

CIO President Welcomes Local 544--Huge Mass Meeting Here Next Tuesday

The full force of the National CIO was rallied this week in support of Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis, which A. D. Lewis called "the spearhead of the national campaign to organize the motor transport and allied workers from coast to coast under the banner of the CIO."

This development was highlighted by two features. One was the announcement of a huge mass meeting and organizing rally to be held by Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis next Tuesday evening, July 1st, at the Lyceum Theater, 85 South 11th Street, at 8 p. m.

Featured speakers at this meeting will include such outstanding officials of the CIO as Michael Widman, Jr., National Director of the Ford Organizing Campaign, who comes direct from the victorious CIO drive against Ford to counsel with and aid UCWOC officials and Local 544 in mapping out their program to bring the mass of motor transport and allied workers in this vicinity under the CIO banner;

Lee Pressman, General Counsel of the CIO, who will also assist in the legal phases of the fight; Frank Barnhart, Regional Director of the UCWOC, who has been working here in closest cooperation with Local 544-CIO since the beginning of its struggle; and others yet to be announced.

A. D. Lewis, National Chairman of the UCWOC, now under doctor's care, will be present to speak if his physicians will permit him to travel.

V. R. Dunne and Ray Rainbolt, the 544 committee which has just returned from Washington, will report on the program of action for bringing the motor transport and allied workers into the CIO, mapped out in their series of conferences with A. D. Lewis and other leading CIO officials there.

The other event was a telegram from Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, to Frank Barnhart, Regional Director of the UCWOC, who is in Minneapolis as a personal representative of A. D. Lewis, Chairman. Mr. Mur-

ray's message reads as follows:

"Please convey my compliments to the membership of Local 544 upon their forward step in affiliation with the UCWOC. The action taken by the membership of Local 544 and the UCWOC in chartering this local union is in complete accord with the policies of the National CIO. Will you please express also my hope as president of the CIO that the membership of 544 will be successful in relieving themselves of the yoke of servitude under which they have been laboring these past many years, and that they may successfully complete the organization of truck drivers under the banner of the CIO in Minnesota and in other parts of the U. S."

Commenting on the telegram, Mr. Barnhart said: "The telegram of President Murray is without question the authoritative signal for the whole great movement of the CIO from coast to coast to come to the support of Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis and put all its power behind the drive to organize the

nation's transport and allied workers in a progressive, modern industrial union, affiliated to the USWOC."

Meanwhile in Minneapolis Local 544-CIO moved full speed ahead in its efforts to secure industry-wide elections by secret ballot to determine the choice of the transport and allied workers for their bargaining agent in renewing contracts with the employers. Petitions for elections in the Furniture Workers, Concrete Block and Wholesale Grocery sections have already been filed with the Labor Board and the petitions for additional groups will be filed in the next few days. Hundreds of workers daily are signing petitions naming Local 544-CIO as their choice of bargaining agent.

With the impetus given its drive by the support and solidarity of the UCWOC and the National CIO, Local 544-CIO will greatly extend its influence and support among the motor transport and allied workers of Minneapolis, and repel the attacks of its enemies.

As from this hour You use your power, The World must follow you

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 1328 SECOND STREET NORTH

Stand all as one Till right is done! Believe and dare and do!

VOL. 7, NO. 11

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1941

FIVE CENTS

Shall Minneapolis Truck Drivers be Ruled by Tobin's Imported Thugs?

Tobin's Hitlerite Invasion of This City

During the past couple of weeks, Tobin's "organizers and gangsters have been flocking to Minneapolis like delegates to a Hoodlums' Convention. This all-out mobilization of the Tobin machine finds squads here from practically every big city from California to Pennsylvania. Dan Tobin—who has never spent a dollar to feed a Minneapolis striker, who has never provided a man to help on a Minneapolis picket line—is spending money like water in Minneapolis today, and flooding the town with his highly-paid "organizers" and plug-uglies.

What are they here for? They are here to try to deprive the workers by force of the right to decide for themselves, in a free and democratic manner, the union of their choice.

And Tobin's goons are here for a second purpose—TO GIVE THE MINNEAPOLIS MOTOR TRANSPORT AND ALLIED WORKERS A PREVIEW OF WHAT A 100 PER CENT TOBINIZED UNION WOULD BE LIKE.

The workers, they say, must take Tobin's mother-in-law's advice: "If you don't like it, get out." At the same time, Tobin's imported agents are serving advance notice to the workers of what will happen to them later IF they accept Tobin's union under compulsion. IF they venture to open their mouths about the selection of officers or what kind of contracts they want.

What mockery for "Holy Joe" Casey to roll his eyes and speak of democracy, what mockery for this front-man of the goon squads, to even pretend that the men of Minneapolis accept HIS brand of unionism?

Tobinism at Work

Even the daily press cynically describes the hoodlum tactics of Tobin's imported muscle-men. As the Minneapolis Times reported last Friday:

"Scores of cars, carrying an estimated 200 AFL men cruised the warehouse district and the larger plants, putting the pressure on, when necessary, to sign up drivers and helpers. There were a few fist fights. . . . But on the whole, leaders of the AFL organizers said they experienced little difficulty in ascertaining that the men pledge allegiance to the AFL and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. ONE BIG CARAVAN IN THE MOP-UP CONSISTED OF SEVERAL CARS WITH MICHIGAN LICENSE PLATES. . . . The Michigan cars bore nearly a score of labor hussies who were very determined and very tough when they moved into the various plants of the wholesale district. In each instance these hussies simply accosted 544 men, persuaded them to accept the new AFL-544 buttons and sign up with the new AFL setup."

This is the sort of thuggery Holy Joe Casey means when he says: "The elections are already taking place." This is Tobin's answer to our proposal for honest and democratic elections by secret ballot.

The same issue of the Times reports how one worker with a CIO button was seized by a pair of Tobin's imported thugs and thrown violently to the street—how another militant rank-and-filer was knocked down by a swarm of plug-uglies—how Frank Kolinski was attacked by fifty of Tobin's brave boys, knocked down and kicked.

The Star on June 22nd told how Edmund Gillmore's truck was followed by AFL hoodlums, how they used gangster tactics to force him over to the curb, how they yanked him out of his truck and struck him. The same paper reports that 40 Tobin thugs entered the Booth Cold Storage plant, threatening the men to sign up with the AFL or lose their jobs.

And the boss press hasn't reported a tenth of the vicious hoodlum work of the outside racketeers sent in hereby Dan Tobin to impose his will on the workers of Minneapolis, to seek to wreck the magnificent union of Local 544.

Bosses Work With Tobin

The boss press hasn't told of the transfer boss who phoned Tobin's men and asked them to come to the plants and terrorize the workers into accepting AFL buttons. The boss press hasn't told of another transfer boss who himself ordered his workers to join Tobin's outfit—or else. The boss press hasn't told how Tobin's hoodlums used threats of violence and coarse language against the women workers at Wheeler-Barnes who have voted by secret ballot to join hands with Local 544-CIO.

Tobin's Brand of "Democracy"

Talks Back to AFL Boys--Socko



This is the way the Minneapolis Times reported the case of Jake Cooper, militant member of Local 544-CIO, who fell victim to the hoodlum tactics launched and inspired by Tobin's imported thugs.

