

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.  
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.  
St. Paul, Minn.

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

VOLUME 1, NO. 35

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1935

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## N. D. SUPREME COURT SPEAKS

### CHRISTGAU SEES LABOR GROUP ON WPA WAGES

Big Delegation Enters Strong Protest on Unskilled Wages

State Movement on Foot to Force WPA Scale Higher

Saturday afternoon Victor Christgau was visited by a delegation representing unemployed and federal workers' organizations from various parts of the state. They were there in the interest of the wage scale paid to unskilled labor on WPA projects.

A committee of thirty represented the following organizations: Big Stone County Labor Unit, Swift County Labor Unit, Kandiyohi Labor Unit, Yellow Medicine County Labor Unit, Pope County Labor Unit, Chipewaga County Labor Unit, Lac Qui Parle County Labor Unit, Anoka County Council of Labor, Workers Protective Association of Anoka, Saint Louis Park Protective Association, Golden Valley Commonwealth Club, Minneapolis, Hopkins, and Robbinsdale Units, Federal Workers Local No. 574. Acting as spokesman and secretary of the group was G. J. Dunne of General Drivers Union of Minneapolis.

They laid demands before Christgau which included one that called for 67½ cents per hour for common labor on WPA projects and a demand that relief workers be given representation on local boards.

Christgau first sent Sassman out to talk to the committee.

They refused to talk to Sassman. (Continued on page 3)

### Christmas Party For Union Kiddies

Saturday afternoon, December 21st, at 3:00 P. M. the fun will start for the children of union members. There is going to be fun for every kiddie that attends. There will be a huge beautifully decorated Christmas tree, candy, nuts, fruit, and a real honest to goodness Santa Claus.

And besides all that, there will be a beautiful program of entertainment that will include singing, dancing, and dramatic acts all done by little performers who will be no older than the guests themselves.

All children of members of the union who are under 10 years of age are cordially invited to attend. Mothers and fathers are welcome when they bring the little ones with them.

Remember the date, December 21st, 3 p. m.

It is all free!

### City Gets A. F. of L. Office

A fact that should hold great significance for all progressives in the Minnesota Labor movement is the news that has recently been given out by the American Federation of Labor that they intend to set up a permanent office in Minneapolis. Meyer Lewis is to be in charge. Every progressive, right thinking person in the Minneapolis labor movement has a right to know the answer to the following questions:

Why, at this particular time, does the A. F. of L. set up an office in Minneapolis?

Why has Meyer Lewis been put in charge?

Why was this office not established here during the time of the greatest ebb in the Minneapolis trade union movement between 1924 and 1930? Does the establishment of this office spell good or bad for the Minneapolis trade union movement? Let us see.

Two months ago Meyer Lewis arrived in Minneapolis with a great beating of drums and a fanfare of trumpets. Three-inch screaming headlines announced to the world that he was here, officially representing William Green, to drive the radicals and communists out of the trade union movement and to destroy General Drivers Union Local No. 574. But somehow the plan fell flat.

Lewis met a defeat. Instead of destroying Local 574, Lewis' attack only strengthened it. He retired to Washington in confusion to confer with William Green as to what was next on the program.

While he was absent from the city, the Central Labor Union set up a special committee to negotiate a truce or an armistice

with General Drivers Union. An agreement was arrived at which was officially sanctioned by the Central Labor Union last week. There can be no doubt that this agreement was entered into sincerely by the rank and file of the trade union movement—but, last week behind locked doors in Lewis' room a group of the top leaders in the Minneapolis trade union movement met to discuss the further campaign aimed at the destruction of Local 574.

We know the plans that were made there.

We know the name of every man that was in the room.

Some of those that were there had only a few days ago protested their undying friendship for our union. Some of those that were there owe their position in the trade union movement to the General Drivers Union.

A long-time plan of strategy was laid which includes an attempt, in the near future, to frame some of the leaders of 574. That this group has connived with some officials in the City Hall to this end is common knowledge.

We say to this group of cowardly connivers, who have cravenly bowed their heads to the dictates of Green's henchmen, the General Drivers Union is here to stay. Your wishes and your plans to the contrary notwithstanding.

We will continue to stand firm!

We will continue to grow!

We will continue, in the future, as we have in the past, to fight for the interest of the Truck Drivers, Helpers, and Inside Workers and to help and assist our friends in the labor movement:

### Street Car Union Men To Wear Buttons

One of the most important events that have taken place in the history of the Street Car Men's union happened Monday morning, December 16, 1935. On that date all members of the Street and Electric Railway Employees, Division No. 1005, put union buttons on their uniform caps and wore them to work.

For the first time in the history of the Street Railway Union the members of that union have boldly declared to their bosses and to the public that they are members of a labor organization and are proud of it.

It is reported that members of of the company union, a weak and impotent organization composed of company stool-pigeons and spies, are also going to wear a button, their badge of shame.

The working-class public, who compose 90 per cent of street car riders, should see to it that these non-union street car workers are given the proper attention.

It is reported that some of the wholesale grocery houses that have been handling produce for the chains are going to discontinue that line.

### Al Johnson Winner

Al Johnson is the lucky person who received the new Chevrolet coach given away at the Fun Frolic given by Local 574. Al is employed at 710 E. Franklin. He lives at 4161 Minnehaha avenue. The telephone is AT. 0830. Congratulations, Al!

