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FIVE CENTS

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

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

On the National Picket Line

Marvel Scholl

Minneapolis Society Item: Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Webinger of this city, together with their four children, Donald, Arlene, Gerald and Bernard, have closed their Minneapolis residence and will reside in Bloomington for the winter season.

Well, actually this little episode can't be told in such hoity-toity language. The fact is that the Webinger family has been booted out of Minneapolis by Ole Pearson, relief superintendent. The forced evacuation took place last Friday, in ten-below-zero weather, when the Webingers were unceremoniously removed from their home at 5241 43rd Avenue south, and dumped in front of the Bloomington town hall, in the township adjacent to Minneapolis.

"That's the law and it was the only thing to do," said Pearson, the great-hearted humanitarian who distributes relief with a lavish hand in this city.

But don't think Pearson hasn't got feelings, just like the rest of us. "I waited until after the Christmas holidays to run them out of the city," he said. "I thought that would take the sting off."

The Webingers were run out of town by Pearson and the Minneapolis cops because Mr. Webinger made an application for supplementary aid. And the law says, as Pearson reminds us, that where a person who has been living in another county or township applies for relief, he is notified he must move back to that county or township, and if he doesn't he may be moved by the court.

The technical name for Mr. Webinger is "relief floater." A relief floater is an American citizen, out of work, who needs relief and wasn't born in the place where he needs it.

Webinger is practically a foreigner. He was born in St. Paul, across the frontier from Minneapolis. To be sure he has lived and worked in Minneapolis for some 22 years as a printer, but still he's a foreigner. It seems he moved to Bloomington in 1933, on account of his wife's health. The family remained there until 1937, when it moved back to Minneapolis. Bloomington certified him for WPA in Minneapolis, and for some time he worked here as a night watchman. He hasn't been on WPA for some time, has been self-supporting. Recently he has been working only part time and finally reached the point where he had to apply for supplementary aid. This is where Ole Pearson went into action.

The cops stood around as the family's meager belongings were loaded on a van. Mrs. Webinger cried. The four kids shivered in the cold. Webinger said bitterly, "This is the most unjust thing I ever heard of." Ole Pearson and the Tax Payers Association rubbed their hands.

In Bloomington, the town board didn't exactly hang out the welcome sign. Grudgingly, they finally agreed to guarantee rent on a place for the Webinger family for one month.

The scene changes. We take you to Detroit, Michigan. The time is the afternoon of January 3rd. Thirty weeping women storm the office of Mayor Jeffries and demand food for their hungry children. "No one will starve," the mayor said. But—

(Continued on page 4)

Atrocious Local Housing Conditions Bared by Surveys

FWS Presses For Housing In City

Last Thursday morning representatives of Local 544's Federal Workers Section appeared before the Minneapolis Welfare Board to press its demands calculated to lower the possibility of another Marlborough tragedy.

Among actions taken by the Welfare Board were the following:

1. The Board agreed to write immediately to every landlord in town, asking them in view of the Marlborough fire, to make necessary repairs.
2. The Board agreed to ask the health, fire and building inspection departments to investigate homes or all relief clients and WPA workers, for fire hazards, uninhabitable, unhealthy conditions, etc.
3. The Board memorialized Governor Stassen and the United States Congress to enact necessary housing legislation to get funds for local housing.

Federal Workers Section spokesmen made it clear that, though it favored careful investigation of fire hazards, what is basically required is a huge housing program and a raise in rental allowances for relief clients.

Get Adjustments on Supplements
The FWS also took up the question of relief supplement. Spokesmen for the unemployed pointed out that many WPA workers and relief clients now have to pay cash to get orange food stamps to entitle them to the free stamps. If orange stamps are purchased, no money is left over to pay rent. Ole Pearson agreed to adjust such cases so they can receive supplementary aid.

"Borderline" cases on unemployment insurance are still being denied the opportunity to purchase food stamps, though Mr. Milo Perkins of the Federal Surplus Commodities corporation, sponsor of the food stamp plan, has ruled that such cases are entitled to food stamps.

Was This The Cause Of the Fire?

Lying in St. Mary's Hospital today is Nick Sundholm, one of the victims of the Marlborough fire. He dove through the window that horrible Wednesday morning at the hotel, just as the floor gave way. He lit on his feet in the courtyard, broke his feet and was hurt internally.

Nick is a member of the Structural Steel Workers Union. Nick will tell you that the Marlborough was crawling with cockroaches, the whole structure had been soaked with a mixture of gasoline and acid. From time to time, he said, the smell of coal gas was very strong.

Could the coal gas have become ignited, causing a spark to fall on the gasoline-soaked walls? Was this the cause of the Marlborough fire? Why didn't the press print the facts about the gasoline mixture being used to exterminate cockroaches?

There are many other tenements in the Marlborough district using this same gasoline mixture to fight cockroaches.

Who dares say Minneapolis doesn't need a huge housing program?

U. S. Survey Shows Appalling Conditions in Homes of Minneapolis Citizens

In 1934 the United States Department of Commerce conducted a real property inventory of housing in 64 cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul. Professor Calvin Schmid, then of the University of Minnesota, analyzed this data in two chapters in his book "Social Saga of Two Cities" published by the Minneapolis Council of Social Agencies.

According to Schmid, there are 83,604 residential structures in Minneapolis, of which 1,889 are apartments or tenements for more than four families.

There were, in 1934, 4958 residential structures in Minneapolis fifty years of age and over.

There were 16,841 structures in need of major repairs, and 2,075 declared unfit for use.

About 840 dwelling units in this city were either over-crowded or greatly over-crowded, that is with more than two persons per room.

There are over 26,000 housing units heated by stoves, and 49 units without any kind of heating apparatus.

No Baths in 15,000 Homes

Twenty per cent of the housing units have only cold running water. Over 9,000 Minneapolis housing units have no indoor water closets. Over 15,000 Minneapolis housing units have no bathing conveniences of any kind. In 8,501 Minneapolis homes, cooking is done with wood or coal. In 1934 there were 1,780 homes that were lighted by neither electricity nor gas.

Fire Hazards Common
According to a recently completed WPA fire hazard survey of 91,525 Minneapolis structures, there are over 2,000 buildings whose lack of proper exits constitutes a fire hazard; over 6,000 whose structural defects label them as fire hazards; over 11,000 whose type of heating unit constitutes them as fire hazards.

These cold figures represent an appalling human tragedy. Yet Minneapolis citizens are better housed than the citizens of many other cities, especially in older communities in the East.

Bad housing is too big a problem to be solved by the city. It is too big for the state. It must be solved by the federal government, which alone has the credit facilities to sponsor decent housing for the people.

Federal Program Is Answer
We say, let the federal government start immediately a ten-billion dollar public housing program. Such a program will put millions to work, will provide decent housing for the tens of millions now ill-housed.

Money? There is plenty of money. In Roosevelt's administration alone, over ten billions have been wasted in instruments of war that do the masses no good at all. Transfer all war funds to a public housing program!

And This One!

The city's fire and building inspection departments might well investigate the apartment at 340 East 22nd Street, occupied by about 40 Minneapolis families. This building is owned by the Chase Investment company. There is only one front entrance. In the rear are wooden stairs which, in case of fire, would burn like matchwood. A fire in this structure would present the city with another "Marlborough." How about some action to protect the lives of these residents?

Begin List Of City's Fire Traps

At press time the Minneapolis building inspection department had not yet issued a public list of the most dangerous fire traps in this city.

So this week the Organizer will tell the public about Fire Trap Number One—on the corner of 8th and Bradford avenues north, just on the edge of the Sunner Field housing project. Like the Marlborough hotel, this structure is a three-story brick veneer structure.

Containing 45 rooms, the building now houses twelve Negro families. There are no fire-escapes or ropes. The hallways are narrow, with narrow winding stairways leading to the lower floors. The building has been sketchedly wired for electricity—not with conduit or pipe as directed by the building inspection department, but rather with ordinary rubber-coated wires running between rooms.

There is no central heating plant. Relief clients heat their bare 4-room apartments with coal stoves. When they have coal, they burn it. When they run out of coal, they burn old battery boxes, or anything that will burn. There are no coal bins to store fuel. Coal is stored in closets along the corridors, or in the apartments.

Behind this apartment building stands an old ramshackle frame house, also housing more tenants than it was intended for. The two buildings are so close that the roof of the house almost touches the rear wall of the apartment. Piled up against the same back wall is a large heap of rubbish, old boxes, etc.

The narrow, dark hallways are lighted with bare 15-watt bulbs, unit during the day. Floors are of old six-inch plank, now warped and worn and with large cracks between the boards.

The property used to be owned by the C. H. Smith Mortgage company. Rental at that time was \$10 per month per apartment.

A REAL Relief Chiseler
Today this structure is owned by H. M. Orfield, 815 Phoenix building. Today relief clients live here. Today the rent on each of these twelve apartments is not \$10 but \$15 per month, paid by the relief department. Sixty dollars more per month rent!

