpiece of fashionable philosophy ends by praising the courage and ardor of France at work. "The world will benefit. It is the best promise of Victory." As you may have suspected, this long, artistic essay was an ad for one of the biggest dress manufacturers in France. We know that his appeal was directed to the stylish and patriotic women of both America and France. But we think somehow that those women who are closest to the war in France—the wives, sweethearts, mothers, sisters and daughters of the French soldiers—are not very much interested in whether the newest colors are Magnot Blue or Dipped Steel. Already the trend for them is a color that will be seen more and more in France, England, Germany—yes, even in place of Finland Blue. That color is Funeral Black.

Once we supply one side of the European struggle with the sinews of war, we are in the war on that side. For the customer is always right, especially if he is a customer on credit.—OSCAR AMERINGER.

vide decent homes for the millions that are ill-housed in this nation. Pressure Must Continue

It appears that the Minneapolis public officials, now that popular indignation over the Marlborough tragedy has died down, are hoping to get out of the present situation by doing practically nothing about the horrible fire-hazards and the unhealthy housing conditions which endanger the lives and health of our citizens.

It is true that the fire and health inspectors have been jacked up a bit on their investigating. It is true a special committee has been appointed to look into over-crowding. But how futile and inadequate these gestures really are when placed alongside the problem to be solved.

The Organizer continues to present a 3-point program that can be put into effect immediately and will certainly aid to protect the lives of common people and may even avert another Marlborough. We ask our readers to press this program upon their aldermen:

1. The city council must hold a public hearing on fire traps and general housing conditions where labor can present its findings and its program.
2. The city council must pass an ordinance making it obligatory for every owner of a fire trap to display a sign warning tenants of that fact.
3. The city council must pass an ordinance making it obligatory that every owner of a fire trap housing more than one dozen persons hire a night watchman to be on duty during the night, ready to warn the occupants if a fire breaks out.

UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

LOCAL 471
General Membership—First and third Tuesdays each month, 7 p. m.
Girls' Section—Second Tuesday each month (7:30 p. n.)

LOCAL 131
Second Thursday each month, 8 p. m., third-floor.

LOCAL 259
Second Monday of each month.

LOCAL 664
General Membership—First and third Fridays
Park Board Grievance Committee—Monday night preceding last meeting of month.

LOCAL 1086
The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

PETROLEUM DRIVERS
Regular Membership Meeting—First Wednesday each month.

LOCAL 977
General Membership—Second Monday each month, 9 p. m.
Grievance and Seniority Boards—Each Thursday, 7 p. m.
Stewards—Fourth Monday, 9 p. m.
Executive Board—Each Thursday, 8 p. m.
Lessee Section—Third Wednesday, 9 p. m.

FEDERAL WORKERS
Regular Membership—Second Friday each month, 8 p. m.
Stewards—Every Wednesday, 8 p. m.
Defendants—First and third Mondays, 8 p. m.

LOCAL 289
Retail Drivers—First Thursday, Wholesale Drivers—Second Thursday.
Yeast Drivers—Third Tuesday, Cake and Pie—Third Thursday, General Membership—Fourth Thursday.

LOCAL 346
Regular Membership Meeting—2nd Monday each month, 8:30 p. m., 4th Monday each month, 1:30 p. m.

LOCAL 103
Regular Membership Meeting—First Monday each month.
Executive Committee Meeting on call.

PRIVATE CHAUFFEURS
The Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Local 912 meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

LOCAL 275
Tea and Coffee Drivers, Local 275, meets the first Friday of every month.

LOCAL 221
Day Laborer Section—First Tuesday each month.
Independent Truck Owners Section—Second Tuesday each month.

LOCAL 160
General Membership—First and third Thursdays
Seniority Board—Every Monday
Executive Board—Every Tuesday
Stewards—Wednesdays preceding 1st and 3rd Thursdays

LOCAL 359
Stewards—Second Mondays.
Executive Board—First and third Mondays.

LOCAL 1859
General Membership—February 7, 1940.
Box Section—February 20, 1940.
J. R. Clark Meeting—February 21, 1940.
Warren Shade Meeting—February 15, 1940.
Air-Loc Seat, Inc.—February 16, 1940.

Grievance Board—February 1 and 15, 1940.
Executive Board—Every Friday, 8 p. m.
Twin City Stewards—February 12 and 26, 1940.
General Membership—March 6, 1940.

LOCAL 20481
General Membership—February 7, 1940.

LOCAL 958
Night Drivers—1:00 p. m. third Thursday each month.
Day Drivers—7:00 p. m. third Thursday each month.

LOCAL 544
Thursday, February 1—Greenhouse, Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, February 2—Job Stewards.

Monday, February 5—Package Delivery; Department Store Wednesday, February 7—Sausage; Petroleum.
Friday, February 9—Wholesale Grocery; Meat Drivers Monday, February 12—General Membership Tuesday, February 13—Lumber.

Wednesday, February 14—Market; Excavating; Wholesale Paper, Wholesale Liquor.
Thursday, February 15—Tent & Awning; Newspaper (10 a. m.) Ways & Means ITO.
Friday, February 16—Job Stewards.

Monday, February 19—Furniture; Coal.
Thursday, February 22—Transfer & Warehouse; Wholesale Drug.

Friday, February 23—Cold Storage; Produce.
Monday, February 26—Spring Water.
Wednesday, February 28—Sand & Gravel.
Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. in Hall 3.

Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. in Local 544 office, first floor.
The Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 10 a. m. in the large hall on the first floor.

All regular meetings start at 8 p. m. unless otherwise designated.