### Organizer Goes to All States in Union

As the fourth week of the ORGANIZER sub drive gets under way it becomes apparent that the drive to increase the circulation of our paper will be an unqualified success.

At the outset we pictured the drive as something that would boost the circulation principally in Minneapolis and the Northwest. But as time goes on and as the subs continue to come in we see our influence spreading far beyond the limits of this part of the country.

Subs have been received from North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Texas, New York, California, New Mexico, Montana, Ohio and many other parts of the United States.

The good work has just begun! Don't stop now!

### WPA Workers Join Hands With 574

As we go to press, comes the news that the last few unemployed and Federal workers' organizations in Rural Hennepin County, who have not affiliated with the Federal workers, have decided to take that action.

Within the next few weeks it is possible that a solid front will be presented to the local relief setup in Minneapolis and the Board of County Commissioners in matters pertaining to relief and wages and conditions on WPA projects throughout the entire county.

The movement that has taken place, the consolidation of all relief organizations in Hennepin County, is a healthy step and a significant one.

It is indicative that relief clients and project workers are beginning to understand the necessity for united action to secure necessary reforms.

While it is an encouraging step to see all county unemployed organizations, it will be necessary in the future for this sort of action to take on even a more broad aspect. Statewide organization of relief clients is necessary.

It should be the order of the day.

### COMPROMISE IN FARGO CASE BY HIGHEST COURT

Cruden, Swalde and Hughes Are Granted New Trials by Court

Convictions Are Affirmed in the Cases of Fifteen Defendants

Last week the North Dakota Supreme Court handed down a decision in the now nationally famous "Fargo Riot Cases."

The cases grew out of a strike that took place last winter by the Coal Drivers of the General Drivers Union, Local No. 173, then affiliated with the A. F. of L., but since expelled by the Teamsters International.

The arrests came after the union hall had been tear-gassed and bombed, injuring women and children, families of union members who happened to be in the hall at that time. Almost the entire membership of the union was jailed.

Bands of vigilantes, inspired by the employers, roamed the streets seeking working class victims.

Of the ninety-seven arrested, eighteen were held for trial. Of that number, forced into court to answer charges of rioting, all were convicted.

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense undertook the defense of these class victims. Attorney Francis Heisler, was brought from Chicago, and he along with Quentin Burdick, Fargo attorney, conducted the defense.

Facing a packed jury and a prejudiced and hostile judge, in spite of the able defense, all the workers were convicted.

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense raised the necessary funds and an appeal was taken to the North Dakota Supreme Court. For three months these legal gentlemen wrestled with the question. After a lapse of almost three months they handed down a decision for which American courts are famous.

It was the typical compromise. The sentence of fifteen was upheld.

But Cruden, Swalde, and Hughes, leaders of the union, were granted a new trial. This horrible and unjust decision of the North Dakota Supreme Court stands as a monument to the hostility of the courts when workers' cases are considered.

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense will conduct the defense in the retrial of the three union leaders.

### Pup Wanted

Anyone having a Scotch terrier pup for sale call AT. 3773.

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town

## Chicago Meeting Forms Real Union

In Chicago last week was held a convention which possibly will make history in the American labor movement.

It was a gathering of the various City and County and State Employees unions.

They gathered there at the invitation of the American Federation of Government Employees, a National Union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

At the last A. F. of L. convention this organization was granted jurisdiction of all federal, state, county and municipal workers.

The Chicago convention was called for the purpose of forming a national organization of State, City and County workers which will be affiliated to, and chartered by, the Federal Employees union.

At the convention, which was held on the 9, 10 and 11 of December, there were 30 delegates present representing about 12 organizations. Of this number 10 were City and County Employees union and two were State Employees unions.

The Minnesota State Employees association was represented by Henry Schultz, of Minneapolis, Robert Sermon of Duluth, Charles Mohr of Rochester, and O. H. Tarun of Duluth. The convention elected Zander President and John Kubisla, Secretary-Treasurer. Both are from Wisconsin. Seven Vice-Presidents were also elected who will serve as the Executive Board of the new organization.

Their headquarters will be in Madison, Wis.

## Strutwear Workers Hold Mass Meeting

Monday night, December 9th, at the downtown Eagle's Hall, Eighth Street and Fourth Avenue, the striking Strutwear Hosiery workers held a mass meeting the purpose of which was to acquaint the general public and the rest of the trade union movement with the justness of their cause.

Roy Weir, organizer of the Central Labor Union, presided. Among the speakers were Alexander, McGeowan, first Vice President of American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, Casebeer and Linker, International Organizers of the same organization, Robley D. Cramer, Editor of the Minneapolis Labor Review, and many other local trade union leaders.

McGeowan told of the starvation wages that were paid in the Strutwear plant and contrasted them with the high wages that were paid in mills that were organized.

He complimented Local 574 for splendid assistance they had rendered the Hosiery Workers.

The chairman of the meeting called repeatedly for speakers from the General Drivers Union. Unfortunately, the Hosiery Workers mass meeting fell on the same night as the nomination meeting of the Drivers Union, and, as a consequence, no speaker from our union was able to be present.