Ole Pearson always has an eagle eye to spy out some poor devil who has wormed a dollar or two "too much" out of the welfare board, got a few more loaves of bread for his hungry family.

How about exposing this relief chiseler, Pearson? Mr. Orfield, who is getting \$60 per month more from you for rentals than the building used to rent for.

The Minneapolis Board of Public Welfare is the largest "tenant" in the city, spending more than half a million dollars yearly for rent.

Just who is getting this half a million? We dare say the answer to this question will uncover some real big-time relief chiselers. We intend to continue in future issues the exposure of fire traps in this city.

Special ITO Meeting

A special meeting of Local 544's ITO Section will be held next Thursday, January 18th, at 8 p. m. to discuss the A. G. C. rates on highway construction. No cards will be sent and all members are urged to attend.

Roosevelt Asks New WPA Slash

In his budget message to Congress last Thursday, President Roosevelt proposed a new slash in WPA of half a billion dollars, which would cut another 500,000 workers off WPA.

He proposed that employment of jobless youth by the National Youth Administration be slashed from 706,000 to 600,000. He proposed to cut \$46 millions off PWA and stated that this figure "contains practically no money for new projects in any part of the country."

Just as last spring, President Roosevelt expressed the hope that "a continued expansion of business would diminish relief requirements substantially."

The president asked that the nation spend \$2 1/4 billions on armaments in the fiscal year 1941.

Cab Drivers Sign New Agreement

The Cab Drivers Union Local 958 announced this week that negotiations on a new two-year agreement have been completed. The pact has already been signed by the Yellow and Liberty cab companies, and the two remaining cab firms were expected to sign before the end of the week.

The new pact is similar to the expiring contract, with several upward adjustments, including a week's paid vacation for all men who have been on the seniority list for a period of two years or more.

The agreement will expire February 15, 1942.

1859 Signs Pact With Keller Mfg.

A new agreement has been signed between Local 1859 and the Keller Manufacturing company, 501 S. E. Huron, assembler of ironing boards. The Keller pact is approximately the same as that signed recently with the Clark company. It provides for the preferential shop, an hourly minimum of 50c, etc.

Two additions to the agreement are (1) paid vacations of one week for those who have worked 1,400 hours or more during the year, and of 2 1/2 days for those who have worked between 800 and 1,400 hours; and (2) a 5c hourly wage increase to 55c hourly for those who have worked 1,400 hours or more.

The Keller company employs about 25 men during the peak season.

544 Grocery Men

A meeting of Local 544's Grocery Section will be held this Friday, 8 p. m., at the union hall. All members are instructed to attend.

Many Unions Urge U. S. Senate to Block Roosevelt's Appointment of Glotzbach

A dozen Minneapolis unions last week sent letters to Senators Ernest Lundeen and Henry Shipstead, urging them to "take immediate steps to block confirmation of Linus C. Glotzbach as Regional WPA Director."

President Roosevelt on January 4th submitted to the United States Senate the names of Linus Glotzbach and S. L. Stolte and asked their promotion. The president sought to elevate the pair last July, but a vigorous protest from

All Leaders of 544 Returned to Office By Huge Majorities

544 Moves Dismissal Of Suit as Plaintiffs Demonstrate Bad Faith

Svenddal, Leading Plaintiff, Withdraws from Fink Suit—Hailed Into Court, He Admits Tie-up with "Local One," Silver Shirts—Plaintiffs Admit They Never Asked Union for Accounting of Funds—Boss Press Distorts Trial in Most Unfair Manner

Following six days of testimony during which the five finks seeking to get control of the records and books of Local 544 thoroughly discredited themselves and their motives, Defense Attorney John Goldie moved late Tuesday in Judge Paul S. Carroll's courtroom that the fink suit be dismissed. Goldie motivated his motion by asserting that testimony of the five men had demonstrated their bad faith in bringing the suit.

All plaintiffs admitted under the searching cross-examination of defense counsel that they had participated in the work of the "Minnesota Mutual Truck Owners Association," the fink Local Number One sponsored by the labor-hating employers of this city.

Svenddal Withdraws
A sensation was caused in the courtroom Monday morning when Attorney Arthur Anderson, representing Corbett, Svenddal, Asplund, Fisher and Ryan, brought in a letter from Svenddal announcing he was withdrawing from the suit. Svenddal was the leading spirit in the organization of the fink Local One and in the suit against the General Drivers Union.

It is believed that Svenddal, after seeing from the cross-examination of his cronies that Local 544 possessed overwhelming evidence against the finks, sought to crawl out of the suit. Counsel for Local 544 strenuously objected to this, demanding that Svenddal be brought in for cross-examination. A subpoena was issued by the court and on Tuesday Svenddal, visibly ill at ease, put in his appearance and was cross-examined by Goldie. It quickly became apparent why he was so anxious to avoid an appearance in court.

Goldie not only forced him to admit that he had attended meetings of the fink outfit but that he also had attended meetings of the Silver Shirts, anti-labor and anti-Semitic fascist outfit that at one time threatened to raid the Drivers Hall.

The four other plaintiffs preceded Svenddal on the stand and proved by their testimony that they can be regarded as nothing but the most bitter enemies of the organized labor movement.

Never Asked for Accounting
John Asplund, first plaintiff to testify, admitted he attended meetings of the fink Local One; admitted he didn't care if there was

(Continued on page 4)

Members Poll Largest Vote in History to Give Incumbents Majorities of 3 to 1

—Skoglund, Frosig, Postal, Rainbolt, Zander and M. Dunne Elected

Drivers Give Answer to Campaign of Finks and Boss Press—Bill Ambrose Reports Vote at 544 Meeting Monday

Polling the largest vote in the history of the Minneapolis General Drivers Union, the membership flocked to the polls last Friday and Saturday to return all incumbents to their posts by a majority of three to one.

Monday night Bill Ambrose, reporting for the election judges to Local 544's general membership meeting, announced the following officers were elected by overwhelming majorities to lead the union for the coming year:

For president: Carl Skoglund.

Vice-president: George Frosig.

Secretary-treasurer: Kelly Postal.

Recording secretary: Ray Rainbolt.

Trustee, short term: Curt Zander.

Trustee, long term: Miles Dunne.

All were incumbents save Ray Rainbolt, nominated by Grant Dunne to succeed him in the post of recording secretary. Grant is suffering poor health and hence did not run for re-election.

George Williams, spokesman for the opposition slate in the election, announced at the general membership meeting he would joyfully support the officers for the coming year.

Over 2,000 Voted
Over two thousand votes were cast, the election board reported. All incumbents won by approximately three-to-one majorities.

Particular attention was centered on Local 544's election this year because the union leadership was under attack from the bosses through the fink suit now being heard in Judge Paul S. Carroll's courtroom. Local 544 members gave their answer to the fink suit by returning their leaders to office in a manner which leaves no doubt as to the attitude of union drivers towards this fink suit.

7th Ward F-L Club Card Party Saturday

The first of a series of card parties to be organized by the Seventh Ward Farmer-Labor club will be held Saturday night, January 13 at the Fire Hall on Forty-second and Cedar avenue. There will be prizes and luncheon. Admission is 25c. A grand prize will be awarded at the end of the series.

1859 Casket Negotiations Progressing

Negotiations between the Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 and local casket manufacturing firms near a conclusion this week. The employers have offered to extend last year's agreement. The union is seeking certain adjustments and negotiations are still proceeding.

Local 1859's Casket Section has given its negotiating committee full powers to act. A special meeting of the Section will be held next Monday evening to discuss status of the negotiations.

Aslesen Hit For Wage Law Violation

Local officials of the Fair Labor Standards Act ended their case against the K. Aslesen wholesale grocery company, 509 Washington avenue south, on Tuesday when stipulations were filed in United States District Court before Judge Gunnar Nordby. By terms of the stipulation the K. Aslesen company agrees to pay employees the back pay due them for overtime, and further agreed to a final judgment in the form of an injunction permanently enjoining the company from violating provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (popularly known as the Wages and Hour Law).

Representing the Act's administration were George McNulty, Irving Levy, Roy C. Frank and W. Silvan. E. E. Eder was attorney for K. Aslesen.

"We consider Glotzbach responsible for the violence that occurred in the WPA strikes.

"His overbearing attitude during the trying days of the strike fitted him more for the role of a dictator than a responsible head of governmental body. We would consider confirmation of his appointment as a blow to the entire labor movement of the state.

"Speedy action is necessary if this provoker of the WPA riots is to be stopped from holding on to

an office for which he has no capacity or fitness to fulfill."

Among other Minneapolis unions reporting they sent letters of protest against the president's attempt to promote the strike-breaker, Glotzbach, are: Ice Drivers, Cab Drivers, Warehouse Workers, Bakery Drivers, General Drivers, Milk Drivers, Filling Station Attendants, Utility Workers, Furniture Workers, Laundry Drivers, and the Private Chauffeurs.