Naturally there is more to be said about this case and many other cases than was revealed by the Times. The facts are these. Brother Jake Cooper was at work last Friday on the loading platform at the Werner Transportation company. At 6:45 p. m. a caravan of cars bearing Tobin's hoodlums came to the platform. "You're through here, Cooper," they announced. (This is Casey's way of conducting elections, you see.) Outnumbered 60 to 1, Jake nodded and turned in his lading bills to the office. He started for the locker-room. A hoodlum blocked his way. He turned in another direction. He was suddenly struck a stunning blow. His arms and legs were grabbed. He went down in a rain of blows. Later he staggered up and made his way to the office where he reported the attack, and then went to the washroom. Another union man, a member of Local 544-CIO, was there. Several thugs entered the washroom, tore off the CIO button on the other unionist, and told him, "You're through." Later they handed him an AFL button and pledge card and told him he could continue to work, so long as he stayed away from Local 544-CIO headquarters. With more oaths and threats, the goons left. Jake Cooper got in his car, followed by his friend, and drove to St. Barnabas hospital. X-rays revealed a broken nose, a fracture of the right cheek-bone, and fractures at the base of the skull and the lower forehead. Wednesday Cooper underwent an initial operation on his nose.

Jake recognized several of his assailants. Mr. Tobin must be mighty proud and pleased with the work of his imported thugs.

Tobin, who has NEVER shown a Minneapolis striker the color of the International's money when a fight against the bosses was involved, is prepared to "shoot the works" in his fight against the militant ranks of 544.

As Casey told the AFL business agents and finks last week: "Our International is prepared to spend more money in your behalf than you ever paid in or ever will pay in." "Dutch" Woxberg boasts that "Tobin is going to take the band off his bankroll."

What a criminal misuse of union funds is involved here! "I'll pay not a cent to Minneapolis strikers—but I'll shell out millions to hire thugs to smash Local 544." That's what Tobin and his satraps are trying to tell the workers of Minneapolis.

The money of Tobin's International is being spent in Minneapolis today to pay Tobin's knife-men, the scouring of the underworld whom he has sent into Minneapolis. In this mortal crisis of Tobin's set-up, the bottom muck of the IBT is being dredged up and

(Continued on page 2)

544-CIO Demands Election To Determine Men's Will

Greetings to 544-CIO

A. D. Lewis
Chairman

Chairman of United Construction Workers Organizing Committee

I am very glad to take this opportunity to extend my hearty greetings to the officers and members of Local 544-CIO in the columns of your official newspaper and to assure you of the full and loyal support of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee in your magnificent fight.

Local 544-CIO is the spearhead of what must soon develop into a great popular movement of transport and allied workers on a national scale for organization in a progressive, modern industrial union.

Craft unionism and craft union methods are as antiquated and inefficient in the transportation industry as in others. The workers of your industry will be able to get adequate consideration and just compensation for their labor only when they are able to meet the gigantic combinations of capital in the transportation industry with a labor organization of modern type and efficiency. All experience of recent years has demonstrated that this modern type of labor organization is the industrial union, which does away with out-of-date segregation of the workers into a multiplicity of craft unions and unites their strength for offense and defense into one powerful unit.

CIO Demonstrates Power
The power of the CIO for the defense and protection of labor, or the improvement of wages and working conditions, for upholding the rights and dignities of the workers has now been demonstrated before the world with striking evidence once again. In the past few months we have seen the great victories of the United Mine Workers—an increase in wages of half a million workers by one dollar a day and other significant improvements in their working conditions. We have seen the last stronghold of the open-shop in the steel industry brought into line one by one for collective bargaining by the irresistible sweep of industrial unionism under the banner of the CIO.

The CIO Whipped Ford
Most significant of all is the news which was flashed on the front pages of every newspaper in the country this past week—that the gigantic corporation of Ford had signed a union contract, embracing 120,000 workers, with the United Automobile Workers of the CIO. These developments have been preceded and will be followed by other important gains in the rubber, electrical, aircraft and other important branches of American industry.

Stand With You
It is time now for the motor transport and allied workers to join this great procession and share in the benefits of modern industrial union organization. The United Construction Workers Or-

ganizing Committee, of which I have the honor to be Chairman, has chartered Local 544-CIO and stands squarely behind you. The important step you have taken in affiliating with us give us the greatest satisfaction and we pledge you complete support and cooperation in your work. We have assigned Brother Frank Barnhart to assist you on the ground and will give you all necessary further support and cooperation as the campaign develops.

Do not be deterred by the forces of violence and intimidation which are being hurled against you by the desperate craft unionists, who seek to deprive you of your legal, democratic right to affiliate with a national union movement of your own choosing. Demand and insist upon your right, under the law, for an election by secret ballot to record your choice of bargaining agent to negotiate contracts with you employers. Vote for Local 544, which is affiliated with the CIO through the UCWOC, and proceed from that to negotiate contracts for improved wages and working conditions.

Workers Watch You
The workers throughout the nation, especially the workers in your own industry, are watching the development of your struggle with the greatest interest. Your past record of militancy and solidarity gives us all ample assurance that you will come through the present battle with flying colors and start the forward march of motor transport and allied workers throughout the country under the great progressive banner of the CIO.

Meeting to Protest Discrimination Against Negroes
A mass meeting protesting discrimination against Negroes in defense industries and in the armed forces of the government will be held at the Hallie Q. Brown Community House in St. Paul on July 1st at 8 p. m. This meeting is being held under the auspices of the St. Paul section of the On-To-Washington March Committee and is scheduled to coincide with the mass demonstration of Negroes at the nation's capital on the same date. Frank Boyd, President of the local committee and a well-known figure in the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, will be the principal speaker.

Union Board Files Formal Applications for Free and Democratic Elections, Wants Workers Themselves to Decide—Petitions Being Filed for Every Section of Industry—544-CIO Warns Bosses of Legal Proceedings if Employers Continue to Aid Tobin—Casey Objects to Vote, Shows He Fears Outcome

Last week the Executive Board of Local 544-CIO filed formal applications for elections by secret ballot under governmental supervision to determine the choice of the motor transport and allied workers of Minneapolis for their bargaining agent in negotiating contacts with employers.

Thus at one blow Local 544-CIO answered the subterfuge of the employers that they "don't know who represents the men," and exploded the pretensions of Tobin's imported agents to any significant support among the workers.

Joseph T. Casey of San Francisco, representing Daniel J. Tobin of Indianapolis, promptly declared against this proposal for free and democratic elections for Minneapolis workers.

"The elections are taking place already," said the pious Casey, as his goon-squads forcibly pinned buttons on workers in the warehouses and terminals and compelled them to sign AFL pledge-cards at the point of knife and gun.

Wants Workers to Decide
Local 544-CIO wants a peaceful and democratic solution of the current conflict. It wants the rank and file of the workers themselves to determine their choice of collective bargaining agent by secret ballot without compulsion or gangster-pressure. This is the only way to establish a union which will really represent the workers and be able to serve their interests.

Moreover, the right to elections by secret ballot is a simple elementary right of the workers of Minneapolis under the law and under any decent concept of democracy and freedom.

Petitions Filed
On Friday, June 20th, the attorneys for Local 544-CIO filed petitions for elections to determine the bargaining agent for the workers in the retail furniture-stores. On Saturday, June 21st, they filed petitions for elections among the Concrete Block and Wholesale Grocery Group. Further petitions for elections in other sections of the trucking industry are being drafted and will be filed as fast as they are ready.

State Labor Conciliator Blair announced on Tuesday that hearings to decide whether and under what conditions these elections will take place will be held in Minneapolis next Monday.

Warns Bosses
Local 544-CIO has also sent letters to 800 employers in the Minneapolis trucking industry, warning them not to sign any new contracts with anyone pending the determination of their employees' bargaining agent by elections. This letter stated that some employers were forcing their workers to sign AFL pledge-cards by coercion and by actual firing, and that legal proceedings would be taken against any employers under the state labor law, if these illegal practices were not immediately stopped.