## Organization Drive Brings Wage Raise

As proof that the organizational drive Local 160, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is having the usual effect, wages are being raised in many departments of the Northern States Power Co. As morning follows night and as sunshine follows rain, so, usually, do wage raises follow organizational attempts of workers in any given industry. Wage raises as high as \$20 per month have been reported in many of the N. S. P. departments.

## Central Labor Union Holds Stormy Meet

Last Wednesday night's meeting of the Central Labor Union was enlivened by another battle between Meyer Lewis and the progressive forces in the central body.

The announcement by Lewis that he was going to open a permanent office in Minneapolis created a storm of protest from the delegates. Leslie Sinton, of the Cooks and Waiters Union, demanded to know what authority Lewis had for the Hitler-like manner in which he had been acting. Sinton cited the fact that Lewis had been staying at the most notorious scab hotel in Minneapolis, the Radisson. It was also brought out that Lewis had made no effort to organize the workers there.

### Lewis Called Disrupter

Charges of "liar" and "disrupter" were hurled at Lewis by Ruben Latz, Business Agent of the Laundry Workers Union. Latz challenged Lewis to explain to the delegates why he had revoked the charter of the Laundry Workers. When Lewis, in a halting and stumbling manner, attempted an explanation, he was challenged, time and again, by Latz, who repeated the charge that Lewis was making a false report. Green's henchman did not attempt to disprove the charge.

### Committee Reports

Another uproar was created when the Executive Board of the CLU and the special committee that had been set up to negotiate with 574, made their report. The report recommended that a "hands-off" policy be put into effect between Local 574 and the rest of the labor movement; that we take none of their members and they take none of ours. The report further recommended that a special committee from the CLU be set up to act with Meyer Lewis who, according to his statement, will be here for some time.

Sinton demanded that the questions be separated before they were voted upon. When this was done, that part of the report dealing with 574 carried without a dissenting vote.

On the question of the committee, another fight broke out. In the confusion that followed both motions were declared carried. The committee was not appointed.

While the attack on Lewis was being carried on, Smith, Adams and Stephens, "Progressive" delegates from Machinists Lodge No. 382, remained silent.

## Federal Workers Are Against Present Setup

The Friday night meeting of the the Federal Workers section was well attended. Owing to the preparation that were going on for the Fun Frolic, it was necessary to hold the meeting in the Club Room.

The tables had all been moved out and chairs set for the meeting. Some very good discussion took place around the question of the wage being paid on WPA projects.

The question of being compelled to make up time for Christmas Day was also discussed. A motion was made and passed unanimously that the members of the Federal Workers go on record as against this procedure and to take whatever steps necessary to prevent this vicious practice from being put into effect.

The meeting was addressed by M. B. Dunne who pointed out the danger in exhausting the strength of the organization over minor matters. He said that the real battle would come when the workers on these projects found that they could not live on the wage that was being paid.

## Bill Brown Says—

We are glad to hear that the A. F. of L. has opened an office in Minneapolis. That is, if they have opened it to assist in organization of the workers here who are still unorganized. But with Meyer Lewis in charge we are in doubt as to the sincerity of the motives of Green. Can it be, by any chance, that this office was started here to down Local 574, which has shown how industrial unions should be organized? John L. Lewis says that industrial unions must come if the A. F. of L. is going to survive. Green is the avowed enemy of coal miner Lewis. Figure it out for yourself.



BILL BROWN  
President of 574

## Minneapolis General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Local 574

Polls to be open for balloting at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. on Fri., January 10, 1936, and Sat., January 11, 1936, from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. Members who will be unable to come to the polls on the above dates may vote by absentee ballot to be secured at the union headquarters. The following officers are to be secured at the union headquarters. The following officers are to be elected for a term of one year from January 13, 1936.

President, Wm. S. Brown.  
Vice president, Geo. Frosig.  
Recording secretary, G. J. Dunne.  
Secretary - treasurer, Farrell Dobbs.

Trustees, Moe Hork, Harry DeBoer, Ray Dunne, L. Gardner, Curt Zander, Axel Soderberg, L. Abroe, R. F. Depew.

## Hosiery Workers' Paper Praises Drivers

Headed "Union Solidarity Defeats Strutwear Strike Move," an article in last week's "Hosiery Worker," official organ of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, contained the following statement in regard to General Drivers Union of Minneapolis.

This article dealt with the stoppage of trucks at the Minneapolis Strutwear plant. The article follows:

"United States marshals, with the aid of a formidable army of local police, proceeded to the mill and attempted to load goods and light machinery onto trucks for shipment to the railroad. The truck drivers' union of Minneapolis, strongest labor organization in the city, at once threatened to halt every truck in the city if a local hauling contractor was used to ship these goods. Fearing that the whole business of the city would be disrupted, as was the case in former stoppages called by the truck drivers, the United States marshals hired trucks and non-union drivers from Winona, Minnesota, to do the job of carting.

### Truck Drivers Encourage Strikers

The amazing solidarity and fine spirit displayed by the truck drivers of Minneapolis in this situation has vastly encouraged the hosiery strikers and has made these workers passionate converts to the Organized Labor Movement. Strutwear employees now realize that united action by wage earners is the most powerful force in any sort of society and that if workers stick together sufficiently well that victory must sooner or later crown their efforts.

Vice-President McKeown and his assistants, Organizers Linker and Casebeer, are working day and night for a conclusion to this strike and believe that the extraordinary tactics used by the firm in this instance will make the position of the strikers much stronger in the final settlement."

