

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

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

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wis. Madison, Wis.

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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

VOL. 5, NO. 48

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1940

FIVE CENTS

NSP Boasts \$1,000,000 Fund to Break Local 160

On the National Picket Line

Marvel Scholl

March 18th marks the 69th anniversary of the Paris Commune. On that day in 1871 the workers in Paris overthrew the capitalists and their government. It marked the first time in history that the working class of people held power in a nation. Forty-six years later the workers of Russia, drawing on the lessons of the Paris Commune, also threw out their bosses and bankers and established a workers' government.

The history books don't tell us much about the meaning of these events, but they are interesting for every worker to study.

The revolution in Paris took place during the course of the Franco-Prussian war. Bismarck had defeated the corrupt French government and the French boss army. Only the national guardsmen defended the city of Paris against Germany.

When it became apparent that the Paris workers had got it into their heads to be masters of their own fate, France and Germany declared a truce, and the French bosses sent the French troops to disarm the Parisian workers. The workers' guns had been purchased by popular subscription, for the purpose of defending their beloved city against Germany.

The workers in Paris refused to give up their guns, and instead turned them on their enemies at home and drove the employers and their government out of Paris to Versailles. The Paris workers then set about organizing their own government, the Commune—what the Russian workers would call a Soviet and what we in America would call a Workers Council.

Under tremendous difficulties, besieged by both the French and German armies, the Paris Commune set about the task of setting up a workers' government, a REAL democracy for all the people. Although the experiment lasted only a couple of months, the results obtained by the Commune demonstrated what can be done by workers when they finally decide to govern themselves.

First, all delegates to the Commune were elected by popular referendum and were subject to immediate recall by their own constituents if they failed to carry out the will of the people. Secondly, the wages paid these delegates were based on the wages received by skilled workers and could be no higher. Thus, the temptation for a government representative to create bureaucratic control for himself was eliminated.

Those were busy days. Conditions among the masses of people were terrible. Under the heel of Louis Bonaparte and later under the so-called Republican order, heavy duties were imposed on the people to maintain the clergy and the church. One of the first tasks of the Commune was to separate the church and state, to discontinue all payments by the state to the church, to declare all church property state

(Continued on page 4)

National Campaign Launched to Free All WPA Prisoners

Organized labor throughout the United States will be asked to support the campaign demanding that President Roosevelt grant executive pardons to all the imprisoned Minneapolis WPA strikers, the Central Labor Union's WPA Defense Committee announced this week.

The Defense Committee within a few days will send letters to all International Unions, to all city central bodies, and to all local unions in Minnesota, asking these organizations to go on record in support of the campaign for the freedom of the victimized WPA strikers.

The Stenographers Union Local 17661 has placed the services of a stenographer at the disposal of the Defense Committee, to facilitate getting out the letters.

544 Approves Pardon Demand
At its general membership meeting Monday night, the General Drivers Union approved a motion to draft a resolution supporting the campaign of the WPA Defense

Committee for a pardon for all WPA strikers.

Last Friday night Local 544's Federal Workers Section, from which organization many of the imprisoned strikers come, likewise approved a resolution in support of the drive for executive clemency for the 14 Minneapolis WPA strike prisoners.

Strikers' Wives Report On Visit to Sandstone

An interesting report on conditions among the WPA strike prisoners at Sandstone has been compiled from the wives who visited their husbands at the prison last Sunday, the first day on which the Minneapolis strikers were permitted to have visitors.

Wives of all the WPA prisoners were able to make the trip, with the exception of Mrs. Totino. The wives express their deep thanks to the Central Labor Union's WPA Defense Committee and to Miss Eose Seiler who made possible the transportation to and from Sandstone.

The prison itself is described as resembling a lone military outpost in the wilderness, approached over a bumpy, rock-strewn and narrow road. The land surrounding the prison is barren, flat and treeless. At the approach to the prison, a guard steps out and asks your business, instructs you where to park and directs you to the entrance.