In taking these actions, and especially by demanding elections, Local 544-CIO has conclusively demonstrated its confidence in the real sentiments of the rank and file workers and its adherence to a genuine democracy which begins with a decent respect for the rights and sentiments of the workers involved to make their own decisions and select their bargaining agent without intimidation or coercion.

Neither the employers nor Tobin's invaders and their local Quislings will be able to evade this issue of the elections. The workers have every right to such an election under the law, and we intend to see that this right is not denied them.

Every day that Tobin's Army of Occupation, siding with the employers, opposes and resists this proposal for elections by secret ballot instead of gangster force, will convince more workers of the necessity for these elections. At the same time the unwillingness of the Hitlerite invaders to submit the issue to the rank and file constitutes their own self-confession that they have no support among the Minneapolis drivers.

CIO Foundrymen Welcome 544's Affiliation

Applauding the entrance of Local 544 into the CIO as an action which "will definitely strengthen the forces of the CIO in the state of Minnesota, the CIO Foundry Council of Local 1139 last Wednesday evening adopted, with only one dissenting vote, a resolution fraternally welcoming Local 544 into the ranks of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

The text of the resolution follows: WHEREAS, the Drivers Union Local 544 has received a charter in the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and

WHEREAS, such action will definitely strengthen the forces of the CIO in the state of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the original launching of the CIO took place as a desire of the workers to further the cause of industrial unionism and trade union democracy, to the end that union members might have a fuller democracy in their unions, thus:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Foundry Council of Local 1139, United Electrical, Radio and Machinists Workers, CIO, goes on record as welcoming the Drivers Union Local 544, as a whole, into the CIO.

Copies of the resolution were ordered sent to A. D. Lewis, to Leonard Lageman and to the Hennepin County CIO Council.

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town - - - Let's KEEP IT That Way

2,336 Minneapolis Workers Face Ax on WPA

Present From Roosevelt and Congress, Blessed by AFL Top Bureaucrats—By July 1st, 11,700 in Minnesota To Be Shoved Off WPA, 415,000 Nationally—Jobless Ask Roosevelt, Where Shall We Fight for "Freedom from Want?"—CIO Fights On Behalf of Unemployed, Says They Are Today Worse Off Than Any Time Since WPA Started

Over one-third of all workers now on WPA will lose their jobs by next Tuesday, July 1st, thanks to the blow just dealt them by President Roosevelt, and Congress, a blow that carries the sanction of the AFL bureaucracy. In Minneapolis, 2,336 persons will lose their WPA jobs.

In Minnesota, 11,700 persons will lose their jobs. Nationally, about 415,000 will lose their jobs. It is estimated the WPA slash nationally will strike about 41 per cent of those now existing on WPA jobs. According to S. A. Stolte, state WPA director, the quota for July 1st (when the new fiscal year begins) is set at 25,500, as compared with the present quota of 37,194.

With the Limousines

By Home James

This phony war business over across the ocean sure has our old heads in a whirl and that goes for our foreign policy too. Perhaps our comprehension is limited, but so then is that of Mr. average American. Here are a few of the things that have got us dizzy:

Unlimited aid (gifts) to Great Britain and her so-called Democracy, which pays a working man \$17 a week top scale. American aid to a Democracy who now has for a bedfellow her former avowed enemy, the Communist, this deadly enemy of all her ideals who she now will give full aid morally and materially according to Mr. Churchill. (All this, of course, at the expense of the American taxpayer.)

American aid to China, while shipping scrap-iron and gasoline by the millions of barrels, to Japan. Not to forget the proposed gasless Sundays (and why not Mondays?) Could that be aimed at our poor working stiff who only chance to take our families on a picnic comes on Sunday?

Anyhow we fail, along with 99 per cent of the American people, to understand why the U. S. A. should get mixed up in this fake confagration abroad; and last but not least, why we should pay for the mess!

Local events give us another headache. We couldn't believe it when high paid labor officials breezed into town and announced that they were going to spend millions of dollars, if necessary, to fight against other union men. . . . Now in the first place, all of that dough came out of our dues money, and when that is going to be spent fighting against our good union brother and neighbor, we'll have something else to say about it. . . . In the second place, when paid union officials start acting like Czars instead of obeying orders of the rank and file, whose servants they really are, then it is high time that all good union men get together and remove such would-be dictators, and hire men who will carry out the wishes of the majority instead. . . . We know that an individual who makes over \$10,000 a year can have very little in common with us lugs working for mere union wages. Of course we don't request any highly paid official to have anything in common with us, but we do demand that he carry out our orders, and let them take warning now, that when they fail to heed the will of the rank and file, we will hire somebody else who will serve us better.

And now that we have that off our chest, we can report most of the brothers on vacation, including the "Charlie" on the North Shore. . . . Incidentally, if any of you are not receiving your vacations, report to your Business Agent. . . . The rising cost of living is sure raising Cain with a chauffeur's salary even if it is the union scale. Something no doubt will have to be done about it in the near future. . . . Last meeting was fairly well attended, and some fine reports by all committees and delegates, especially the T.J.C. report. . . . Be sure to attend your next meeting, as this membership may have to make some important decisions for the future.

P. S.: Something we almost forgot: the number one labor hater, Westbrook Pegler, according to his latest drivel, now is an ardent admirer of International President Daniel Tobin. Could be!

sir they ain't been no trouble sence then. These here citizens committees give back the pick handles, an' the storekeepers keep their stores, an' nobody been clubbed nor tarred an' feathered, an' nobody been killed."—JOHN STEINBECK, GRAPES OF WRATH.

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town—Let's KEEP It That Way.

ON UNION DEFENSE

"Feller told me what happened in Akron, Ohio. Rubber companies. They got mountain people in 'cause they'd work cheap. An' these here mountain people up an' joined the union. Well, sir, hell jes' popped. All them storekeepers and legioners an' people like that, they get drillin' and yellin' "Red!" An' they're gonna run the union right outa Akron. Preachers git a preachin' about it, an' papers a-yowlin', and they's pick handles put out by the rubber companies and they're a-buyn' gas. Jesus, you'd think them mountain boys was reg'lar devils! Well, sir, it was las' March, an' one Sunday five thousand' of them mountain men had a turkey shoot outside a town. Five thousand' of them jes' marched through the town with their rifles. An' they had their turkey shoot, an' then they marched back. Well,

an' then they marched back. Well,

Barnhart Informs CIO of Tobin's Hoodlum Tactics, Of AFL's Anti-CIO Drive

On Monday A. D. Lewis, head of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO, was informed by Frank Barnhart, regional director of the UCWOC, that Tobin's imported hoodlums are forcing CIO workers at the point of knife and gun to sign pledge AFL cards and wear AFL buttons.

The full text of Barnhart's telegram, sent from Minneapolis, follows:

"Five thousand motor and transport and allied workers of Minneapolis who voted overwhelmingly June 9 to disaffiliate from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the AFL and join the CIO, are being subjected to unprecedented attacks of violence and intimidation by not less than 300 hoodlums imported here by Tobin's International and the AFL.

Tobin's Boycott "Tobin's representatives have publicly announced that CIO truck drivers will not be permitted to drive on the streets and highways and that a local and national AFL boycott will be imposed on any truck operated by a CIO driver. This boycott is already in full force.

"Since the drivers voted to go CIO, one or more International representatives from virtually every AFL union in Minneapolis has arrived here to join the campaign and put pressure on AFL locals to boycott CIO drivers.