Clarence Castle, Minneapolis Holmes driver who was injured some time ago, suffered another piece of bad luck Sunday. His young daughter died.

## Detroit Auto Unions Show Solidarity

In Detroit the three independent unions who have joined hands in a strike at the Motor Products Corporation, are showing the A. F. of L., old fashioned and reactionary leadership how the motor industry must be organized.

These three organizations, all independent of the A. F. of L., had been competing for membership among the Detroit auto workers. When it became imperative that a strike was necessary at the Motor Products Corporation all three organization formed a council and called their members out on strike.

Last week Tom Perry of the Mechanic's Educational Society and Joseph Daylor of the Automotive Industrial Workers, both elected at a mass meeting of the strikers, conferred with Wm. Green, President of the A. F. of L.

They said: "If we don't get the co-operation of the A. F. of L. at this time, that will set back the possibilities of organizing the auto workers in this city for years to come."

The only satisfaction the strikers got from Green was his reply that Francis Dillon, sell-out artist of the A. F. of L., who is completely discredited among the auto workers, was in complete charge.

## Roosevelt Refuses to Count Unemployed

Although pressure has been brought to bear upon the Roosevelt Administration since they took power that a national census of the unemployed be taken, no move of that kind has yet been undertaken. With the four billion dollar work relief fund that is being expended it is a criminal negligence not to use part of this fund to count the unemployed citizens of the United States. Present figures that are available on the number of unemployed in this country are unreliable and of uncertain value. They are mostly guess work. It is almost a safe bet that the Roosevelt Administration will not undertake a census of the unemployed. For one thing, they are fearful of what accurate figures would reveal. It is important, however, that this work be undertaken. It is high time that the unemployed American worker find out how many of his fellow-workers are in a similar plight.

## Meyer Lewis Speaks At Athletic Club

A little item that should interest everyone in the Minneapolis trade union movement was a note that appeared in all the capitalist papers Wednesday.

It was headed: "Meyer Lewis to Speak at Minneapolis Athletic Club." The item went on to say that Lewis was to speak before the Minneapolis Real Estate Board.

Is it possible that Lewis is attempting to organize the Realtors into the A. F. of L?

Your guess is as good as ours.

## Resolution Adopted By Big Stone Group

WHEREAS: The wage scale proposed for workers under the new four billion dollar works program is not a wage, but a starvation "dole," is unjust, unsound and inhuman and tends to undermine and destroy the entire wage structure of this nation, and cannot possibly contribute to recovery, and

WHEREAS: Industry under NRA did hold wages down to the minimum, industry will again take unfair advantage of this opportunity to refuse to pay very little, if any, wage, above that paid by the Government under the WPA plan, and

WHEREAS: We are convinced that only strikes, confusion, suffering and other economic chaos, can be the only outcome of such a contemptible, inequitable, depraved, attempt of our Public Servants to crack the whip of economic slavery over a Liberty-loving and peaceful people, and

WHEREAS: It is impossible for any thinking person to brand this plan as anything but a diabolical and deliberate proposal designed to fasten the shackles of poverty upon the workers of this nation, and anchor them to the rock of their misery, and

WHEREAS: The workers of this Great State of Minnesota are convinced through such plans and starvation doles nothing but economic slavery can be accomplished:

Be it therefore resolved, that we, the workers, present the following demands to Victor Christgau, the WPA Administrator for Minnesota,

1. We demand the Union Wage Scale of 67½ cents per hour for Common Labor, and the Union Wage Scale for all skilled Labor.

2. We demand the 30 hour week, and that the week consist of five six-hour days.

3. That all projects, WPA or otherwise, be governed by the Compensation Laws of The State of Minnesota.

4. That all Relief Workers be employed on projects nearest to their homes.

5. That the workers have representation on the County Relief Boards, which are at present set up to contain two County Commissioners, and two from the Welfare Board; We demand that organized Labor have fifth place on this Committee, chosen by the organization having the largest number of members working on WPA Projects.

6. That we, as unemployed, be put to work on constructive projects, producing new wealth, that we may become self-supporting instead of living on the dole.

7. That the practice of allowing the sponsor of a project to name the supervisors, foremen and timekeepers should be abolished.

Be it further resolved: That we will not compromise on these demands.

## Thanks Drivers Union for Thanksgiving Gift

Letters of thanks for the Thanksgiving baskets sent out by the union to some of the less fortunate members continue to come into the union office.

The following letter was received last week:

Minneapolis, Minn.  
Dec. 9, 1935

Local 574  
Brother Memebrs:

We wish to thank you for the very nice Thanksgiving basket you sent us while we were sick.

"574" ALWAYS

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Monteth  
and Daughter

# CHRISTGAU SEES LABOR GROUP ON WPA WAGES

Continued from page 1

man, saying: "We are not here to talk to Christgau's office boy. We want to lay our demands before the administrator himself.

During the course of the conference with Christgau, he indicated while he had the authority to make the changes that were demanded, he had no intention of doing so.

After the committee left Christgau's office, they reconvened in Minneapolis and went into session. There it was decided they would not recede from their demands. They instructed the Secretary to despatch the following letter to Christgau:

Minneapolis, Minn.  
Dec. 16th, 1935

Mr. Victor Christgau  
State WPA Administrator  
Minnesota Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

In our conversation with you on December 14, 1935 you stated that you had the authority to establish the union rate of pay for all workers on WPA projects. You indicated, however, that you did not intend to use this authority to establish the union scale for unskilled labor.