N. W. Bank Continues to Block Puffer-Hubbard Settlement, Starve Strikers

New evidence of the Northwestern National Bank's deadly hostility to unionism in general and to the Puffer-Hubbard strikers in particular came to evidence this week as the Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 renewed its efforts to settle the strike.

Agents of this huge banking concern are seeking to demoralize strikers through a whispering campaign that the struck Puffer-Hubbard firm has enjoyed its best business in years during the past four months and that there is no reason why the company should sign up with the union.

The truth is quite different. Since the strike started in September, the company's production has been cut down practically to nothing. The few inefficient and untrained finks now living in the plant are certainly not capable of carrying on efficient operations.

For the year as a whole, however, profits were high and the management has declared a dividend to preferred stockholders for the first time since Puffer-Hubbard has been in receivership.

Several times during the long strike Local 1859 has offered to renew last year's agreement, but each time the bank has applied pressure to prevent a settlement. Again this week the strikers agreed to end the conflict by accepting a pact similar to last year's, one which would give the union a chance to survive at this firm.

However, at press time it was learned from the union that the bank is again interposing its power to block a settlement. Apparently the Northwestern National Bank will be satisfied with only one kind of settlement—that sort that wipes out the union at Puffer-Hubbard and forces the workers there to accept the humiliating conditions that accompany jobs in open-shop concerns. Puffer-Hubbard strikers will never submit to such a slavish settlement.

Bank Blocks Relief
The people of Minneapolis, and stockholders of Puffer-Hubbard, will no doubt be interested to learn that when former Puffer-Hubbard workers applied for the unemployment relief to which they are legally entitled, the Northwestern National Bank and the plant manager, Goetzman, hounded these workers from courthouse to state capitol, to stop their unemployment checks.

Watt Notes

By Amps & Volts
The new type buttons look very nice, and it is easier for others to see who we are.

It is reported the smiling and congenial Freddie Ecklund is back from the "Golden West."

Glad to report that Brother Locke is doing quite nicely and appreciates seeing his "buddies" now and then.

Have you got your ticket for the big dance being put on by the Ladies' Auxiliary February 3?

Quite a few of the boys on the "outside" intimate they will be on the "inside" before long.

As announced at the last membership meeting, \$1.10 per ton can be saved on coke (stove or nut) by calling and ordering a two-ton delivery, 75c a ton saving on one ton. This coke will be delivered direct from the river docks at Red Wing.

The Generation Department Credit Union will have its annual meeting January 16th, at 4:30 p. m. at Riverside. Be sure to attend and elect your candidates. Several interesting proposals will be brought up. Their interest charge is now 7/10 of 1%, lowest in the state.

Herb Kjellberg is all fired with enthusiasm. He is on the Working Rules Committee for the operators.

We'll bet that 99 9/10 of the raises the boys got went back into industry.

Marigold Ball Room Is Redecorated

The Marigold ballroom on upper Nicollet has just installed a new modernistic band stand with encircling ramp designed to permit patrons to hobnob with members of the "name" bands playing at this comfortable ballroom. A Blue Mirror Lounge adjacent to the ballroom has ample facilities for cards, dinner parties and refreshments.

STATUS QUO
"Anything going on around here?" asked the stranger of the native.
"Nothing but the interest on the mortgages," was the reply.

LOCAL 1859 Knots to You

By Richard B. Gilmore
Last week was inventory week at the J. R. Clark plant.

John Ericson of the machine shop was carrying a mortar box last Wednesday when he slipped on the ice and fractured his left wrist.

Oscar Olson, the lumber yard foreman, needed some men to work Thursday and didn't know how to get hold of 'em until he got a bright idea. When he was at the general membership meeting Wednesday, he looked around and found six of his men without any trouble at all.

Frank Schwartzkopf laid a brick and Frank Felix carried the hod and now the hole in the wall is fixed, we hope.

Edward Kirby is serving on the Hennepin County petit jury.

What's wrong with this picture? Last Thursday night, Emil Carlson was busier than a switch engine with his old '28 Chevrolet. Emil was pushing cars to start them and all the cars he pushed were new ones. Even Frank Morrison's new Chevy needed a shove. Thanks for the help, Emil.

Credit Union

Question: How do I become a member of the Credit Union?
Answer: By paying a fee of 50 cents.

Question: Do I get the 50 cents back?
Answer: No. This fee money is used to defray expenses for such things as books, journals, bond and notices to members of credit union meetings.

Question: When is the next Credit Union meeting?
Answer: January 12, 1940, at 257 Plymouth Ave. N., 8 p. m.

Question: How much is a share?
Answer: \$5.

Question: Can I buy a share on installments?
Answer: Yes, by paying 25, 50 or 75 cents a week. When you have paid in \$5 you will receive a share.

Question: Wouldn't I be just as well off if I put my money in the savings bank?
Answer: No. Take, for instance, the Northwestern Bank. There is plenty of reason to believe that this powerful and influential banking institution is using its vast resources to crucify the workers at the Puffer-Hubbard plant. Do you want to be a contributing factor to breaking down the wages of your fellow workers? Do you want to put your money into an institution that has no scruples against turning right around and using your money to lower your wages and batter down your union?

Question: How can I make sure that the bank I have my money in won't use it to finance strike-breaking and labor union-busting?
Answer: You can't. Put your money in your credit union, Number 410. It will be loaned out to workers.

The ladies' man is losing popularity, Mrs. H. Aborn writes in to say. "I just can't get over the things that are happening to the old age pension recipients since Governor Stassen was elected. Some 12,500 deeds on homes belonging to these old people are in the process of becoming the property of the state at the rate of about 2,000 a day. You know, I votes for Mr. Stassen because he was such a good looking man, and now he doesn't look so good to me."

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nash and daughter, Sandra Ruth, spent Sunday at the old homestead. Louis took time out several times during the evening to change Sandra's position.

Ed Norgren is home from the hospital and practically as good as new. The boys will be glad to see Ed back on the job.

Don't forget the \$1 assessment to help finance the WPA defense. This starts on the January dues.

Gassing With 977

The first general membership meeting for the new year was held last Monday evening. The meeting was well attended and much interest was shown on the part of the membership in hospitalization and medical service. The group appointed a committee to make arrangements for the hospitalization service, and voted unanimously to accept the report of Dr. H. P. McCrimmon. Complete medical service is now available to all members in good standing at the low cost of \$1.20 per year; this fee may be paid to the collector when he calls for your dues.

Two reels of motion pictures were enthusiastically received by the members. The first was through the courtesy of the Anheuser-Busch company, and the second through courtesy of the General Tire company. The local expresses its appreciation to these companies for their fine cooperation.

Robert Trageser won the door prize at the meeting Monday night, and receives a month's dues paid by the local.

Many of the members have been inquiring about their dues books. The office force is making the change-over to the new ledgers as rapidly as possible. There are over 1,200 accounts to be changed before the dues books can be returned with the new account page numbers. In all probability the books will start going out from the office before the close of the month.

Don Braunschwarz returns to his job with the Globe Company, 1002 East Hennepin Ave., this week. Don was slugged and his station robbed about three weeks ago.

Members of the local were shocked by the sudden death of one of their brothers last Friday, January 5th. Brother Mathias Kopstad, who has been employed at the Nelson Brother Pure Oil Service, 500 11th St. South, passed away from heart attack while at his work. Funeral services were held on Monday. The local extends its sympathies to Mrs. Kopstad and family.

Jack Thorson, formerly employed by the Bulk Oil company, and who has been unemployed for some months, was living at the Marlborough. Jack succeeded in getting his wife and baby safely out of the fire, but lost everything else, including clothes. The boys at Bulk Oil are starting a fund to aid the Thorsons; anyone wishing to contribute to this fund may do so through the collector, or at the office of the local. We suggest that if you have any clothes to spare, that you call on Mr. and Mrs. Thorson, who are now at 2216 Portland Ave. They will appreciate any assistance from fellow union members.

The Diamond Tire company has changed hands, and will now be known as the Diamond Sales company. The new proprietor is J. B. McHugh, formerly at the Standard station at 3551 Lyndale Ave. S.

Oscar Johnson of the Johnson Oil station, 723 E. Lake Street, brought back a 38-inch northern pike from Whitefish lake this week.

A mass meeting of Minneapolis station attendants was held in the club room at union headquarters Thursday evening, to discuss the new working agreement to become effective February 1st.

Eskimos are the most peaceful people of the earth, a people to whom war is absolutely incomprehensible.—MAX EASTMAN.

Wear your union button in plain view.

Every cloud has a silver lining. Things looked bad for the press, times were hard and we had arrived at the bottom of the flour barrel when along came Brother John Janosco and fixed us up with paper, envelopes and stamps. Johnny never let a union man down.

MOLER BARBER COLLEGE
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215 NICOLLET AVE. At. 9364

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


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STATUS QUO
"Anything going on around here?" asked the stranger of the native.
"Nothing but the interest on the mortgages," was the reply.