Anti-CIO Campaign "Several personal representatives of William Green have been sent in and are actively collaborating in the direction of this anti-CIO campaign.

"Mobs of imported hoodlums are riding local truck terminals and warehouses, and at the point of knife and gun forcing CIO employees to wear AFL teamsters' buttons and sign AFL pledge cards.

Bosses Aid AFL "The leaders of the AFL campaign are working in open collusion with the employers to break Local 544-CIO and compel the CIO employees to join the AFL or lose their jobs. Numerous active CIO members have already been beaten up and driven away from their places of employment.

"Tobin and the AFL have a big battery of local and imported lawyers headed by AFL general counsel Joseph Padway, who personally directs the legal assault against Local 544-CIO and has already succeeded in obtaining a court order ejecting Local 544-CIO from its long-established headquarters and seizing its records and property.

"In obvious collusion with Padway, employers groups have tied up Local 544-CIO with a whole network of injunctions prohibiting strike actions.

Casey Fights Election "544-CIO has formally applied for industry-wide labor board elections to determine in a peaceful and democratic manner the choice of the workers for their bargaining agent. Joseph Casey, Tobin's leading personal representative here, opposes these elections in the following statement published in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune, June 20: 'One does not flip a coin to determine whether or not another person is entitled to possession of one's belongings.'

"Local 544-CIO's application for election has been followed by an intensification campaign of hoodlum invasions of warehouses and terminals and by Casey's further comment that 'The elections are already taking place.'

544 Can Win "Tobin's International and the whole AFL are mobilized to smash Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis and thus to crush, in one overwhelming brutal assault, the popular movement of truck drivers throughout the nation toward CIO. In the face of these overwhelming odds Local 544-CIO is putting up a magnificent struggle and has stronger moral support than ever of the rank and file.

"With adequate assistance from the national CIO, Local 544-CIO can score a brilliant victory and pave the way for a nation-wide industrial union of the motor-transport and allied workers under the banner of the CIO."

Frank Barnhart's 40-Year Record As Union Man

Frank Barnhart, regional director of the CIO's United Construction Workers Union, now in Minneapolis to aid Local 544-CIO, entered the union movement in 1897 when he joined the United Mine Workers. Born in Coalton, Ohio, Barnhart entered the mines as a youth, as did his five brothers and his father before him. Father Barnhart, who served four years with the Northern army in the Civil War, was a member of the old Knights of Labor.

Frank Barnhart has held every office in the United Mine Workers from mine committeeman to the post of president of District 11, State of Indiana. He has been with the union from the day miners received \$1.25 a day for ten hours of work, to today when they receive \$7 for a seven-hour day.

As a UMW member, he has been through "so many strikes I can't remember them all." Every time the union agreement expires, the UMW has been forced to strike. Barnhart particularly recalls the strike of 1898 under John Mitchell, and the strike of 1922 when the coal operators and President Harding tried unsuccessfully to open the mines with troops.

In 1919 Barnhart resigned as president of District 11 to accept the job of International Representative under John L. Lewis. His rich experience in the labor movement is now available to Local 544-CIO in its fight against the bosses and Tobin's Quislings.

CIO Drivers in McKeesport Win Wage Increase

The four-day strike of city sanitary drivers and street cleaners in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, ended June 19th, with strikers winning wage increases ranging from 6 1/2 to 10 per cent, effective July 1st. The men are members of the CIO Municipal Workers Union.

Present wages, without the wage increases, are \$5.75 daily for truck drivers, \$6.75 for mechanics, \$4.45 for drivers' helpers, \$6.25 for auto mechanics, \$5 for first-class laborers, and \$4.40 for second-class laborers.

In the future the City Council will meet with the union's grievance committee, though the Council, anti-labor in nature, prefers to designate it as simply a committee of the workers.

There are thousands of unorganized people who would appreciate our side of the story . . . if they KNEW IT. Pass your Northwest Organizer along to them.

In case of internal revolution we must have a young army that can be led around by the nose.—FRITZ VON PAPPEN.

What millions died that Caesar might be great.—CAMPBELL.

Love comes unseen; we only see it go.—AUSTIN DOBSON.

Civility costs nothing, but buys everything.—LADY MONTAGUE.

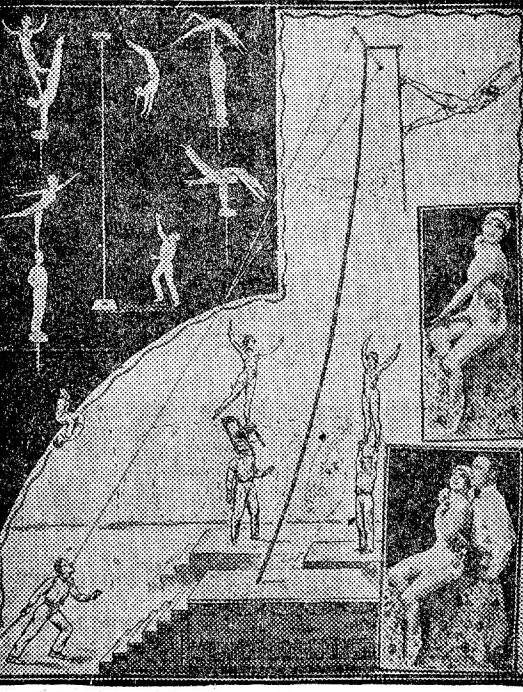
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The Stratosphere Man



One of the exciting features at the Local 544-CIO annual picnic Sunday, July 13th, will be Delpz, the Stratosphere Man, in his death-defying slide for life. Delpz is but one of the many professional entertainers who will delight the huge audience of union men and their families. Plan right now to attend the Local 544-CIO picnic at Webb's Place on Bass Lake.

Barnhart Exposes Pretenses Of Casey to "Democracy"

Riddling the hypocrisy of Joseph Casey in mouthing about "union democracy" at the same time he shies away from the 544-CIO proposal to permit the motor transport workers themselves to choose their union by free and secret election, Frank Barnhart issued on Tuesday the following press statement:

In Casey's talk on the air last evening over WLOL he mentioned that he was in here as a personal representative of Daniel J. Tobin to see that the truck drivers in the city are to be protected.

We have numerous occasions where the members of Local 544-CIO have been forced to sign A. F. of L. pledge cards by threats and coercion and force, even to the extent of slugging members on the docks and in the warehouses and on the streets.

Jake Cooper, who is a warehouseman at the Werner Transportation Company, was held and slugged by a group of men. He is in the St. Barnabas hospital and according to Dr. Korchik has a broken nose, fracture of the cheek bone and a possible skull fracture. The various men that Casey referred to last night that were here to protect the workers are the same people that have been doing this slugging.

Protests AFL Hoodlums Yesterday, I sent a telegram to A. D. Lewis outlining a number of activities of practically all crafts of the A. F. of L. in Minneapolis. I pointed out to him that a number of hoodlums were in here now trying to break down the morale of the loyal members of Local 544-CIO and were doing it by unlawful methods. This incident is clear proof that my statement was correct and in my release to the local papers which carried the story this morning and the statement of Dr. Korchik is conclusive proof and

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Statement to 359 Membership By Penwell, Tibbetts, Nelson

On June 19th Don Penwell, Bob Tibbetts and Erling Nelson, officers of the Warehouse Workers Union Local 359, addressed the following letter to all members of Local 359, announcing their withdrawal from the AFL and their affiliation with Local 544-CIO, and urging all members to follow suit:

Dear Members of Local 359: It is the firm conviction of the undersigned members of 359's Executive Board that Local 544 has been unjustly treated by the Teamsters International. The boss-inspired clique of Bartlett, Brennan and Williams has been carrying on a slanderous red-baiting campaign against the democratically-elected leaders of Local 544. The International, instead of defending union democracy, has encouraged the Bartletts in their filthy campaign. The employers are lending full support to Bartlett's program, which coincides with their own program.

