

LABOR VIEWS

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GREEDY CAPITALIST BANDITS

VOID ALL WAGE CONTRACTS BY RAISING PRICES

STRIKE NOW FOR HIGHER WAGES

Today Chicago workers, like workers throughout the United States, are faced with another crass and deliberate capitalist extortion. After savagely beating the workers down to an 18½ cent increase the capitalist class is now tearing every last cent out of their pockets by charging the highest prices in 26 years.

of the fact that this means billions more profit now sweated out of the worker than in 1939; in spite of these facts - these capitalists twist every last cent from the knarled fingers of the working man... Higher and higher prices! The highest possible price! They have made all wage agreements a monstrous joke.

Prices were up at least 50 per cent above 1939 prices under OPA. They have risen 22 per cent more since OPA died.

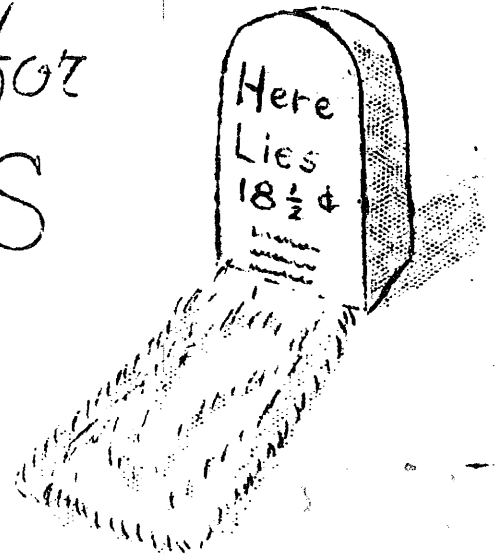
This monster should be slain by mass strike action - strike action at mills, mines and shops. Strike (To Page 2)

Prices are a part of the monster of capitalism which workers can never control until it is smashed. Because of a market which has been starved all during the war for consumers' goods, the capitalists find themselves in a position to charge astronomical prices and they are straining to collect every cent of it.

In spite of the fact that the moguls of industry found ways to squeeze 5% more productivity out of the worker during every year of the war; in spite

At what was supposed to be the climax of last Tuesday's (July 16) UAW "Save OPA" meeting in Ashland Hall hundreds of workers indifferently got up and moved toward the exits. Russo, chairman of the meeting screamed, waved his arms, commanded and finally pleaded for them to resume their seats.

Most of them kept right on going out of the hall.



(INSCRIPTION)

- BORN OF AN ANEMIC UNION LEADERSHIP
- KILLED AT BIRTH BY RISING PRICES

UAW LEADERSHIP WRITES POST CARDS TO TRUMAN

Why?

Because Russo, Mattson (UAW regional director) and guest speakers of this UAW leadership after spending an hour telling them that "...rising prices will make our contracts useless." and that the death of "CPA was the worst tragedy since Pearl Harbor..." only offered one action, a post-card campaign to Pres. Truman. (To Page 2)

UAW LEADERS

Send Post Cards

(from page one)

As it was, thousands of UAW men did not have enough enthusiasm for OPA to even come to last Tuesday's meeting. The attendance was estimated at 3,000 and the UAW membership in Chicago is 30,000.

This lack of enthusiasm was not surprising when OPA's record is reviewed:

Under OPA last month

You spent about \$15 for food for every \$10 spent in 1939.

You spent \$15.50 for clothes for every \$10 spent in 1939.

You spent \$15.50 for home furnishings for every \$10 spent in 1939.

You spent \$11.14 for fuel and light for every \$10 spent in 1939.

You spent \$10.39 for rent for every \$10 spent in 1939.

This totals \$67.07 spent for every \$50 spent for these necessities in 1939 or an increase of 32%.

RENTERS' STRIKES CAN BE SUCCESSFUL

The renters' strike can be successful because the worker already has the commodity - the house or flat-in his possession. (This is not true of other commodities. Hence buyers' strikes are usually not practical.) But this is an action which must be backed by a mass of workers organized in their determination not to pay rent

(According to US Bureau of Labor Statistics) wages rose 21 per cent during that period.

The UAW officially estimated the cost-of-living increase at 43% under OPA. Yet the UAW leadership would have workers put their confidence in this obvious capitalist agency in the capitalist government!

But, again, this is not surprising, because this is the very same union leadership which tied the UAW to

for wages beyond the price inflation. In a bold strike wave, uniting all unions, all industries, all workers, the working-class can rout this capitalist attack.

Along with mass strike

Dear Harry;
OPA, PLEASE!

the no-strike pledge to assure American Money lords more millions in blood-soaked war-profits.

Last Tuesday's price control rally included a pledge "to buy only what we need..." until prices come down. This is Reuther's touted buyers' strike. Since when do workers have money to buy more than they need? How will it punish the capitalists for workers to voluntarily move closer to starvation? To carry Mr. Reuther's buyers' strike to a point where it would be effective workers would have to try Indian Yogi...and sit in suspended animation while the capitalists roar with laughter.

The step for UAW men is obvious: a clean sweep of its traitorous, company-minded leadership.

WAGE STRIKE AGAINST PRICE RISES

(from page one)

action for higher wages political action should be used against high prices. But not the political action of post-card campaigns. Workers political action. Mass action in the streets. A united mass demonstration down State Street. Vigorous inter-union, inter-industry political mass meetings. A workers' march on Washington.

In Chicago workers should make a vigorous effort on the floors of their locals to

- 1) Organize city-wide, inter-union, inter-industry mass demonstration against rising prices
- 2) Plan immediate strike action for higher wages.

LABOR VIEWS is published by Chicago units of REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE. You are invited to write or come to our office 333 W. North Avenue.