Scissorbill Sam, The Boss's Man



I think it's scandalous the way some people flaunt the law and actually eat dinner with the criminal WPA strikers. Everyone at that banquet last Saturday ought to be arrested.

Cooks Union Installs New Officers

The Cooks & Waiters Union Local 458 held a dance Monday night in conjunction with the installation of officers for the coming year. The executive board for 1940 will comprise the following: Anton W. Twedt, president; Frank Kopec, vice-president; Helen Machovicz, recording secretary; Victor Nelson, financial secretary and business agent; Paul Ferrario, treasurer; Bernard Stallberg, inspector; Larry Moran, inside guard; Thurston Berglund, outside guard; Leo Date, Ella Thompson, Carl Johnson, trustees.

The dance was held at the union's headquarters, 7 South 5th street. Robley Cramer was guest speaker.

Local 131 "Gas and Suds"

By L. Clair Johnson
Burt Hegdahl from Dispatch has been laid up for the last ten days with rheumatism. Chester Tronstad from J. and H. broke his foot a week ago and will be laid up for some time. He is not up in his dues and is not eligible for sick benefit.

We are told from time to time by members who collect our benefits when they are off that it certainly helps a lot. Why don't all of you keep yourselves eligible? Your dues also cost you less when they are paid on time. Fines and assessments when levied must be paid also in order to be in good standing.

While we are preaching, let us remind you that there is no emergency that can arise that warrants using company money temporarily for your own use. We mention this because from time to time drivers get in a jam over this and it comes to our attention. The union may intercede in your behalf with your employer and prevail upon him to be lenient, but we couldn't save your job under circumstances like that if your employer wants to be tough.

We are still sparring with the bosses over the new contract.

Hot Tip
We have received information through the grapevine that the smart money is being offered on the Union at odds of 5 to 1. But here's the payoff: even at such long odds there are no takers. Guess we'll have to concede that the ordinary long odds taken are smart, too, this time.

NO SHOW OFF
Housewife: "Is that all the work you can do in an hour?"
New Maid: "Well, ma'am, I dare say I could, but I'm not one to be showing off."

Is your Club, Lodge, Union, Fraternal organization or Church group in need of additional funds?

IF SO, why not run a dance for the benefit of your group at the Beautiful

HOUSEHOLD LOAN COMPANY
Owned and Operated by Household Finance Corporation
Licensed pursuant to Chapter 12, Laws of 1939 of the State of Minnesota.
Household Loan Company maintains offices in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Hibbing, Mankato and Moorhead.

Purity Beverage Co.
Mfrs. of CARBONATED BEVERAGES
Sole Distributors of KARLSBRÄU BEER
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Geneva 3955

Wolk Transfer Co., Inc.
Commercial Hauling and Moving
538 6TH AVE. N.
Main 4434

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With the Limousines

By Home James
We hear that the finky "Hat Chauffeurs" Club No. 1, we told you about have definitely gone highbrow. They met a week ago last Tuesday night (night of local 912 meeting) in the parlor of the very swanky mansion at 1822 Mount Curve, belonging to one W. E. Nelson, and where, by the way, one of the fink officials of No. 1 named Sam Johnson is working as a private chauffeur.

This Sam Johnson has claimed in public that he holds an honorable withdrawal card from the Brotherhood of Railwaymen. (If we know anything about it, it won't be honorable anymore.)

In the course of the evening at this "Affair Elite," these furtive chauffeurs of the hat were served coffee and doughnuts by the no-doubt charming lady of the house.

Now we just love coffee and doughnuts, but in spite of the Junior League touch and the parlor atmosphere that goes with this particular kind, we still think the cost is prohibitive; it's not that we haven't any parlor manners, nor are we lacking in appreciation of the higher things in life.

It must then be, that we're just so ornery and mean that we're insistent on a decent standard of living in return for our services; yes, we'd even go so far as to say that we don't care if we ever get let in the parlor, just so we get \$125 a month, a day off every week and two weeks' vacation every year.

Getting back to doughnuts, we can't help but think about how expensive each bite must have tasted; figuring that these poor misled workers are being paid at the rate of \$75 a month and less, which of course is \$50 short of union scale.

Suppose each one had two doughnuts and bit them off like we generally do, they would have exactly ten bites at the cost of \$5 per. (Refined parlor bites would figure slightly less.)

Now, of course, in case these poor sumps had doughnuts only once a year, they would run into real society prices; their two doughnuts would cost them in the neighborhood of \$600. We know you can buy union-made for less than that.

Remember the old saying "You can't eat your cake and have it." That goes equally well for these here doughnuts, and we know we'd choke to death on 'em because we suspect they were baked at the headquarters of the Citizens Alliance and so naturally wouldn't be any good for a working man's digestion.

Well, anyway, the next time the Nelsons on Mount Curve give a doughnut party for chauffeurs we'll all be there, because after all, we won't have to pay no \$600 and we're just curious to taste such expensive stuff even though

LOANS

\$20 to \$300 loans are made to wage earners and salaried people to meet financial emergencies or to take advantage of business opportunities.

HOUSEHOLD LOAN COMPANY
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IF SO, why not run a dance for the benefit of your group at the Beautiful

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Mortuaries That Are Fair

The following funeral homes are classed as FAIR to organized labor and worthy of your patronage:

- Anderson, Barney & Son, 3644 Chicago Ave.
- Anderson Bros., 1117 East Lake Street
- Anderson, Henry W., 1839 East Lake Street
- Anderson, W. A. (Ehrenstrom), 1825 Riverside Ave.
- Billman, Dan, 2518 Central Ave.
- Burr Funeral Home, 3040 Lyndale Ave. South
- Davis, Harvey, 4084 West Broadway (Robbinsdale)
- Enga Memorial, 1300 Lowry Ave. North
- Heinrichs Funeral Home, 902 West Broadway
- Kozlak, Peter Funeral Home, 1918 University Ave. N. E.
- Larson, O. E., 2301 Central Ave.
- Peterson Funeral Home, 1838 Central Ave.
- Sullivan, Frank D., 2617 Hennepin Ave.
- Swanson's Mortuary, 1610 Lowry Ave. North
- Sundseth Funeral Home, 2024 Lyndale Ave. North

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

Bowlers in Stride After Vacation

Two weeks' vacation didn't hurt the bowling of the league-leading Bakery Drivers, who won three games Monday night from Local 221. M. Mickelson had 572, F. Stanley, 540. Soft Drinks took the series from Oasis Bar. T. Murphy had 560, H. Richardson, 533. Kenzies took the odd game from the Meat Drivers. D. Curran's 576 led for the evening. And Local 544 won a pair from Local 359, but still hugs last place.

Team	Won	Lost
Local 289	34	11
Kenzies	28	17
Soft Drinks	25	20
Oasis Bar	21	24
Meat Drivers	20	25
Local 221	20	25
Local 359	18	27
Local 544	14	31

If there is such a thing as evolution, there hasn't been any too much to suit me.—DON HEROLD.
It might be hard on our constitution.

Now, of course, when we do come to the party we reserve the right to wear our union button, because that little badge insures us against a lot of things, Citizens Alliance doughnuts included.

Anyhow, doughnuts or not, our entertainment committee (and a very able one it is too, Brother Sam and Carl) tells us we'll have refreshments at our next regular meeting, so don't forget Tuesday night, January 16, and also a prominent "advisor" is going to be there to tell us how to deal with "fink competition" so don't miss it.

We understand another War Referendum will be presented to this Congress and we wonder if in the face of all the petitions these so-called representatives of the people will have the outstanding guts to ridicule and laugh it off like they have before and deny us all the right to vote on war.

"Bill" Ambrose Says

"You fellows who need furniture better hurry down to Central and get your share of the bargains now offered in Central's Warehouse Cleaning sale. I know lots of folks are buying because I have to deliver the goods."

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The Generation Department Credit Union will have its annual meeting January 16th, at 4:30 p. m. at Riverside. Be sure to attend and elect your candidates. Several interesting proposals will be brought up. Their interest charge is now 7/10 of 1%, lowest in the state.

Herb Kjellberg is all fired with enthusiasm. He is on the Working Rules Committee for the operators.

We'll bet that 99 9/10 of the raises the boys got went back into industry.



GRAIN BELT BEER
THE FRIENDLY BEER

Labor, Farm Leaders Honor WPA Defendants

Indicted Strikers Are Honored Guests at Banquet Saturday in Dyckman Hotel—Heads of State Federation of Labor, Farmer-Cooperative-Labor Council, Speak—William Green and Dan Tobin Send Warm Messages—Lawson Upholds Right of Labor to Strike Against Government—Banquet Raises \$100 for WPA Defense Fund.

About four hundred people gathered in the banquet room of the Dyckman hotel last Saturday night as labor and farm leaders from throughout Minnesota joined in honoring the 162 indicted WPA strikers, who, with their spouses, were guests of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union.

George Murk, chairman of the AFL-WPA Defense Committee, was toastmaster and introduced those who spoke in honor of the defendants. The banquet was an inspiring example of the solidarity with which organized labor and the farmers have grouped themselves around the victims of the federal government.