Immediately after our conference with you, the committee reconvened in Minneapolis and voted unanimously to press our demands that you establish the union scale of 67½ cents per hour for unskilled workers and that you also comply with the balance of the demands submitted to you.

Yours very truly,  
PROVISIONAL STATE  
COMMITTEE OF WPA  
WORKERS.

By G. A. Dunne.

It was decided at the committee meeting to instruct all units to stand fast with their demands. A conference has been called in Ortonville, Minnesota, which will be held on January 11th and 12th.

A committee was set up to get in touch with all unemployed and WPA project organizations throughout the state, to get them to send delegates to the Ortonville conference and to sign their names to the conference call.

## Workers Draw Straws Ten Are Found Guilty

Of all the farces that have been enacted in American courts, the one that took place in Cambridge, Illinois, on December 11th, deserves some special mention.

Nineteen men who had been arrested and charged with riot in connection with a strike at a factory at Kewanee, Illinois, drew lots among themselves to determine who would plead guilty to the rioting charge and who would be discharged.

After defense attorneys had taken part in a conference with State's Attorney Martin O. O'Conner, the drawing took place in the county jail adjoining the courthouse.

It had evidently been agreed at the conference if ten would plead guilty to the charge the remaining nine would be free. So the nineteen workers, all innocent, drew straws in the county jail to see who would plead guilty to the charge.

The ten losers, who had been unlucky in the drawing, pleaded guilty and were fined \$150 apiece. The remaining nine defendants were freed.

So go the American courts.

## SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

To THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER: \_\_\_\_\_ 193\_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City and state \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

# Minority Report of A. F. L. Resolutions Committee

The ORGANIZER herewith publishes the minority report of the resolutions committee of the last A. F. of L. convention.

This is the first time it has been published in any paper in the Northwest. In view of what has taken place since the convention this minority report becomes an important document in the annals of trade union movement.

During the fifty-five years the American Federation of Labor has existed its declared purpose has been to organize the unorganized industrial workers of the nation. The contributions from its numerous affiliates have been made in the belief that organization would be advanced for the purpose of adding economic strength to the various units and that the organization policies would at all times be molded to accomplish the main purpose of organizing the unorganized workers in the industrial field.

During the existence of the American Federation of Labor and since the date many of the charters were granted to National and International Unions upon craft lines, the changes in industrial workers are of a nature that did not exist at the time many National and International charters were issued. This makes it apparent that jurisdiction over these new classes of work could not have been anticipated and included in the jurisdictional outlines of charters issued to National and International Unions at a time when the work that is now performed by these millions of industrial workers did not exist.

We refuse to accept existing conditions as evidence that the organization policies of the American Federation of Labor have been successful. The fact that after fifty-five years of activity and effort we have enrolled under the banner of the American Federation of Labor approximately three and one-half millions of members of the thirty-nine millions of organizable workers is a condition that speaks for itself.

We declare the time has arrived when common sense demands the organization policies of the American Federation of Labor must be molded to meet present day needs. In the great mass production industries and those in which the workers are composite mechanics, specialized and engaged upon classes of work which do not fully qualify them for craft union membership, industrial organization is the only solution. Continuous employment, economic security and the ability to protect the individual worker depends upon organization upon industrial lines.

In those industries where the work performed by a majority of the workers is of such nature that it might fall within the jurisdictional claim of more than one craft union, or no established craft union, it is declared that industrial organization is the only form that will be acceptable to the workers or adequately meet their needs. Jurisdictional claims over small groups of workers in these industries prevent organization by breeding a fear that when

once organized the workers in these plants will be separated, unity of action and their economic power destroyed by requiring various groups to transfer to National and International Unions organized upon craft lines.

To successfully organize the workers in industrial establishments where conditions outlined herein obtain there must be a clear declaration by the American Federation of Labor. It must recognize the right of these workers to organize into industrial unions and be granted unrestricted charters which guarantee the right to accept into membership all workers employed in the industry or establishment without fear of being compelled to destroy unity of action through recognition of jurisdictional claims made by National or International Unions.

It is not the intention of this declaration of policy to permit the taking away from National or International craft unions of any part of their present membership, or potential membership in establishments where the dominant factor is skilled craftsmen coming under a proper definition of the jurisdiction of such National or International Unions. However, it is the declared purpose to provide for the organization of workers in mass production and other industries upon industrial and plant lines, regardless of claims based upon the question of jurisdiction.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is expressly directed and instructed to issue unrestricted charters to organizations formed in accordance with the policy herein enunciated. The Executive Council is also instructed to enter upon an aggressive organization campaign in those industries in which the great mass of the workers are not now organized, issue unrestricted charters to workers organized into independent unions, company-dominated unions and those organizations now affiliated with associations not recognized by the American Federation of Labor as bona-fide labor organizations.

Submitted by:

- CHARLES P. HOWARD,
- DAVID DUBINSKY,
- FRANK B. POWERS,
- JOHN L. LEWIS,
- A. A. MYRUP,
- J. C. LEWIS.