Inside the building one can observe nothing but sky, rocks, solitude and silence.

See Husbands
Only blood relatives are permitted to visit prisoners. Visitors are told by a guard that there is to be no personal contact with the prisoners, and nothing is to be given the prisoners.

The "visiting room" is a long narrow corridor with benches on either side. A guard is stationed at each end of the corridor and the guards' chief concern is that no prisoner be touched.

The WPA strike-prisoners were called in from the outside where they had been playing baseball. All the men looked well-rested, although a bit pale because of the 30-day quarantine period during which they were subjected to rigorous physical examinations, intelligence tests, interviews, etc., and were unable to participate in any recreational activity. The quarantine period ended last Friday and some of the strikers have already been assigned to work. Floyd Hurley has been designated a painter; Ed Palmquist is a machinist; Max Geldman was designated a cigarette-butts-picker-upper.

Generally speaking, the boys are getting along nicely. They miss the Northwest Organizer, they miss their union buttons. They were pleased to hear that Ralph Core, imprisoned at the Parker Lake resort, not only wears his union button but has a current March-April button right now.

359 Presents Contracts to 2 Companies

Working agreements have been presented by the Warehouse Union Local 359 to the Wire Specialties company, 641 Northeast Cleveland, and the Boulevard Frocks company, 510 1st avenue north.

The union is demanding a reduction in the work week, and upward wage adjustments. Local 359 has several agreements that expire during March. Meetings of the various union sections will be held to draft demands for new agreements.

Warren Shade And 1859 Renew Pact

On Wednesday morning the agreement between the Warren Shade company and the Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 was renewed for another year, to expire March 31, 1941. One wage adjustment was made. The pact calls for a 50c hourly minimum for the first thirty days, and 55c thereafter. It is specified that women workers performing the same work as men workers still receive the same wage.

359 Renews Pact With Pliam Co.

The Warehouse Workers Union Local 359 and the Pliam Linoleum company, 1921 Washington avenue north, have renewed their working agreement for the coming year. The pact provides for a forty-hour work week at a minimum hourly wage of 60c. Vacations are granted on the basis of length of service with the company. The agreement will run to February 3, 1941.

544 Collects Back Pay For Many

Workers at the Booth Cold Storage, Minneapolis Cold Storage, and the Marine Fish companies received several hundred dollars in back pay this week as the union enforced its contracts against violations by the managements.

Workers at the Booth and Minneapolis Cold Storage companies received about \$200 for work they were supposed to have received but were denied, for the period from June 1st to July 20, 1939. A worker at the Marine Fish company, who was laid off out of seniority, received \$23.40 for 36 hours during which he was off.

Laundry Drivers Send Strike Notice

Following a meeting last Friday between the Laundry Drivers Union Local 131 negotiating committee and the laundry owners, during which no progress was made, Local 131 on Tuesday of this week sent a registered letter to State Labor Conciliator Haney and to the Cleaners and Launderers Institute, notifying them that the union was renewing its strike notice. The St. Paul Laundry Drivers Union Local 319, working in close cooperation with Local 131, has sent a similar notice.

The Friday meeting was arranged through the Policy Committee of the Central Labor Union. John Picago, representative of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, was in attendance, but absolutely no progress was made. A subsequent meeting Monday with Lloyd MacAloon, representing the laundry bosses, was also unsatisfactory.

In its letter to Haney, Local 131 recalls that its original strike notice of last November 28th was held in abeyance as the employers then appeared willing to continue further negotiations.

"We wish to advise you at this time that the negotiations have again broken down and we wish to renew the strike notice," writes Local 131.

Employers Stall
"The tactics on the part of the

employers have seemed to be only a stalling for time with nothing definite offered in the way of a compromise proposal. The Policy Committee of the Central Labor Union has attempted on two occasions to bring the parties to the dispute to an understanding with no avail. Also, a representative of our International union has attempted to intercede, with the same result . . .