Among the speakers of the evening were Robert Olson and George W. Lawson, president and secretary of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor; John Wisdorf and Paul Rasmussen, president and secretary of the Minnesota Farm - Cooperative - Labor Council; Aldermen Kauth, Hudson, Hendricks and Hudson; County Commissioner Guy Alexander; Attorneys John Goldie and Tom Davis; President John Boscoe of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union; Al Hanson, chairman of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, etc.

Brother Boscoe in introducing George Murk called attention to the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Murk were celebrating their 27th wedding anniversary that day, and the couple were warmly applauded.

"To Honor Defendants"

Toastmaster Murk stated that "We are here to do honor to the WPA defendants who chose to cooperate with the labor movement at the time the Woodrum amendments took effect. Those defendants had every reason to believe that labor was right in protesting the attack on the unemployed."

Murk paid a warm tribute to the 37 defendants who have so far stood trial, and to the 33 who have been judged guilty "by a jury that could not and did not understand our problems."

Warm Wire from Green

The toastmaster read a sympathetic telegram from President William Green of the AFL, regretting his inability to attend and recording that "The indictment and conviction of WPA strikers in Minneapolis has aroused resentment among all working class men and women." Green pledged the support of his office to the strikers.

ers. Full text of the telegram is printed elsewhere in this issue. Its reading was heartily applauded.

The president of the State Federation, Robert Olson, stated he would never admit that labor hasn't the right to strike against anyone committing injustice, including the United States government. Olson condemned the injustice of the mass trial and voiced his conviction such trials were a threat to all workers. "The State Federation of Labor will continue to do everything possible to alleviate the situation of the defendants," he pledged.

Can Strike vs. Government

The Federation's secretary, George W. Lawson, commented that the extent to which organized labor had rallied to the defense of the strike victims certainly exploded the theory that unions are selfish and narrow-minded organizations caring only for their own members. "I do not want the functions and faith of the trade union movement left in any legislative body," he stated. Lawson hit at the current government prosecution of unions under the guise of anti-trust law enforcement, and predicted that the result may make the WPA strike look like a pink tea.

"I, too, do not subscribe to the theory that 'you can't strike against the government,'" said Lawson.

Farmers Very Sympathetic

Paul Rasmussen of the F.C.L. Council assured the labor leaders and the defendants present that the farmers of Minnesota are very sympathetic to the persecuted victims. "I hope my children can someday read in the history books that since the Minneapolis strike trials back in 1939, mass trials and excessive bail have been done away with in the United States," he said. The labor aldermen each pledged support to the strikers and Alder-

Scene of Labor's Banquet Honoring WPA Strike Defendants



man Ed Hudson made a spirited plea for the independent action of organized labor on the political field, as did Al Hanson.

County Commissioner Alexander, an official of the Electrical Workers Union Local 292, surveyed the failure of the various attempts by the national administration to solve the pressing problems of unemployment.

"Was 'Moscow Trial'"

It remained for Attorney John Goldie to make the most rousing speech of the evening. "There is only one way labor can attain success and that is through its militancy. Right or wrong, I stand by these WPA strikers," he stated to sustained applause.

Goldie likened the mass trial of 25 strike defendants to the Moscow trials. Stormy acclaim greeted his closing statement that "So far as the labor movement is concerned, none of you defendants are felons. You are honored heroes."

Farmers Concerned

John Wisdorf, president of the Farm-Cooperative-Labor Council, was hailed appreciatively when he voiced his sympathy with all the indicted strikers. Wisdorf stated that farmers were very much concerned lest the "conspiracy" charge under which the Minneapolis unemployed are being convicted be applied to farmers and farm organizations.

Pictureque Tom Davis, when it came his turn to speak, said "the trial of these cases has been a lesson to me." He blasted the corrupt daily press for poisoning public opinion about the unfortunate strikers.

Other attorneys active in the defense, and representatives of the labor press, were introduced to the diners.

Longest applause of the evening was reserved for the defendants when Murk asked them to rise in a body. The defendants, 143 of whom attended the banquet, were as fine-looking a group of men and women as one could find any-

Sentencing of WPA Strikers Is Postponed

The sentencing of the eight WPA strikers convicted of "conspiracy" in the first two WPA trials, scheduled to take place Monday morning, was indefinitely postponed, it was learned this week.

The postponement was occasioned by the absence from the city of Defense Attorney Tom Davis, and because of Judge Joyce's calendar for the coming weeks.

Metcalf Is Speaker At Phyllis Wheatley

John C. Metcalf, newspaper reporter and congressional investigator, will speak on "Uncovering Un-Americanism" at the Phyllis Wheatley settlement house, 809 Aldrich N., Thursday, January 11th at 8 p. m. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is sponsoring the forum. The public is invited.

BUY UNION LABEL GOODS

where, and it made a person proud to honor them.

Many Unions Represented

Over a dozen St. Paul unions, about forty Minneapolis unions, and locals from Red Wing, St. Cloud, Sartell, Hibbing, Brainerd, Mankato, Duluth and Cloquet, as well as officers and vice-presidents of the State Federation of Labor, and officers of the Minneapolis and St. Paul city central labor bodies, were guests at the banquet.

More Than Pays Expenses

Tuesday morning L. Clair Johnson, treasurer of the WPA Defense Fund, announced that the response to the banquet from unions throughout the state was so good that at least one hundred dollars had been raised for the Defense Fund through the banquet. The affair was not held as a money-raising event but rather as an occasion to demonstrate publicly the honor with which wide sections of the populace regard the victimized WPA strikers.

ANOTHER LOAD From City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664

By Wally Raze

The new officers were sworn in last Friday evening. Brother Prindle is president, Brother Seavey, vice-president and Bill Holter retained the job of secretary-treasurer. The meeting was not crowded but made up for that by being very vociferous—noisy, to youse guys.

I see by the papers that one fink plaintiff has withdrawn from the 544 law-suit, evidently fearful of what the defense attorneys would prove about him, should he appear on the witness stand. The case has developed more angles than Lady Flushbottom, so I may be wrong, as usual.

Publisher MacPadden has released another heart-broken moan over the restrictions that have been placed on rugged individualists by the government the past few years. Bernarr still wants to return to the old G. O. P. pig-trough system—you know, the one that let the biggest pig lie lengthwise in the feed-trough. Of course, this method forces the small pigs to wander over the countryside in search of an occasional acorn, by which to sustain themselves. In the meantime, the big hog just lies alongside the trough waiting for the next meal-time to roll around and get fatter and more hoggyish by the minute. The wise hog-raiser pens these big boys away from the smaller ones and feeds them plenty. Still, they squeal to high heaven when they see the little fellows getting a few square meals which they can't get at. It is quite evident that all porcine proclivities are not entirely confined to pigs.

The Star-Journal finally came out with a splurge about the Kids' Christmas Party. It was printed ten days after the affair took place. The heat must have been poured on that swindle-sheet plenty. But better late than never and it's all over now, as the feller said when he fell in the tar-kettle.

On the sick list: Brother Cliff Freeman, at Vets' hospital. Brother Nels Lange of the Park Board, in General Hospital.

Brother Charley Rudeen, Park Board, at home. Brother Lien, Sewer Department, who was badly slugged last week. The membership extends best wishes for speedy recoveries.

Brother Ed Vogel, our diminutive sergeant-at-arms, has recently convinced me that at times, seniority rights can be a distinct pain in the neck, believe it or not, even to a good union man.

Say, Brother Lunde and Home James—my curiosity is aroused to a feverish pitch over your many references to "77th and Plowed Ground." What and where is it? I've got to the point where I lay awake nights, cogitating on this matter. Come on, pals, and slip me the low-down, huh?

Brother Stan Fisher, so I hear, has pulled up stakes and lit out for California. Good luck, Stan.

Are your dues paid up?

With the Dairy Workers Local 471

George Bergquist

Installation of our officers for 1940 was held at the last membership meeting; our past President Harry Warham officiated and administered the oath to the board and business agents. The only thing lacking was our usual good crowd; their presence would have added color to the ceremony.

Brother Sig Edwardson died last Thursday at General Hospital. Sig was an "old timer;" he worked for Elwell Farms years ago, later at Rainbow and last for Superior. In 1936 he went on card and never re-entered the dairy industry. Brother Edwardson had no family, nor any relatives in this country so Local 471 will bury him in a cemetery at Brooklyn Center. Sig was a hard worker, a good union member and was unusually good-hearted.

We might as well get the habit at once; that of punching the time clock when we begin work and again after we have completed our day's toil. To do so became mandatory last Tuesday when the membership established the requirement as one of our by-laws. In the future, in several ways this new by-law will be of great help to us. We hope that all of us can begin at once and make a 1940 habit of punching in and out every day.

Frank E. Rennie, president of

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One Block from General Drivers
UNION HEADQUARTERS

The 289 Blab

By A. M. Ogren

Next meeting will be Cake and Pie drivers, Thursday afternoon, January 18, at 4 p. m.