A Boyd driver who had recently joined the union, had occasion to appear before the boss. The Big Shot, noticing the union button for the first time said: "Well, I see they got you at last." The driver, a Skoning, replied, "You bat dey did, and I like it, too."

## Nominations Made At Union Meeting

Last week, owing to the press of events, we were unable to report on the nomination meeting of the union which took place December 9th. Special notices had been sent out to every member of the union who was within three months of being in good standing.

The meeting was called to order by William Brown, President, who announced that the entire business of the meeting would be devoted to nomination of officers. The Executive Board made a report in which they stated that all members of the Executive Board would stand for nomination and election on the basis of the program that had been carried out in the past year.

In conformity with the new by-laws, which were adopted in November, all offices of the union were declared vacant and nominations were in order for all the executive offices of the union.

The officers to be elected were President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and three Trustees.

William Brown was the only nomination for the office of President. George Frosig, incumbent, and Miles Dunne were nominated for the office of Vice President. For Secretary-Treasurer and Recording Secretary the only nominations were the existent holders of the offices, Farrell Dobbs and Grant Dunne, respectively.

The only place where a real contest is promised is for the Board of Trustees. For those offices, eight were nominated.

They were as follows: Harry De Boer, Moe Hork and V. R. Dunne, the present Trustees, and Oscar Gardner, Curt Zander, Axel Soderberg, Lawrence Abroe and Roy Depew. Three are to be elected from this number.

An Election Board of five who will supervise the union elections, was selected. The following members were elected to serve: Carl Skoglund, Ray Rainbolt, Jack Severson, George Williams, and Walter Hegstrom.

Miles Dunne declined the nomination for Vice President.

## Skilled Labor Scarce, Says Dr. C. A. Prosser

Dr. C. A. Prosser, former Director of the Dunwoody Institute and self-styled Minneapolis Industrial Educator and Labor Expert, came out last week with one of the most astounding statements that has ever been made by this type of pseudo scientist.

Prosser said that the country is faced with an alarming shortage of skilled labor. How Prosser makes this deduction is a mystery.

As a matter of fact, skilled labor is a drug on the market. While it is true, as Dr. Prosser says, that machines have replaced many skilled workers, it would perhaps be not impertinent to inquire what, in Prosser's opinion, has become of the skilled workman that the machines have displaced.

For Dr. Prosser's benefit we will state that the skilled workers can be found by the millions, on the relief line, living upon the dole, or on WPA projects with a pick and shovel in their hands.

### Meeting Schedule Local 574

- Thursday, Dec. 19: Independent Truck Owners.
- Friday, Dec. 20: All Stewards; Federal Workers.
- Monday, Dec. 23: Full membership.
- Tuesday, Dec. 24: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
- Friday, Dec. 27: Federal Workers.

## Strutwear Action Proven a Fraud

As further proof that the "replevin action of the Peacock Knitting Company, listed as being incorporated in St. Joseph, Mo., was a fraudulent proceedings from start to finish is borne out by a report of an investigator who journeyed to St. Joseph, Mo., for the purpose of inquiring more closely into the mythical Peacock Knitting Co. The investigator found that the articles of incorporation were on file as of November 8th, 1935. As will be recalled, this was only some 20 days prior to hauling the goods out of the Strutwear plant. Three incorporators of the company were listed: Mathew Plummer, the holder of one share, is a former salesman for the Tootle Campbell Dry Goods Co. J. Donovan Roberts, 620 North 23rd St., St. Joseph, Mo., is an unemployed salesman. He also holds one share.

The third incorporator listed proved to be the prize of the lot. He is R. E. Hastings. He is President and General Manager of the Union Terminal Railway Co. and Vice President of the St. Joseph Belt Line Co. He is the resident manager of these two railway lines which are owned by eastern capital. The investigator also got in touch with Joel E. Erickson, Secretary of the St. Joseph Forward organization. Mr. Erickson said that the Peacock Knitting Co. had leased no space in St. Joseph, Mo., and as far as he knew they had absolutely no intention of operating there. The files of the Federal Court at St. Joseph, Mo., were examined and it was found there was no record of any action by the Peacock Co. against Strutwear. Neither is there a mortgage on record at St. Joseph. Court records in Minneapolis show also that there is no mortgage on file. Interesting developments may take place in this situation during the coming week.

## Standard Oil Wages Are High at the Top

In view of the struggle that is being waged by the organized Filling Station Attendants to adjust their wage scale and their standard of living upward, the following information released last week by the Securities Commission in Washington is singularly appropriate. The Securities Commission made public a report hitherto regarded as confidential dealing with the salaries of the two top officers of the Standard Oil Company. W. C. Tegale, President of the Standard Oil Company, this year drew a salary of \$112,500; W. S. Farish, Chairman of the Board of Directors, drew an equal amount. The salary Tegale received in 1935 represented a substantial increase in salary for this year; last year he drew \$73,295 for his year's work.

## Socialists Break With Old Guard

It should be to the interest of every reader to know that there has been a real split in the Socialist Party in the United States. It is a split that is destined to rend the party in every corner of this country.

The Militant group in the S. P. have definitely broken with the Old Guard. The are out to effect reforms in the S. P. that will make it an instrument that can be used politically in the class struggle. The Old Guard that have dominated the Socialist Party for years are being shoved into the background.

In New York where the battle is raging, the Militants report success in almost all of the Locals in that city.