The membership of 544 have year after year, in democratic elections, demonstrated their confidence in the leadership of their union. On June 9th four thousand members of 544 met in regular membership meeting and voted overwhelmingly to withdraw from Tobin's union and to join the CIO.

We feel that the members of Local 544 are in the best position to know and judge their leaders and what course is best for their union. They know the 544 leaders took the lead to Make Minneapolis a Union Town, to raise wages, to shorten hours, and to improve working conditions in this city and area.

We declare ourselves in enthusiastic accord with the program of Local 544 and its leadership. These

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A Real Labor Man Joins 544's Staff

Henry A. Schultz Resigns His Post as International Organizer of Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, In Order to Aid Local 544-CIO — Demonstrates How Real Labor Man Reacts to Tobin's Revolting Actions

In protest against the outrageous behavior of Tobin's agents in Minneapolis, Henry A. Schultz, international representative of the AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, last Thursday made public his letter of resignation to Michael J. Boyle, I.B.E.W. vice-president. Brother Schultz announced he would take his place on the side of the workers...

been devoted to organizing workers and helping to improve their conditions of life. His letter follows: Mr. Michael J. Boyle, International Vice President, 6th District, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Chicago, Illinois. Dear Sir and Brothers: Effective this day and date I am resigning my position as International Organizer under your jurisdiction in order to be free to devote my time and efforts to help the valiant leadership of Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis in their heroic struggle against a dastardly combination of employers, labor fakers and political enemies of labor.

I have been working as an International Organizer under your direction for the past three years. As far as personal relations with you are concerned, they have always been satisfactory and I have nothing to complain of on that score. The reasons for my action concern fundamental questions of trade-union policy. My experiences convince me to the hilt that the craft-union setup belongs to the past and that the great mass of the under-paid and exploited workers require and demand a more modern form of industrial organization, which they are finding in the CIO. This has been clear to me for some time but I still nourished the hope that I might do my bit to serve the workers and improve their conditions within the framework of the AFL.

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Important To Delinquent 544 Members and to The Unorganized

Having completed the move from the AFL into the CIO, the Minneapolis Local 544, CIO, wishes to start off with a clean slate. The union executive board therefore has moved to accept for reinstatement into Local 544, CIO, all members who have become delinquent in dues under the old set-up. Reinstatement can be affected by the payment of the current month's dues of \$2.00. Drivers and allied workers not hitherto members of Local 544 may also join Local 544, CIO, simply by paying the current month's dues of \$2.00. Until further notice this decision will remain in effect.

of the strongest, most militant and most honest union in the Northwest—Local 544. For that fight Tobin and his perfidious gang had a real mobilization. Paid organizers and officials located in places from Pennsylvania to San Francisco were mobilized on the platform in battle array against the workers in Minneapolis. The front rows were packed with state and local Minneapolis AFL business agents, who could never be dynamited off their chairs to take part in a picket line against the bosses. The whole meeting stunk to the heavens, as a mobilization of reactionary labor office-holders against the legitimate rights of rank and file workers to determine the union of their choice.

The Task of Labor Leaders I don't go for this, and will have no part in it. I consider the leaders of Local 544 to be the best and most honest organizers of labor that I have encountered in all my experience in the labor movement. I have been in the labor movement for twenty years, but most of what I know about unionism I learned from the leaders of Local 544 in 1934 during the strikes, and afterwards. They taught me by precept and example that the duty of labor leaders is to organize workers and lead them in militant struggle against the employers for better conditions. They are men of a different stamp from those cynical and treacherous misnamed labor leaders who were mobilized on the platform and in the front chairs last night against them and the workers they represent.

A bitter fight is raging in Minneapolis and I consider it my duty to take my place on the side of the workers, as I did in the workers' strikes of 1934. In order to be able to do this, I am herewith presenting my resignation as an International Organizer of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Fraternally yours, H. A. SCHULTZ.

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Tobin's Hitlerite Invasion of City

hurling against the motor transport workers of this city. The very worst features of Tobin's brand of unionism are coming to light.

If one could assume for a moment that Tobin would succeed in his vicious work, the game would not end there. Chapter Two would unfold as a "stabilized" Tobin union in Minneapolis, of a type unknown in recent years to Minneapolis drivers.

The motor transport workers of Minneapolis have had experience with another type of union, a union not organized in collusion with the bosses, a union not organized through violence against union workers. Local 544 was founded and grew strong in militant struggle AGAINST the bosses, AGAINST the boss-minded cops, AGAINST the finks.

Local 544 from its inception has been a democratic organization. Its members have a long-standing habit of freely discussing and determining for themselves what kind of contracts they want, who shall lead them, what the union policy shall be.

Local 544 has always fought the bosses for better wages and conditions. Tobin and his machine-men connive with the bosses, with the Associated Industries, with Sam Levy, AGAINST the union ranks.

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Ice Drivers Remain with 544-CIO

Exposing the claim of H. L. Woxberg that the Ice Drivers Union had returned to the AFL, the Executive Board of Local 544-CIO, together with staff member Bruce Vincent, issued a statement Wednesday morning setting forth the facts concerning the action of the Day Labor Section of Local 221 in unanimously voting to leave the AFL and affiliate with Local 544-CIO.

The 544-CIO statement follows: "Mr. H. L. Woxberg, one of Tobin's imported organizers, says that the June 10th meeting of the Ice Drivers Union Local 221 wherein the Day Labor Section voted to withdraw from Tobin's union and affiliate with Local 544-CIO, was a 'rump' meeting. There is no truth in this statement, nor little in Mr. Woxberg's other contentions.

"The June 10th meeting was the regularly scheduled meeting of the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 221, and was the specially-called meeting of the Day Labor Section. Official union notices for the day laborers were posted beforehand advising them of the meeting and the important matters to be taken up therein.

CIO by Unanimous Vote "The June 10th meeting was scrupulously restricted to members of Local 221. Inasmuch as one independent attendee that meeting, no action was taken relative to the CIO affiliation for the independents. The Day Labor Section members present at this officially-called meeting voted without one dissenting vote to leave Tobin's union and join Local 544-CIO.

"The meeting June 25th which Woxberg claims marked the return of Local 221 to the AFL was attended by only fifteen members of the Day Labor Section, there as CIO observers. These were outnumbered by the Independent Truck Owners Section, composed of small businessmen, who had never voted to affiliate with Local 544-CIO.

"The day laborers in the local ice industry are enthusiastic members of Local 544-CIO and will remain so."

CIO Presents Tax Program—'Tax Wealth-Not Wages'

The CIO has been winning wage increases for millions of American workers. It is moving ahead to win more, striving to meet the rapidly advancing cost of living, to secure for workers a larger share of the wealth they produce.

These wage increases mean more food on the worker's table, more clothing, better shelter, a break for the kids. They put a barrier between the worker's living standards and the landlord, the food bill, the thousand and one demands that drain away the worker's wages.

Now these wage increases, won and being won by the industrial unions of the CIO, are threatened from another source—the tax collector.

Present Tax Plans Favor Rich, Burden Poor Present plans in Congress, officially put forward by the U. S. Treasury Department and the Congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, call for heavy new taxes on low incomes, already burdened by an unfair load in the form of taxes on the things workers buy.