Cards of thanks were received from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hatcher and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mercer and family, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Solberg and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Green and family and also from Phil Sturdevant. We all sincerely appreciate hearing from you.

We note that Svendahl, one of the five who charged 544 with mis-handling of funds, has withdrawn his name. Where—we've been wondering—do these men get the money to prosecute 544? All of the plaintiffs in the case are comparatively poor men. Yet, they seem able to afford a \$50 per day attorney. Think that one over, my friends.

Now that we have gotten over

the International Association of Milk Dealers, made the following statement at their recent convention in San Francisco. "We may safely assume that Americans do not want low cost milk if they must obtain it at the expense of employment of thousands of route men and lowered returns to the farmers."

There is an annual award of Pasture medals to milkmen of the United States who perform some valorous deed while making their route. Twelve awards were made in 1939 and the Gold Medal went to Fred Richardson, Marin County Milk Co. at San Rafael, Calif. Loned-handed, in the early morning hours, he put out a brush fire which threatened Mill Valley. A few years prior a similar fire had destroyed one hundred homes. Hereafter, let's keep account of the doings of Local 471's members and see that their names are entered.

Brother Jorli Johnson, No. 91, carried off the free dues and assessments for February in the drawing last meeting. Several other brothers could have won, had they been present: 407, 730, 1813, 427, 819, 322, 62, 813, 1331, 816 and 185.

Local 471 girls have made a nice success of their union. About a hundred strong, they already have a treasury of \$1,200.00. During 1939 they donated \$170.00 to help others. Besides carrying their sick benefit they put on a couple of banquets for their members. During 1940 they plan to increase the sick benefit. We congratulate our sister members and certainly are proud of them.

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YELLOW TAXI CO.

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the holidays, it seems kinda hard to keep our minds from wondering, "Where shall we go this year for our vacation?"

We note with pleasure the advent of "Ralphie Daphnie" Anderson as the new columnist for the Zinsmaster "mixer," a monthly published by Zinsmaster for employees. He is writing under the name of R. F. Anderson and has aptly named his column "Spares and Blows." Good luck, Ralph. You'll need it.

We offer condolences from this column and the entire local to Joe Nairn of Continental who had the grievous misfortune of losing both his mother and father last week, both of them dying as a result of an automobile accident the first part of the week at Miami, Florida, where they lived. Joe is down there now to take care of things.

In the 544 election held last week all candidates for re-election were returned in a 3 to 1 landslide. Carl Skoglund, president, George Frosig, vice-president, Kelly Postal, secretary-treasurer, Ray Rainbolt, recording secretary, who succeeded Grant Dunne, (Grant declined because of ill health), Curt Zander, trustee, and "Mickey" Dunne, trustee.

One week from next Saturday is the big 289 social event of the season, the Second Annual Dance, January 20. See your steward for tickets. Come on, let's care for one night, throw your cares away and come up here and enjoy yourselves. You're only young once. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Come on, let's dance!

To the laidez: My first recipe, from Mrs. Harold Simons, for a simple dessert. Take one pound of sweet chocolate, melt in double boiler, stir in a box of Rice Krispies, Puffed Wheat or Post Toasties. Let cool slightly. Then dip out with a large spoon, putting each spoonful separately on wax paper to cool. Yum! yum! It's really good. I know, because I tasted it. Try it.

ORGANIZER WANT ADS

(If you are a subscriber, your ad will be published free of charge. Mail or phone the Northwest Organizer, 253 Plymouth Avenue North, Bridgeport 8741.)

Sale Miscellaneous

G. E. SUN LAMP, regular \$60 model, will sacrifice. 2601 19th Ave. N., Hy. 1867. Apt. 7. BOARD AND ROOM for two men. All modern private home. 4321 Welcome Ave., Robbinsdale. LIONEL ELECTRIC TRAIN. Good condition. Ma. 6996, 2442 11th Ave. S.

To All Trade Union Members

So many workers applying for unemployment insurance have been rejected through their own negligence and misunderstanding of the law, despite the fact they are clearly eligible to receive such insurance, that the Federal Workers Section has set up a special department to deal with this problem. All workers seeking unemployment insurance are asked to get in touch immediately with Ed Palmquist before applying for such insurance. Palmquist will be in the office of the Federal Workers Section from 8:30-10:30 daily except Saturday and Sunday.

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DRINK KATO BEER

Northwest Organizer

Published every Thursday under the auspices of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

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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.

How the Daily Press Handled The Marlborough Tragedy

Whenever a community is shocked out of its lethargy by a monstrous tragedy such as the Marlborough fire, wide sections of the population begin to ask how such things could happen. On all such occasions it is the special job of the boss press to protect and cover up those responsible for conditions which could give birth to such tragedies, and to misdirect the attention of the populace along other lines, spurious and innocuous.

It is a liberal education to examine the means utilized by the Minneapolis daily papers to achieve this end with the Marlborough fire.

The Minneapolis Times-Tribune gets the palm for doing a particularly slick job. It was the first to "de-personalize" responsibility for the fire by blaming it on "a cigaret tossed carelessly into a garbage storage chute."

The people can feel resentment against a Minneapolis Tax Payers Association which hacks away at public services until the building inspection department of this city is woefully undermanned, incapable of carrying on inspections which would tend to protect the residents against such fires. The people can feel resentment against a Welfare Board which allows relief clients so little rent money that they are forced to live in dirty, unhealthy fire-traps. The people can feel resentment against city and state officials who have blocked every attempt to obtain federal housing funds for Minneapolis citizens. But the people can hardly feel resentful against—a cigarette!

The Times-Tribune is very sure a cigarette caused the fire. The omniscient editor of this paper can probably even inform his readers as to what brand of cigarette it was. No doubt it was a Camel, for this particular brand is said to burn considerably slower than competing smokes.

But evidently the Times-Tribune does not believe its readers will be entirely satisfied with this "explanation" of the fire, so in its editorial it contributes another helpful suggestion—lower taxes for owners of slum property! This breathtaking suggestion is so bold, it takes one's breath away. It is the wealthy owners of slum properties who, with their insistence on cutting down on social services, have so undermined the city building inspection department that "it's a joke," to quote a representative of that department. The cure, according to the Times-Tribune? Lower taxes, which will mean still fewer building inspectors. It is wonderful.

The Tribune, like its sister paper, surveys the Marlborough fire and can offer only—the same solution. "There is, for example, the matter of a tax system which tends to penalize property owners for improvements which might render such catastrophes less likely. So far as taxes are concerned, there is little present incentive to improve property," writes the Tribune editorially on the morrow of the fire.

No doubt the Tribune has taken a "Gallop" poll of the owners of slum tenements and has discovered that if property taxes were only lowered, these owners would spend the difference in improving their property so that fires would be less apt to occur. The Tribune may believe that large property owners act this way—we don't!

The Star-Journal, whose editorials are as a rule lighter in weight, hastens to absolve anyone from blame. "In this case (of the Marlborough fire) there is apparently no evidence of laxity, no basis for expose or crusade, no reason to believe that what happened was due to anybody's negligence or misfeasance."

The Star's solution? Nothing! Nothing at all, except to remind us that more people die in automobile accidents every four months than perished in the fire. This is undeniable, and the Star is one hundred per cent right in recalling this commonplace, as it so very often is. But more people are killed in imperialist warfare than by the Marlborough fire—and still this doesn't help us to get to the roots of the Marlborough fire and take steps to protect the people against the recurrence of such fires.

We don't think the readers of the daily press are satisfied with such smug and evasive answers. We know our readers would not be satisfied. Organized labor has a much sounder program to offer the public, and the Minneapolis Central Labor Union will no doubt present its program shortly to the city.

A good beginning for such a program would be the following proposals:

1. Demand that the responsible city officials issue a public list of all fire-traps, so that inhabitants may at least be warned of their danger.
2. Demand that the Welfare Board increase the rental allowance to relief clients so that they can afford safer quarters. The rich love to soothe their consciences by telling one another that the poor like to live in filthy surroundings. If anyone really believes this and wants to put his belief to the test, let him buy an apartment in 510 Groveland to ANY relief client in this city.
3. Increase the personnel of the building and fire inspection departments to their normal strength.
4. Demand that Stassen call a special session of the state legislature to establish a state housing authority which will make this city and state eligible to receive federal housing funds, through which a start can be made to clear out the filthy, contaminated and danger slums and furnish decent cheap housing.
5. Demand that the Federal government launch a ten-billion dollar public housing program that will put millions of employable unemployed to work and that will end the "Marlborough Menace" in Minneapolis and the nation.

Nash Finch Strike Solid In 4th Week

Ottumwa, Iowa—The strike of the Ottumwa Teamsters Union Local 388 against the local branch of the Nash Finch wholesale grocery chain is more solid than ever

Representatives of Drivers Unions in four Iowa cities met with Carl Keul, president of the Iowa Drivers Council, last Sunday to map plans for intensifying the fight against the Nash-Finch company. It was decided to extend the banner to all stores in three more Iowa cities who accept delivery of products from the unfair Nash-Finch firm. Such bannering is now being carried on in Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Marshalltown, as well as in Ottumwa.

as the conflict nears the end of the fourth week.