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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"When I ply my needle, trowel or pick,  
 I'm a decent Sheeney, Wop or Mick,  
 But when I strike, I'm a Bolshevik  
 I'm labor."

## We Are Not Deceived

General Drivers Union Local No. 574 is not deceived in regard to the so-called "hands off" policy adopted by the Central Labor Union at the last meeting.

While we are fully aware that the vast majority of Minneapolis Trade Unionists desire the help and assistance that this union can give them, we also know that at the top of the Minneapolis Trade Union movement there are those who, for trade union political reasons, desire to see us swept aside.

We know and realize that this truce has been entered into sincerely and honestly by most of the Minneapolis Trade Unionists but we also know that behind the backs of these people, there will be carried on a campaign that will be aimed at elimination.

Fore-warned is fore-armed. We will take these promises for what they are worth but, in the meantime, we will keep our powder dry.

## The Strutwear Replevin

As was predicted in these columns some time ago, the replevin action of the "Peacock Company" against the Strutwear Company has been proven to be a monstrous frame-up and plot.

Investigation in St. Joseph, Mo., has revealed that the "Peacock Company" is a non-existent corporation. It has no office, no warehouse, no factory and address, nor are there any officers of the corporation.

There is no doubt the replevin action was intended to provoke a riot at the Strutwear plant in which workers would be arrested and framed on a "riot" charge.

Already several of the pickets who were present, have been taken by the police and now face serious charges. More are sought by the police.

Such an attempt is a demonstration of the lengths to which employers go to break strikes and frame labor leaders.

That the plot did not work out as planned is fortunate for the workers involved. A slaughter had been contemplated.

A strong and militant defense must be made for those workers who were trapped. That is the answer to such cowardly frame-ups.

## John L. Lewis States Position of Industrials

In his declaration to the press on Monday, John L. Lewis said: "This issue boils down to whether the A. F. of L. will adapt itself to modern industrial conditions by creating modern unions.

"The A. F. of L. leaders today have a subconscious fear that the industrial unions, when formed, may be as un mindful of the craft unions as they have been of the industrial unions. I do not like their dog-in-the-manger attitude.

"Despite all the quibbling, the American Federation of Labor is not organizing workers in the modern industries. The craft unions have no hope of standing against industry. We think a quarter of a century's experience has been enough to demonstrate this."

### A Bloc Statement

The following statement was issued for the Lewis bloc:

"Because of the urgency of organizing the unorganized in the basic industries of America, the Committee for Industrial Organization has been formed. Its purpose is that outlined in the minority report of the resolutions committee submitted to the convention of the American Federation of Labor in Atlantic City. That is, it has been formed for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the organization of the unorganized workers in mass production and other industries upon an industrial basis.

"Its aim is to foster recognition and acceptance of collective bargaining in such basic industries; to counsel and advise unorganized and newly organized groups of

workers; to bring them under the banner and in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor as industrial organizations.

"It is the desire of this committee to further in every way the effort of groups of workers in auto, aluminum, radio and many other mass production industries to find a place within the organized labor movement as represented by the American Federation of Labor.

"Such a great proportion of the workers are outside of the American Federation of Labor, or outside of the organized labor movement entirely, that a group of leaders of labor representing over a million workers allied with the American Federation of Labor thought that the most efficient thing to do at the present time was to place their experience at the service of these unorganized workers, or those unaffiliated with the American Federation of Labor, with the purpose of bringing them, where organized, into the federation and, where unorganized, doing everything possible to further organization along lines that would best serve their interests as workers."

**Unless restitution is made, Bill Brown, who lays claim to being the best dressed man in the Labor Movement, will lose his title; someone absconded with his hat, overcoat, gloves and muffler the night of the Taxi Drivers' Ball.**

We don't see the Carnegie boys at coal meetings any more. What's the matter? You aren't mad, have you?

## Keeping Step With 574 By Mickey Dunne

Mike Max is boiling.

The union elections will be held on Friday, January 10th, and Saturday, January 11. The polls will be open 7 a. m. to 9 p. m.

The non-union Williams Box Lunch has given up trying on the Belt Line job.

Harry DeBoer will spend the holidays with his folks in Crookston, Minn.

The next Central Labor Union meeting has been postponed. Holidays or something.

The Independents are sending out special notices for their Thursday night meeting. A good turn-out is expected.

Moe Hork is all Dressed Up.

The market workers are bracing their feet to take care of some of the chiselers.

Will the holder of red ticket No. 37 call at the union office, 257 Plymouth?

As All-American selections are the order of the day this time of the year it is only fitting that we go on record with the official ORGANIZER selection.

### All-American Union Busters

- Tobin ..... Ind.
- Green ..... Ohio
- Lewis ..... Iowa
- Boyle ..... Ill.
- Lawson ..... Minn.\*
- Dillon ..... Mich.
- Bergdoff ..... N. Y.\*\*
- Casey ..... Calif.
- Scharenberg ..... Calif.
- Smith ..... Wisc.
- Bradley ..... Ohio
- Hugh Johnson ..... N. Y.\*\*\*

\*Local boy  
\*\*Professional  
\*\*\*Old timer. Played in Frisco general strike.

This team has been selected by popular referendum in the American labor movement.

### Prize Union Story

The prize union story of the week came from the Belt Line job where many curious and unusual things occur.