Already in 1940 the workers and other people in low income groups were paying over half the Federal tax burden—55.6 per cent—while the share paid by holders of high incomes, by corporations, by large fortunes, declined. U. S. figures show that 83.9 per cent of the people in the U. S. get less than \$2,500 a year to live on.

Now these proposals would make them pay even more, through sharp increases in sales taxes, through staggering increases on income taxes in the low brackets.

The present very low rates on excess profits—now being piled to fantastic heights as the arms program rolls along—would be left relatively untouched. Under these rates, a maximum of only \$100,000 would be paid by corporations in 1940. During the first World War, excess profit taxes amounted to 2.5 billion in 1918. Taxes Mean Wage-Cuts These tax proposals put much

Local 359 Leaders, Members Join CIO

Don Penwell, Bob Tibbetts and Erling Nelson Lead Large Numbers of Warehousemen Into Local 544-CIO—Issue Statement Denouncing Bartlett and Tobin Brand of "Unionism"—Wheeler-Barnes Members Vote By Secret Ballot to Join 544-CIO, Are Scornful of Attempted Intimidation by 200 Tobin Goons

Don Penwell, Bob Tibbetts and Erling Nelson, officers of the Warehouse Workers Union Local 359, last week severed all connections with the American Federation of Labor and joined Local 544-CIO. These men, widely recognized as responsible for what gains were made by the members of Local 359, expressed their conviction that it is impossible to make further gains for the city's warehouse workers in an AFL union with such people as Bartlett, Brennan and Co. stooging for Mr. Tobin and the bosses.

Further fed up with the wishy-washy stand of some members of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council, these three union leaders voluntarily left their positions in Local 359 to join forces with Local 544-CIO in its battle against the bosses and their hirelings in the labor movement.

Recall 544 Aid In a statement issued to the membership of Local 359 (printed elsewhere in this issue), the trio recalled the militant aid given the warehousemen by Local 544 during strikes at Sears-Roebuck, Buzas and elsewhere, and the further aid from Local 544 in the form of speakers, negotiators, etc., when Local 359 was attempting to better the wages and conditions of its members.

"Bartlett and a few people like him have come forward and attempted to wreck this organization by playing hand-in-glove with the bosses," stated Tibbetts, Penwell and Erling Nelson. "Now is the time for all honest-thinking trade union men and women to support Local 544 and lend all possible assistance to ensure victory over the bosses and Tobin's imported goon squads."

Members Follow Into CIO Following on the heels of the trio of warehouse leaders, large numbers of Local 359 members have withdrawn from the AFL and joined the CIO. Already several hundred have marched into Local 544-CIO, with more workers daily expressing their intention to follow suit.

Last Wednesday evening employees of the Wheeler-Barnes

company, food manufacturers at 3200 Snelling, voted overwhelmingly by secret ballot in a well-attended meeting to divorce the AFL and marry the CIO. These workers can no longer stomach the rotten mishandling of union affairs by Bartlett. They feel that Tobin's imported representatives are not one bit better. Many members voiced the conviction that the IBT was no longer run for union members, but was only existing as a set-up whereby a few highly-paid top leaders could satisfy their political and personal ambitions.

The Wheeler-Barnes workers are determined to stay with the CIO, where they feel they can have a union run honestly and democratically for the benefit of its members. They look to the CIO and Local 544-CIO to give them the proper militant and progressive leadership and the industrial form of organization that will bring them additional wage increases and better working conditions than they could ever hope to expect under the AFL bureaucrats.

Tobin's Thugs Threaten Taken aback by the actions of the Wheeler-Barnes workers, on Monday about 200 of Tobin's imported "organizers" swarmed into the Wheeler-Barnes plant, surrounded the women employees and forced them under threats of violence and coarse language to sign up with the AFL or be out of jobs. Confronted with the 200 sluggers, the women had no choice but to sign the AFL pledge cards. The women, however, could not hide their scorn for Tobin's brand of "unionism." Many stated openly at the time of signing that they were doing it under compulsion and that it did not mean they agreed with the AFL. The union steward, a good militant, explained to his fellow members that they were being coerced into signing Tobin's cards and that they would have the chance soon to re-affirm by secret ballot their choice of collective bargaining agent. Local 544-CIO has petitioned the Labor Relations Board for an immediate free and democratic election to settle this question.

One member put the attitude of the group in a nut-shell when he said, "Tobin's men speak of democracy and Americanism? I call their idea of Americanism? I call it the Iron Fist used by Hitler and his agents and I say, to h— with it."

There are thousands of unorganized people who would appreciate our side of the story... if they KNEW IT. Pass your Northwest Organizer along to them.

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544's Proposal for Elections

(Below we publish the statement of Local 544-CIO's Executive Board, proposing that the workers in the motor transport industry shall themselves express, by free and democratic vote, their choice of a union.)

STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE BOARD - LOCAL 544-CIO
The Executive Board of Local 544-CIO, which represents the overwhelming majority of the workers in the motor transport and allied industries in Minneapolis, today instructed its attorneys to move for an immediate general election throughout the industry, by secret ballot under governmental supervision, to determine the choice of the workers for their bargaining agent in negotiating contracts with the employers.

This action is taken to put an end to the confusion which has been created by the contention of the employers that they do not know who represents their workers, and their attempt to evade negotiations by legal technicalities. The question of what union actually represents the workers can be rightfully decided only by the workers themselves. They have already expressed their choice by voting in an overwhelming majority, in a free, democratic and regular meeting for Local 544-CIO. Further confirmation of this attitude has been most convincingly provided by the action of the employees of 19 furniture firms in unanimously responding to the strike call of Local 544-CIO.

Bosses and Tobin Challenge Workers

The workers' choice of Local 544-CIO has been challenged by the employers as well as by the imported agents of Tobin's International Union affiliated with the AFL, who are conniving with the employers to thwart the will of the workers and force employer-dictated contracts upon them. These imported agents of Tobin are already attempting to circumvent the democratic choice of the workers by violent interference with the operation of trucks by 544-CIO members.

Local 544-CIO Welcomes Test

Local 544-CIO proposes to meet this challenge by calling for a general election. We hope the employers and the AFL agents will give their immediate assent to these elections so that the democratic choice of the workers themselves will prevail. We, on our part, are ready for this test and have no doubt about its outcome.

In view of the campaign of violence started by Tobin's imported agents against Minneapolis truck-drivers, it is quite obvious that any delay in holding the elections we propose would put upon Governor Stassen and other public officials a grave responsibility.

An industry-wide election will prove to the whole community—as well as to the employers and Tobin's imported agents—that the great mass of motor transport and allied workers in Minneapolis want to be represented by the union which first organized them, improved their conditions, and took the leading role in making Minneapolis a union town—Local 544-CIO.—June 19, 1941.

Not Casey's Belongings

(Holy Joe Casey, Tobin's ranking satrap in Minneapolis, cynically answered the proposal of Local 544-CIO for a free and democratic election of the motor transport workers by the amazing statement that "One does not flip a coin to determine whether or not another person is entitled to possession of one's own belongings." Casey reveals here his fathomless contempt for genuine union democracy and the will and desire of the rank and file. The Executive Board of Local 544-CIO immediately answered Casey with the following statement.)

The statement of Tobin's imported agent, Mr. Casey, in opposition to Local 544-CIO's demand for an election by secret ballot to determine choice of Minneapolis drivers between the CIO and AFL, is a confession the AFL has no real support among the men.

At the same time it is the most revealing indication of the attitude of the Tobins and the Caseys toward the rights of the workers.