States Local 388's weekly mimeographed "Organizer" on the strike:

"The Nash Finch company is wasting a lot of money that should be used for wage increases for its regular employees by sending empty trucks around with two scabs on them. We also hear that they are being paid \$40 per week. This we consider gives the lie to the employer's first claim—that he could not afford the wages the union demands.

"The food brands sold by Nash Finch—OUR FAMILY, GOLDEN VALLEY, NASH'S COFFEE AND FABST BLUE RIBBON BEER—are getting dusty on the shelves, because working people refuse to buy them. In many cases merchandise in stock has been returned by the retailer to Nash Finch . . ."

File NLRB Charges
While the drivers' picket line, backed up by labor throughout Ottumwa and Iowa, cut Nash Finch business down to a mere trickle, the union has filed charges against the company before the NLRB for unfair labor practices. Mr. Voigt of the NLRB was in Ottumwa last week for several days and gathered dozens of pages of evidence against the company from strikers.

"Regardless of what the NLRB can do," states the union, "Nash Finch cannot sell its stuff to the working people of Ottumwa. So what? So the company will have to settle with the union!"
A strike against the Nash Finch branch in Grand Island, Nebraska, is threatening.

544 Moves To Dismiss Fink Suit

(Continued from page 1)
a dual union to Local 544; admitted that he had never asked permission to inspect Local 544's books, either at a meeting or from union officials.

Fisher, another plaintiff, told a lurid story of attending a Local 544 story where Miles B. Dunne, trustee of the General Drivers Union, told him "to sit down," and later came over to him and threatened him with a beating. When asked if anyone but him heard the threat, he replied in the negative. John Ryan, next on the stand, also admitted he had never approached any officer of Local 544 to ask for an accounting of union funds. He had never asked for an accounting at a union meeting. He had never been threatened or intimidated by the union.

Edward Corbett, fourth plaintiff, also admitted he had never sought an accounting through any of the union channels open to him. All plaintiffs admitted attending many meetings of the Local One set-up.

How Press Handled Case
The employer-controlled press has handled the fink suit in the most biased and unfair manner possible. Every fink charge, no matter if it is unsubstantiated and thrown out of court, is played up in big headlines. Every filthy innuendo against Local 544 that the finks, or Attorney Anderson or the labor-hating editors can think of, is made into headlines.

Those who receive their impression of the suit from the boss press will receive a completely distorted picture of what has actually occurred in court. That union members have nothing but contempt for the daily press is shown by the way they disregard the daily lies written about the trial and voted 544 officials back into office by the largest majority ever to obtain in a General Drivers Union election.

Dunne Reports on Trial
Monday night V. R. Dunne reported to Local 544's membership meeting on the course of the trial,

Green Wires, Urges AFL To Support WPA Strikers

The following wire from William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, was read Saturday evening at the labor banquet honoring all indicted WPA strikers:

Washington, D. C., January 5, 1940

George E. Murk
18 North 8th St., Minneapolis
Regret because of engagements previously made impossible to attend Labor's Dinner Meeting at Minneapolis on January 6. The indictment and conviction of WPA strikers in Minneapolis arouses resentment among all classes of working men and women. The American Federation of Labor sought to prevent such procedure through appeals that the government cease and desist in its policy of prosecution. Now we feel it has resolved itself into persecution. We protest the action taken. We deplore it. In our opinion men and women have a right to strike against injustice without being classified as criminals. We urge the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor to do all that lies within their power to have the sentences of WPA workers set aside.

(Signed) WILLIAM GREEN, President
American Federation of Labor

FDR Gets Strong Protest Against WPA Strike Trials

Last Thursday, January 24th, over a score of national trade union leaders and liberals joined in a letter to President Roosevelt asking him to "direct the Department of Justice to cease such un-American practices" as evidenced in the mass trial of WPA strikers in Minneapolis.

Among trade unionists to sign the letter were J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union; Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; George Counts, head

of the American Federation of Teachers; Joseph Padway, counsel for the AFL; James Carey of the CIO, etc. Well-known liberals to join in the protest were Upton Sinclair, Arthur Garfield Hays, David C. Mervin, Roger Baldwin, John Haynes Holmes, Daniel Hoan and Norman Thomas.

The full text of the protest letter follows:
Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned view with grave concern the nature of the Federal indictment and prosecution of 162 residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul, charged with conspiracy, to violate the relief act. The entire proceedings seem to be subversive of the true interests of justice and opposed to the letter and spirit of Constitutional guarantees for a fair trial.

The facts are relatively simple. During the recent WPA strike, Minneapolis WPA officials did not shut down the affected projects although the strike received overwhelming support in that city. Under such circumstances, the strikers and persons sympathetic to them began picketing such projects, action similar to that which took place in many other cities. On July 14, disorder on the picket line resulted in the death of one picketer and the wounding of several strikers and pickets after police had dispersed the picket line with bullets and tear-gas.

The indictments by a Federal grand jury took place soon afterwards, charging 162 persons with conspiracy to violate the relief act. It seems to us that the true purpose of the conspiracy clause in the statute was to punish attempts to defraud and cheat the government; certainly, Congress did not intend that this statute be used against organized labor. Such an interpretation of the law would transform the Republic from a government of law to a government of men.

Was Witch-Hunt
Further, the number of people indicted reflects a kind of a witch-hunt rather than any true consideration of the facts involved. The insistence of the prosecution upon mass trials of as many as 25 persons at one time (a process more suited to the mockery than the respect of law) is prejudicial against the defendants since the jurors, who might recall only the more damaging evidence, will apply such alike to all the defendants involved.

We note with special care the concern expressed by Victor Anderson, the U. S. District Attorney, in his final plea to the jury when he declared that "Minneapolis is not going to become the Moscow of America." The undersigned are greatly concerned about the dangers of Communism—far more, we venture, than is Mr. Anderson; however, we respectfully submit that such an issue was not germane to the trial itself, and his insistence upon raising this false issue was highly prejudicial to the cause of justice.

If any of the defendants have been guilty of any overt acts of violence, they are liable for these acts in the proper courts. It is inimical to our democracy that striking workers, engaged in peaceful picketing, are prosecuted under a Federal statute which was never intended to apply to such conduct and tried en masse, thus being refused a fair trial.

Call On the Dogs
It is our sincere hope, Mr. President, that you in the course of your official duties will direct the describing the background of the suit, the records of the five finks, and how in court their testimony and claims were being discredited. The trial report was heartily applauded. A roar of laughter greeted the speaker's report of Fisher's lying testimony that he had been told to sit down at a union meeting when he demanded an accounting suit, and that at a subsequent meeting Miles Dunne had threatened him with violence.

Independent Truck Chatter

By R. F. Hornig

A lot of good a big park board sponsor's fund is going to do us if all of it will be used up at once. Opening up this spring when most of us will have already lined up a job is a discouraging reward for those who had worked for a sufficient appropriation to keep our ITO trucks working during the winter. The big question is: Why does the park board, a Minneapolis institution, give all the breaks in the way of year around employment to WPA trucks, mostly from rural Minnesota communities and working at scab wages in preference to Minneapolis truckers who can be hired and worked under direct park board regulations and supervision? Why is it that Minneapolis union truckers must stand by all year to only receive calls for work during the best part of the construction season when opportunity for private employment is at its peak? Is that a way to reduce government costs and keep down the relief rolls?

Since so many of us are not working this winter it might be well to ask whether or not the payroll checks from private industry this year have been large enough to justify a claim for unemployment compensation insurance. Your Northwest Organizer has been carrying a notice for some time now that all unemployed who may think themselves eligible for benefits should see Ed Palmquist. Many ITO no doubt have a claim under the insurance regulations and it would be worth their while to investigate.

Gene, Bill Camp, Froysa, and others are getting a full course in court procedure these last few weeks but are not very appreciative. Routine examinations of witnesses are much too tiresome, they report.

Our bowling league has had to drop a team. Unless, perhaps, some of you fellows get together the last minute now and want to come in. News has come in that Johnny Hough has landed his old job with a surveying crew. Which practically makes him a hack driver for the winter . . . Belt Line dropped ten and is now down to 28 . . . Hennepin county found work for three ITO.

Year end prosperity notes as gleaned from the dailies: N. S. Power income gains . . . Export docks at N. Y. crowded to the hilt with \$18,000,000 worth of war materials waiting shipment . . . National power output of last week up . . . That's all right, but where are all our ITO jobs?

Special to Burke: For those of us who are getting a full course in court procedure these last few weeks but are not very appreciative. Routine examinations of witnesses are much too tiresome, they report.

Don't Buy

Nash Coffee
Pabst Beer
Our Family
Golden Valley
Until Ottumwa Strike Is Settled

... the last word

By B. and C.