The drivers on this job, 100 per cent 574, have an agreement that they will not exceed a certain speed limit that no driver should pull out of his place in line and pass other drivers.

However, last week a dump truck was observed going down the road at a speed of 40 to 50 miles an hour passing the whole line of slowly moving trucks.

Curt Zander, brain trust of the Independent Truck owners, determined to call the speeding truck driver to account. Finally the opportunity came. Observing the offending truck ahead of him one afternoon, Zander overtook him and ran him into a side road.

He said: "What in hell do you mean by speeding on this job? Don't you know that all the drivers on this job have an agreement about passing one another?"

The driver replied: "That doesn't affect me, Brother, I am a farmer who just happens to use this road going back and forth to town."

While we are about it we may as well tell you that all is well at the Skellet Transfer Company now.

The editor of this column will be in a receptive mood from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Dec. 24th.

The corner drug store re-

# Labor Looks at the Press

Snappy bit of dialogue from the new Marx Brothers comedy: Rich Guy: "Sir, I am a self-made man!"

Groucho: "What an example of the horrors of unskilled labor."

New York press agent: "Let's set aside the first week of June as "national romance week." It will end depression. People will get married and buy furniture. Everybody knows we need more romance."

When speaking of romance, why drag in marriage by the heels?

Mrs. Robert Hoyal: "The young people of the nation have no chance for jobs. What does the future hold for them financially and morally?"

Mrs. Hoyal said a mouthful. But what we can't understand is, why she's in the Republican party. Because that party won't do anything for the youth.

From a local column: "Out around Humboldt avenue S. they call Carolyn Giles' pooch "the arithmetic dog" because he puts down three (paws) and carries one in a sling."

I call my dog an "arithmetic dog" too. He put down two or three and doesn't carry any.

David Lawrence: "The treasury department . . . ought to advocate higher pay for corporation presidents, because when the salaries are high, the federal government gets a larger and larger share."

Yes, we think the corporation presidents are very poorly paid, too. In your hat they are. And I suppose by the same reasoning, Lawrence would advocate that the workers receive lower wages, because there's not much income tax on low wages anyway.

Tampa, Florida: "Three leaders of an unemployed organization here were tarred and feathered by vigilantes. One of the workers died of injuries received at the hands of the vigilantes."

I guess that's the way the reactionary business men of America would like to solve the unemployment problem.

Mr. Hearst: "This is a land of complete equality and opportunity for all, and the discontent that exists has been stirred up by alien agitators."

"According to A. F. of L. figures just released, there are still 11,647,000 unemployed workers in the United States."

New York news item: "The National Electrical Mfrs. Assn. has demanded from the district court injunctions and damages against Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers."

This attempt to use the courts to wipe out the trade unions must be fought tooth and nail by every union worker in the country.

U. S. Chamber of Commerce release: "The government must get out of business immediately."

What those guys mean is that ported a brisk sale of Bromo Seltzer the morning after the Fun Frolic.

The Saturday night dance was really a grand affair.

Al Sheean remarked, after viewing the Fun Frolic crowd, "So this is the union that the A. F. of L. busted up."

the government must stop giving relief. They don't mean that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which has so far laddled out seven billions of dollars to banks, railroads and insurance companies, should get "out of business."

Chicago news item: "A campaign aimed at wooing western women to the Republican Party by blaming the New Deal for the price of pork chops was initiated Dec. 11." — Christian Science Monitor.

That might get some women, all right. But most housewives right now are worried more about the prospects of starvation than the high price of pork chops.

And the greatest news of the month comes from Georgia, where we learn that the waves of mass protest have forced that state to free Agnelo Herndon, Negro class war prisoner. Judge Dorsey of Atlanta has declared unconstitutional the 1866 "slave insurrection" law, under which Herndon was sentenced to a 20-year term on the chain gang. This is a great victory for the American working class.

World powers used' to slit each other's throats in the name of God. But progress has been made. Today, they commit mass murder — in the name of pacifism.

## British Van Drivers Seek Hour Limits

As proof that the demand and the wants of truck drivers are the same the world over the following item appeared a few days ago in an English paper.

Douglas, Isle of Man—Transport workers in Britain are demanding that the "Truck Driver's Charter," limiting hours at the wheel, be extended to cover all drivers of commercial vehicles.

At present the charter, which limits driving hours to eight a day, protects only men employed on trucks used for haulage. The numbers of drivers of vans used in the distributive trades are not helped.

At the biennial conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union, here, a resolution urging action to bring the van drivers within the scope of the protective charter was carried enthusiastically. The general executive council of the union is to approach the Government on the matter.

## Group Attacks A.F.L. Leadership

New York, Dec. 15.—Before labor unionism can become a force for a planned economy "it must come to see that the profit system is unbearable and impossible," the Methodist Federation for Social Service said Sunday night.

In an analysis of trade unions Dr. Harry F. Ward of Union Theological seminary and Winifred L. Chavpell, secretaries of the federation, vigorously attacked the present leadership of the American Federation of Labor and praised the group led by John L. Lewis.

"The traditional American Federation of Labor theory of capital-labor partnership has met its death blow," the report declared.

Lewis, the report said, recognizes that there must be unions in the mass industries equal to the economic strength of the management, and sees the necessity of struggle against forces which will seek to wipe out the labor movement in America as it was wiped out in Germany and Italy.