According to the Minneapolis Morning Tribune yesterday Casey said: "One does not flip a coin to determine whether or not another person is entitled to possession of one's own belongings."

"Flipping a coin" is certainly a peculiar way to characterize a democratic election by secret ballot. Where do the rights of the workers come in under such a conception?

Local 544-CIO never said anything about "flipping a coin" or any other gambling device to decide who shall represent workers in the Minneapolis transportation industry.

Propose Secret Ballot

We have formally applied for an election by secret ballot to let the men decide this question for themselves.

Mr. Casey evidently has no sympathy for the National and State Labor Relations act, which specifically provide that American workers are no longer "coins" to be "flipped" but citizens who are free to choose their own bargaining agent.

Mr. Casey's reference to "one's own belongings" which are presumably "possessed" by Mr. Casey of San Francisco, acting for Mr. Tobin of Indianapolis, expresses the attitude of slave-owners or over-seers for slave-owners. Mr. Casey overlooks one small point: The rights of the Minneapolis motor transport and allied workers. But it is precisely upon these rights that Local 544-CIO bases its whole case.

We insist that motor transport and allied workers of Minneapolis, who have demonstrated over a period of seven years their desire to have a free union which they themselves control, be given the right to demonstrate their will once again in a free, democratic election by secret ballot.

Such an election will adequately dispose of Mr. Casey's "coin flipping" theory and his claim to "belongings" which he does not own.

"We Already Voted for You"



Greatest 544 Picnic Set For July 13

The annual picnic of Local 544, to be held this year under the banner of the CIO, will be bigger and better than ever, Walt Hagstrom, head of the Union Picnic Committee, announced Wednesday. The Picnic Committee has made great progress during the past two weeks in arrangements for the affair. The Committee will meet next week to go over final arrangements for the Local 544-CIO Picnic, to be held Sunday, July 13th, at Webb's Place on Bass Lake. Hagstrom reported the Picnic Committee is solid in support of Local 544-CIO, and that the picnic programs have already been drawn and are now being printed.

Many New Features

There will be a large program of races, games, professional acts, merry-go-rounds, ferris-wheels, kiddie rides, etc., with a mammoth fireworks display in the evening. You will want to see the Great Delpz, the stratosphere man, in his death-defying slide for life. Nothing like it has ever been seen locally. The Henderson Trio, phenomenal jugglers, will entertain young and old. John Marvelo is the clown that does the unusual acts. The old friend of Local 544, Jack Mason, will be on hand as ever to act as Master of Ceremonies for the outing.

Don't forget the date, Sunday, July 13th, Webb's Place at Bass Lake. Bring your family and your friends. The 1941 picnic of Local 544-CIO will go down in history as the finest outing ever held by our union.

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town—Let's KEEP It That Way.

On the National Picket Line

Marvel Scholl

The two most important events on the labor front this week were the contracts signed by the CIO-UAW with the Ford Motor Company and the one between the United Mine Workers of America and the Northern Appalachian Bituminous Coal Operators. In the UMA contract there is one clause which, in this day of no-strike contracts, is indeed unique, and a real victory. This clause permits the union to "call strikes throughout the entire Appalachian area when necessary to preserve and maintain the integrity and competitive parity of this agreement."

Harry Bennett signed the Ford contract for the company. According to a statement given the press by Edsel Ford and Bennett, the company decided to "go the whole way" in this contract because "no half way measures would be effective." And go the whole way they did, whatever their motive. This contract includes the closed shop, the check-off system, increases in hourly wages ranging from 5 to 30c per hour, time and one-half for overtime, double time for Sundays and holidays, seniority, grievance machinery, a steward system, and the elimination of the "Service Department" long maintained by Ford to keep down unionism.

This contract was not won easily by the Ford workers. Nor was it "given" them by their altruistic employers. For more than four years the fight has been raging, with most of the battles chalked up as victories for the company. There have been scores of split heads, many broken bones, at least four deaths, which give mute testimony that whatever the Ford workers won they won by their militancy and stick-to-it-iveness. It was only last April, less than two months ago, that all of the 85,000 workers at the River Rouge plant walked out in an almost spontaneous strike which kept the gigantic plant tied up tight for several days. An NLRB election shortly thereafter was won by the CIO by more than 69 per cent. The company did not come out entirely empty-handed from the negotiations last week. The union agreed to drop all NLRB charges pending against the company, and to allow the use of the union label on Ford cars. In addition, the number of Stewards was reduced from 3,000 to 1,000, or approximately one steward for each 550 employees. Opponents to the contract point out that this large number of men

Wright was really defeated Monday night in his effort to use the Office Workers Union in the fight between the AFofL and the CIO, although it is apparent that further attempts will be made to remove all members who oppose Wright and to hurl the union into the conflict between the AFofL and Local 544. Members of Local 17661 know this and have pledged themselves to the defense of their tried and trusted leaders. Plans are already under way to protest the action and to arouse the members to the need for defending themselves and their union against further dictatorial acts by William Wright and William Green.

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town—Let's KEEP It That Way.

under each steward practically assures that grievances will not be handled properly. It would seem that with that many members to take care of, a steward would have his hands full.

The new grievance machinery will be much the same as that now in existence at General Motors and Chrysler stewards will take up grievances as they occur with the foreman. If they cannot be settled thus they will be referred to a top appeal board, on which the company and the union will have equal representation.

Seniority, which the Ford workers, even though they were new to unionism, recognized as the most important single issue, will prevail. Layoffs and hiring will be strictly on seniority basis. A worker will accumulate seniority after being in the company for six months. The company reserves the right to hire new men but they must join the union immediately.

The contract will cover all of the 130,000 workers now employed at the River Rouge and Lincoln plants at Detroit. It will also cover all other Ford employes as soon as they are organized in other parts of the country. The CIO-UAW will now have 540,000 members, with its contracts actually covering more than 700,000 workers. The New York Times comments on this gigantic influx of membership with the inclusion of the 85,000 Ford workers, all into one local, thus: "By its actions today the Ford Company presents the union with a major task, the disciplined handling of an organization which will soon include 85,000 workers in a single local..."

John L. Lewis has just signed the long-delayed contract with the Northern Appalachian Bituminous Coal Operators. Negotiations with the Southern operators are still going on. Lewis won a signal victory for his men, for he not only got the \$1 a day wage increase, but he assured the maintenance and integrity of the contract by a clause which allows strikes to be called anywhere and throughout the entire area if any operators renege on their signature. And in this day, when all contracts are being signed right and left which expressly sign away the right to strike, that is something.

The new contract runs for two years, from April 1, 1941 to March 31, 1943. It provides for one week's vacation without pay, the elimination of the "reject" clause under which operators could deduct from the miner's pay for coal impurities, and a clause allowing for memorial periods to be called by the union in times of disaster such as explosions and other calamities.

Some time ago, in a personal conversation with a young man who thought that the American Peace Mobilization was the only organization which was doing anything to try to keep America out of war I made this prediction: "If and when Stalin decides, or has decided for him, on which side of the fence he is going to sit, there will be a change in the policy of the APM. If he goes over to Hitler, the APM will become even more rabidly 'peace loving.' If he goes to the Allies, it will fold so fast it will make your head swim."

Raw-Deal Neal Rides Again

Mr. Tobin's dictator-receiver, Raw-Deal Neal, is marching through the affiliates of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council like a Nazi Blitzkrieg general through the Balkan countries. No sooner had Raw-Deal been appointed dictator-receiver of Local 544 than his appetite began to expand. Like Alexander the Great, Neal looked for more worlds to conquer.