A newspaper man in Omaha wrote a series of articles on relief conditions for his paper. The young reporter lived with a relief family of five whose relief allowance was \$3.75 a week, adding his share of 75 cents. At the end of one week he found he weighed just five pounds less!

This is what happens in communities which have no organizations for the unemployed.

There is no relief granted at all to families in which there are employables. According to figures released in August by the Nebraska Division of Public Assistance, Omaha allows \$2.12 per person per month for "assistance." There is no allowance made for rent, lights, gas or fuel. Anything that is bought with funds provided by the N.D.P.A. must be purchased at a county store where prices are higher than average retail prices and where the selection is very limited.

We didn't get to the last word about that book we mentioned last week, "Color and Line in Dress." There was a good item especially for women whose hair is in that trying stage of turning gray. It suggests that they avoid colors which emphasize the yellow or brownish tints in their hair. For these women, browns and tans, especially yellow tans, are out. If you are one of them, be happy in the thought that when your hair turns really white, your troubles will be over, as then you can wear nearly any color.

There is a chapter on hats, too. But what's the use? Neither rhyme nor rule nor reason governs millady's selection of headgear. The only thing we haven't seen so far is a hat adorned with a neon sign flashing on and off as she walks down the street.

The other night we noticed six or seven lively women talking outside the office of the Electrical Workers Union, Local 160. They were talking about a benefit dance they are holding on Saturday evening, February 3, to raise money for the WPA defense. This is the first affair of its kind sponsored by any organization to aid in the defense of the indicted WPA workers. Admission to the affair is only 25 cents per person. It will be held at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. in charge of arrangements are Mrs. G. Balduz, wife of the president of Local 165, and Mrs. William J. Heigel, wife of 160's business manager.

This isn't the only way that this women's organization has helped the WPA defense, either. When the Central Labor Union held a tag day last October, about 160 of the wives of Local 160 members turned out to help solicit funds. They made a record for themselves by collecting more money than any of the other solicitors. Let's help them make their dance a success. You can obtain tickets from any of the members of Local 160 or from members of the auxiliary. We also have them on sale in the office of the Northwest Organizer.

Card of Thanks

To Local 289:
This is to express my sincere and deepest gratitude for the holiday basket sent to my family. Words do not express my appreciation to those brothers to whom I was a total stranger, but yet saw fit to give their fellow men a gift—the greatest of all—from the heart. I hope that some day I may be able to repay in an equal manner some needy brothers.

Charles Greene and family
There are two things in this world for which we are never fully prepared, and them is—twins.
—JOSH BILLINGS.

who like Harry's Cafe, we would like to mention that it is impossible to find out where his place of business is by looking at any Organizer advertising.

With the coming of at least one cold spell the coal haulers must feel somewhat better . . . A good reporter would have the names of your committee to give you at this time but "I fa' down." Anyhow, I do remember that two new members are Chet Herringer and R. Mengelkoch . . . Can't you ITO get your kids to enlist and give the government a break? The army is getting so hard up for recruits that it has had to put a glamor file program on the air in the hope of enticing more new blood into the ranks.

A special meeting will be called for all ITO interested in hospital insurance for the purpose of discussing our transfer into the Group Health Mutual. This organization is sponsored by labor unions and cooperatives.

On the National Picket Line

(Continued from page 1)

"I'm hungry," cried Mrs. John Hurben. "I've got a 5-year-old girl and she hasn't had anything to eat but milk for two days. I had some coffee the neighbors gave me."

Said Mrs. Gus Moore, widowed mother of three children: "I've been getting \$59.65 a month for myself and my two daughters. For the last month my son, he's eight, has been living with me and they won't accept him for aid. I was rated for a raise to \$61.80 because of my health, but Tuesday I got my first check from the State Aid to Dependent Children, and it was only \$30. Why my rent is \$35 a month."

"We're all facing eviction. I gathered these women together at the ADC headquarters to see what we could do to keep from starving."

"I was cut \$43," shouted another woman.

"You're lucky you got anything," replied another. "I didn't get any check at all."

The horrible relief situation in Detroit, Michigan, is told in the Detroit News. Says the News:
Typical of the mothers, and of their hopelessness, were Mrs. Myrtle Fitzgerald and her four small children. Mrs. Fitzgerald held her youngest child, Helen, 4, in her arms as she received the State's check from the postman—a check for \$64, a sum \$17.50 less than she received formerly. The \$54 must pay for food, shelter, clothing and all other expenses of herself and her brood for 31 days.

"I know we'll have hungry days, all of us, before the month has passed," she said. "This is so hopeless. I want to fight and to try to do something for my babies, but what can I do? That \$17.50 is the

difference between milk and eggs for the children.

"I am not going to watch them in want and sickness. I will not send them to school until something is done. We'll stay here at home and conserve every penny. I am not even going to pay any rent until I know the children will not be forced to go without food."

And while over seven thousand widowed mothers and their innocent children suffer in Detroit, the buck is passed between the city and state officials. Yesterday it was Ohio. Today it was Michigan. Tomorrow it will be Minnesota, other states.

The cities are bankrupt. The states are bankrupt. They are in debt 17 billion dollars. Only the federal government has the resources and credit to stem the starvation that stalks the cities of America. And the president has just proposed NEW cuts in relief. has just proposed to throw another 500,000 workers off WPA, back on the cities and the states.

Because the president has HOPE. He HOPES "a continued expansion of business would diminish relief requirements." The president HOPED the same thing last Spring when he cut half a million workers off WPA.

You have to give a man credit for HOPING—even if, in the meantime, a million women and children go hungry, sicken, die. Besides, we certainly have to have those billions of dollars worth of new battleships to appease the hunger of the poor, to dry the tears of little children.

HOW THE BOSSES GET BY
"What is executive ability, father?" asked the serious lad.
"Executive ability, my son," was the reply, "is the art of getting credit for all the hard and dirty work somebody else does."

UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

LOCAL 471 General Membership—First and third Tuesdays each month, 7 p. m. Girls' Section—Second Tuesday each month (7:30 p. m.)	LOCAL 160 General Membership—First and third Thursdays Seniority Board—Every Monday Executive Board—Every Tuesday Stewards—Wednesdays preceding 1st and 3rd Thursdays
LOCAL 131 Second Thursday each month, 8 p. m., third-floor.	LOCAL 221 Day Laborer Section—First Tuesday each month. Independent Truck Owners Section—Second Tuesday each month.
LOCAL 259 Second Monday of each month.	LOCAL 1859 General Membership—January 3 Box Industry—January 9 Casket Industry—January 15 J. R. Clark Section—January 17 Puffer-Hubbard—January 18 Grievance Board—January 4 and 18 Executive Board—Every Friday, 8 p. m. Twin City Stewards—January 8 and 22 General Membership—February 7th
LOCAL 1086 The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.	LOCAL 20481 General Membership—January 3rd
PETROLEUM DRIVERS Regular Membership Meeting—First Wednesday each month.	LOCAL 958 Night Drivers—1:00 p. m. third Thursday each month. Day Drivers—7:00 p. m., third Thursday each month.
LOCAL 977 General Membership—Second Monday each month, 9 p. m. Grievance and Seniority Boards—Each Thursday, 7 p. m. Stewards—Fourth Monday, 9 p. m.	LOCAL 544 January, 1940 Monday, January 1—Package Delivery, Department Stores Wednesday, January 3—Sausage, Petroleum Thursday, January 4—Greenhouse, ITO Friday, January 5—Job Stewards Monday, January 8—General Membership Tuesday, January 9—Lumber Wednesday, January 10—Market, Excavating Drivers, Wholesale Paper Friday, January 12—Wholesale Grocery, Meat Drivers Monday, January 15—Furniture Stores, Coal, Printing Thursday, January 18—Tent and Awning, Newspaper (10 a. m.) Friday, January 19—Job Stewards Monday, January 22—Spring Water Wednesday, January 24—Sand and Gravel Thursday, January 25—Transfer and Warehouse, Wholesale Drug Friday, January 26—Cold Storage Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. in Hall 3 Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. in Local 544 office. The Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 10 a. m. in the large hall on the first floor. All regular meetings start at 8 p. m. unless otherwise designated.
LOCAL 289 Retail Drivers—First Thursday, Wholesale Drivers—Second Thursday. Yeast Drivers—Third Tuesday, Cake and Pie—Third Tuesday, General Membership—Fourth Thursday. Inside Workers—Last Saturday, 3 p. m.	LOCAL 346 Regular Membership Meeting 2nd Monday each month, 8:30 p. m., 4th Monday each month, 1:30 p. m.
LOCAL 103 Regular Membership Meeting—First Monday each month. Executive Committee Meeting on call.	PRIVATE CHAUFFEURS The Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Local 912 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month.
LOCAL 275 Tea and Coffee Drivers, Local 275, meets the first Friday of every month.	LOCAL 359 Stewards—First and Third Tuesday. Regular Membership Meeting—Fourth Tuesday. Executive Board—Regularly every Monday.