SUCCESS STORY AT FIELD'S

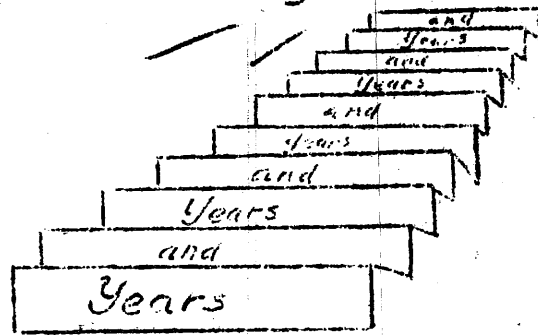
There appeared in the Chicago Sun recently a full page ad announcing the first pensioners on Marshall Field & Co.'s "retirement" plan. 398 workers who had been employed collectively for more than 10,000 years were being retired. With typical saliva dripping the ad proclaimed that "these men and women have earned retirement... We believe, when men and women give years of their life to a business, that business has an interest in their well-being."

Yet how easily do the facts betray the insincerity of these lofty statements. These 398 workers have averaged about 25 years apiece. Assuming a wage of \$30 weekly for the past 10 years - a figure that is too high - they will receive a weekly pension of \$6.49 from the company. Assuming the impossible average of \$40 a week, they obtain \$10.38. The government adds respectively from the Social Security fund \$7.23 and \$8.08 to these pensions.

Can this crumby dola be called "retirement"? "Discarding" is a more suitable word. Unable to pound the floors to enrich the company further they are actually turned out with not enough to remain alive. These few pennies will not bring an old age of repose and security. They will compel these workers to become wards of their families or waste away in delapidated rooms. It is safe enough to say that the prices in Field's bargain basement on a sale day will be prohibitive for their pensions.

However, President McBain of Fields made one true statement in addressing a group of these workers. He stated, "You have given this business its most precious ingredient... and we shall be forever grateful."

Minus the workers Marshall Field would still be a peddler. It was thru systema-



UP THE STAIRS OF SUCCESS AT FIELD'S

tic and continuous exploitation of his employees, decade after decade; that Marshall Field has risen to such wealth and renown in the merchandizing field. McBain may be grateful. He should be, but if he is, it is at best cheap sentiment as long as he condemns the workers who toiled 25, 40, and 60 years for the company, to last years of complete privation.

STRUGGLE GOES ON

We have not seen the last of the meat strikes as yet. On July 8, 100 hog killers and butchers at Armour & Co. staged a one-day walk-out over the discharge of a union steward.

At the South Chicago plant of General Mills, Inc. 600 production workers went on strike because of a dispute over wages and working conditions. The workers were of Local 20,959 of the American Federation of Grain Processor's Council (AFL).

550 office employees of the Tractor works of International Harvester Co. voted eight to one to strike if necessary to gain improved working conditions. The company had agreed to an 18-cent-an-hour wage increase but had declined to grant improved vacation provisions, to post job openings, to cut down the number of job classifications or to submit grievances to arbitration.

(FIRST OF A SERIES)

No worker in Chicago or thruout the US can pick up a copy of his favorite newspaper without reading all the charnel house details of a Degnan murder, endless lurid facts about rape cases, scores of cases of armed robbery and the wholesale operation of rackets.

CRIME

Sign of Capitalist Decay

MARCHES ON

According to F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover, "Every 20.1 seconds last year a serious crime was committed; every 6.4 minutes some one was raped, feloniously assaulted or slain. Hoover estimates that there exists a potential army of 6,000,000 criminals in the United States. With the sanctimonious attitude of a village parson Hoover declares that the growth of criminality is due to "lowered moral standards, laxity in parental controls and maladministration of the penal system."

On Chicago's South Side the Chicago Council of Negro Organization has become alarmed about the growth of crime. The C.C.N.O. recognizes that this problem is bound up with bad housing, overcrowding and restrictive conditions. However, it short-sightedly believes that this problem can be solved by "bringing in a special prosecutor and a grand jury."

Neither Hoover or the C.C.N.O. present a correct analysis or solution of this problem. Neither police measures or a case worker's attitude will provide us with an answer. Criminal cases, we believe, fall into three significant categories. The first group is these crimes committed against property. The second category of crime is the highly organized racket which narrowly avoids being classified as big business. It is best represented by organized syndicates, embracing organized prostitution, gambling, boot-legging, etc. (a la Capone). The third class of crime arising from psychic derangement is not as

far-reaching though they often get the greatest publicity.

The people practising the first of these categories of crime - the so-called crime against property and wealth - are the most dangerous threat to capitalist civilisation, because they could be the potential grave diggers of capitalism. The members of this group are made up of

rebellious elements who take individualistic actions in an attempt to emerge from poverty and vicious struggle of present day capitalist civilization.

In the absence of an organization which can successfully lead the working masses to an understanding of their problems it is inevitable that large sections of the working and middle classes will become lumpen proletarians (Scum proletarians).

Morality has declined. True. But moral codes of all past and existing societies are always in the image of the moneyed ruling classes. To take a life today means nothing. True. But how pale and puny such crimes are compared to the millions driven to mass slaughter every 15 to 20 years to make the world safe for bankers and industrial sharks. Mountains of facts prove that there is more robbery today. True. But how can it compare to the systematic devastation of lumber, coal, metals and land by the barons of capital not to mention the vast resources wasted in their imperialist war. The illusion that wealth may be gained without working for it is an imitation of the capitalist class which contributes nothing to the value of social wealth and yet reaps its best plums.

Those who mourn about the decline of morality will do well to learn that a rotten morality is a reflection of a rotten economic and social order. This rottenness is even more keenly seen in the examination of the other two general categories of crimes.