Keeping his stern right eye firmly fixed on Local 544, he cocked his left eye in the direction of the Warehouse Workers Union Local 359. Said he to himself: "Why shouldn't I have that also?"

Why shouldn't he indeed?

At his elbow, like the court jester of an ancient monarch, little plump Harold Seaver sprang upon a table, wagged his head from side to side, and sang out: "Master, why not?"

Of course that didn't settle the matter.

"Holy Joe" Casey, front man for Tobin's goon squads, had to be consulted about the fate of Local 359. Holy Joe said: "It's O. K. with me."

But one detail yet remained before Local 359 could be "occupied" and put under the "protection" of Raw-Deal Neal.

A long-distance telephone call to Indianapolis followed, with Holy Joe Casey on one end, and Fuhrer Tobin on the other.

Said Holy Joe: "Neal wants 359. Can he have it?"

Said Tobin: "Yeah, let him have it."

Now he's got it. Raw-Deal Neal is not only dictator-receiver of Local 544, he is also dictator-receiver of Local 359.

P.S. In the rush, they plumb forgot to ask Local 359 about it. P.P.S. Attention, Cab Drivers! Look out for Raw-Deal. He's going to need another union in a week or two!

The War Is Spreading

Hitler's invasion of Russia marks a new stage in the unfolding of World War Two. It hurls another two hundred million humans into the jaws of war, and expands the battle-ground by another one-sixth of the planet's land surface.

With the expansion of the war, we can anticipate many strange reversals of policy by all sorts of unprincipled groups. We can further anticipate that those beating the drums to involve the United States in the war will now beat them louder.

All our sympathies in this situation lie with the workers and peasants of Russia, against Hitler's fascist gangs. But we are as firmly opposed as ever to the entrance of the United States into the war.

We take no stock in the fancy talk of the boss politicians and the war-mongers about "democracy" and "freedom." These people are but agents of the Wall Street gang which is after more imperialist loot, and is seeking any pretext to drag the people of America into the war.

The American workers and farmers have not the slightest interest or stake in the game of the war-mongers, and want no part of it.

Tobin Makes a Convert

Mr. Tobin, in his war against the great Minneapolis drivers' movement, has made one notable convert. None of Tobin's "organizers" had to persuade this individual. No threats had to be leveled. No employers ordered this man to wear the Tobin badge.

The convert won over to Mr. Tobin, on the basis of Tobin's actions against Local 544, is Mr. Westbrook Pegler. Pegler, the venomous foe of unionism, on June 23rd saw fit to take the side of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and to openly praise Mr. Tobin for his "evidence of patriotic purpose" in seeking to "purge" Local 544.

Murray of CIO Signs Ford; Green Purges Office Workers

Last week, while Phillip Murray, president of the CIO, was signing an agreement with Henry Ford covering 120,000 workers, William Green, president of the AFL, was mobilizing all his forces against the Minneapolis Office Workers Union.

Two officers of the Office Workers Union, Local 17661, Rose Seiler and Beatrice Gould, both members of long standing in the organization, were expelled last Monday night by William Wright, personal representative of William Green, allegedly for being unpatriotic, un-American, subversive, disloyal members of the union and members of the Socialist Workers Party. Miss Seiler has served as Business Agent and Financial Secretary and Miss Gould as Sergeant-at-Arms for three years.

The sudden expulsion of both members, without formal charges being placed against either, without a hearing or a trial of any description, was ordered by Wright at a special meeting of the union which he called on June 23. This action was taken following the suspension from membership and the removal from office of Miss Seiler on June 17 when Wright suddenly appeared in the union office and served the business agent with abrupt notice that she would be "relieved of her duties" and the union placed under receivership. Miss Seiler was accused at that time of having CIO-544 sympathies and of having a "rebellious attitude."

Real Reason Suspected

Although the Executive Board of the Office Workers demanded that Miss Seiler be reinstated immediately and the receivership lifted at once, Wright refused even to inform William Green of the board's demand. Members of the union believe that this high-handed, autocratic and dictatorial action was taken because Local 17661's Executive Board voted not to go through 544's CIO banner at Boutell's furniture store and that they call a strike of their own at this company. This recommendation was made in the belief that both the AFofL and CIO unions could obtain mutual benefits from such action.

It is further believed that one of the bosses played the role of a stool-pigeon for the American Federation of Labor and informed AFofL officials that Rose Seiler refused to order members of the Office Workers Union to go through any kind of a union banner.

Democracy Trampled On

A group of 50 members of the union, organized as the Committee to Defend the Office Workers Union, met on Wednesday evening following Miss Seiler's removal and petitioned for a special membership meeting for the following night. Despite the fact that 87 members of the union signed the petition and delivered it to the president of the union, the petition was ignored and the signers told by Wright that no meeting would

be called until he called it and he wasn't going to call one until he was "good and ready."

Dictator Green Refuses

A special meeting was held, however, from which a telegram was sent to William Green demanding the full and immediate reinstatement of Rose Seiler, lifting of the receivership and guarantees against further unwarranted suspensions. It was pointed out that Green's failure to comply with the demands would force the union to consider cutting off payment of per capita tax to the AFofL. The demands were flatly refused in a wire from Green received the next day.

In the meeting last Monday, announcement was made by William Wright that Miss Seiler and Miss Gould were expelled allegedly for being members of a workers' political organization, the Socialist Workers Party. The claim was made that "certain individuals" had signed affidavits to this effect although Wright refused to read these alleged affidavits, to say who signed them or to let the members see them.

In the stormy debate that followed, members were stampeded into making a decision on the expulsions by threats from Wright that if they did not expel these two members, their charter would be revoked. Attempts by many members to place motions on the floor which would provide for a fair trial for the two members were unceremoniously ruled out of order by the chairman, acting under the direction of Dictators Wright and Slaughter who stood at his elbow during the entire meeting. In spite of the scores of lies and misrepresentations that were paraded by Wright, the vote to expel the two officers was only 93 to 72.

Is Defeat for Wright

A great many members stated afterwards that they had not voted at all, since they did not understand what they were voting on. Others said they had voted for the expulsion only in the belief that they would save the union charter. The fact of the matter is that

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UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

General Drivers Union Local 544 JUNE Monday, June 2—Package Delivery; Department Store Wednesday, June 4—Sausage; Petroleum Thursday, June 5—Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners Friday, June 6—Job Stewards Sunday, June 8—Over-the-road, City pickup, dockmen and road drivers who come under the area contract, 2 p. m. Monday, June 9—General Membership Tuesday, June 10—Lumber Wednesday, June 11—Market; wholesale Liquor Friday, June 13—Wholesale Grocery Monday, June 16—Furniture Store; Coal; Paper and Printing Thursday, June 19—Tent and Awning; Newspaper, 10 a. m.; Ways and Means ITO Friday, June 20—Job Stewards Monday, June 23—Spring Water Tuesday, June 24—Building Material Thursday, June 25—Transfer and Warehouse; Wholesale Drug Friday, June 27—Gold Storage and Produce Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. in Hall No. 3. Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. in Local 544 office on the 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 indicated.	Warehouse Employees Union General Membership—Second Tuesday. Stewards—Fourth Monday. Executive Board—Every Monday. Office open Tuesdays and Fridays, 6-8 p. m.
Federal Workers Section Local 544 Regular Membership—Second Friday each month, 8 p. m. Stewards—First and third Wednesdays.	Ice Drivers Day Laborers Section—First Tuesday each month. Independent Truck Owners Section—Second Tuesday each month.
Pulp & Sulphite Workers Union Local 259 Second Monday of each month, 8 p. m.	

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