"There are about 350 of our members who would be effected by a strike with this group of employers. The following people are representing Local 131 in their negotiations: L. Clair Johnson and M. B. Dunne of 257 Plymouth avenue north in Minneapolis and Sol Juetten of 347 University avenue in St. Paul."

Area Committee, Tobin Meet, Plan Sioux City Defense

North Central Area Committee Confers with President Tobin to Map Defense Against "Kidnaping" Charges Placed by Sioux City Bosses—Aim of Frame-up Is to Weaken Over-Road Organization—Sioux City Labor Paper Calls It "Most Outrageous Example of Malicious Persecution in 40 Years"

Aroused to the rotten injustice apparent in the "kidnaping" charges placed against three officials of the Sioux City Drivers Union, and alive to the dangers which this frame-up holds for every drivers' union in the area, the 14-state North Central Area Committee of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters held a special conference Friday in Indianapolis with President Daniel J. Tobin.

As reported in last week's Organizer, Howard Fouts, Ralph Johnson and Charles Cunningham, Local 383 officials, were arrested recently and charged with "kidnaping and holding for ransom." Cunningham is free on \$2,000 bail; Fouts and Johnson have been denied bail and are lying in the Woodbury county jail.

Aimed at Over-Road Unions
These arrests were the latest of a long series of attempted frame-ups designed to weaken and smash the Sioux City Drivers Union, an important link in the 14-state union set-up. Behind the frame-up are the anti-labor trucking employers of Sioux City and a similar employers in the area, the Sioux City Business Men's Association, their people in public office, the packinghouse companies, and the Union Pacific and Northwestern railroads.

In describing the latest frame-up, the Sioux City Unionist (issue of March 7th) states:

MALICIOUS PERSECUTION
"This present case in Sioux City is the most outrageous example of malicious persecution that has come to our attention during 40 years of active participation in labor union affairs . . . Let no honest friend of justice stop to cry over this case. This case is destined to become famous. Let every man and woman who believes in honor and

justice hold up his head and let there be no faltering . . . Describing the circumstances under which the frame-up occurred, the Unionist states:

This Is What Occurred
"One morning last week three truck drivers for a merchant of Havelock, Iowa, were in Sioux City. Two of them were members of Drivers Union Local 383. The Havelock merchant has not signed the over-the-road drivers contract. While going about their business in Sioux City these three drivers had some conversation with other drivers, members of Local 383, and it was suggested that these three men go to the headquarters of Local 383 and talk the matter over with union officers.

"These three men went to the Sioux City office of Local 383. THEY WENT FREELY AND OF THEIR OWN ACCORD. The three drivers went into the office of Fouts, who is business agent of the union. The three drivers talked with Fouts, talked by phone from Fouts' office with their employer at Havelock, then, when they got ready to go, accepted Fouts' offer to drive them back to their trucks.

"Nobody laid hands on anybody. The three drivers from Havelock were at all times as free to go and come as is any person who enters any office in Sioux City. They came of their own ac-

(Continued on page 4)

Local 110 Official Testifies that Frank Miller, Northern States Power Director, Boasts He Can Get Another Million to Break Minneapolis Utility Union—Commission Hearing Reveals Company Threats Against Union Officials, Members—Goldie Says He Has Never Seen Written Agreement Violated So Often as by Company—Negotiations Open, Hearing May Continue Past 30 Day Period—Locals 110, 160 Prepared for Strike Action If Necessary

With the thirty-day "cooling off" period expiring next Monday, March 18th, hearings of the three-man commission into the dispute between the Northern States Power company and its employees took a new turn Tuesday afternoon when both sides named negotiating committees which held sessions Tuesday and Wednesday. Should negotiations fail to reach a settlement, the commission is expected to resume its public hearing Thursday.

The charge that Frank J. Miller, personnel director of the Northern States Power company, had boasted several times that "the company had a million dollars to break the Minneapolis Local 160," was made last Saturday in the hearing by Dan Gephart, vice-president of the St. Paul Union Local 110. Gephart testified that Miller made this boast to him, and had added "When that million is gone, I can get another million." Another member of Local 110, McGrath, substantiated Gephart's testimony.

544 Book Probe to End Saturday

The inspection of Local 544's books and records by agents of the five plaintiffs was ordered by Judge Carroll to end this Saturday, March 16th. The judge notified the lawyers for the firms that the inspection, now in its sixth week, had gone on long enough.

It is understood that the plaintiffs will take about a week to prepare their case and then the hearing will continue before Judge Carroll.

The sixth article on the series "Behind the 544 Suit" appears on the editorial page. The article deals with the background and history of the Associated Independent Unions.

57 Workers Get \$7038 Back Wages

Back pay amounting to \$7,038 has been obtained for 57 employees of six companies in this area, the regional office of the Wage-Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor reported last week. The pay was due workers whose employers were chiseling on overtime pay. Largest sums collected were \$3,671 for 12 workers at the Wood Conversion company in Cloquet, and \$2,590 for 16 workers at the Twin City Bakery company, Moorhead. All the restitutions were made without the necessity of court action.

Complaints of under-payment and of other violations of the Wage and Hour Law may be filed in person or in writing at the regional office of the Wage and Hour Division, room 406, Post Office building, Minneapolis.

977 Negotiations Deadlocked Over Preferential Shop

With the negotiations between the Filling Station Attendants Union Local 977 and 24 companies apparently deadlocked over the bosses' refusal to grant the union's demand for a preferential shop, Local 977 announced that if its demand was not met by Thursday, it would send notice of intention to strike to Haney and the companies.

Local 977 received strike sanction from the Teamsters Joint Council last Friday night. The union plans to appeal for strike sanction to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Other union demands covering the 135 station attendants involved have been met. The union stated that whatever working agreement is won from the 24 companies involved will be enforced with all other companies where Local 977 attendants are employed.

Company Threats Bared
Officers and members of Local 110, appearing before the commission, testified to the countless violations of the union working agreement on the part of the company; the company's many efforts to intimidate officers and rank-and-file members of the union; the company's threats to workers to abolish their jobs if they continued their union activities, etc.

One Local 110 member, Ague, testified that a company representative told him he would be laid off in the spring if he went to the union to protect his seniority standing.

The company's desperate efforts to refute testimony of the St. Paul union as to the NSP firm's vicious labor policies were completely unconvincing. As startling as was some of Local 110's testimony, it is believed that the Minneapolis Electrical Workers Union Local 160 has still more shocking facts to reveal should the public hearing be resumed.

Officials of Local 110 testified that Frank Miller, when attending executive board meetings of the union, had poured out his venom on Local 160, vilifying and abusing its officers. It was stated Miller often threatened that "if I can't name the officers and board members of Local 110, there won't be any union."

Goldie in Brilliant Summary
Tuesday afternoon, when the testimony was summed up for the commission, John Goldie, who is acting as attorney for the unions, made a brilliant summation. "For a public service corporation depending on the suffrance of the public for its existence, the testimony of the St. Paul employees has revealed that in the company's attitude towards its workers there is too much of the master-and-servant relationship," said Goldie.

"In the thirty years I have been active in labor negotiations, I have never witnessed so many violations of a signed agreement as the Northern States Power company is guilty of."

Commission Is Fair
In the opinion of union officials and neutral observers at the hearing, the three-man commission headed by Earl J. Lyons has been scrupulously fair to both sides in hearing the testimony presented. In consideration of the just attitude of the commission, the joint union negotiating committee has agreed that if the hearing should continue beyond next Monday, the unions will grant the commission a reasonable time to prepare its report to the governor.

A suggestion last Friday by the commission that the hearing be ad-

(Continued on page 4)

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Boss Papers Suppressed This Report on Housing Issued by Grand Jury

The employer-controlled daily press of Minneapolis, acting in the interests of the Minneapolis Property Owners Association, completely suppressed the report by the Housing Committee of the grand jury, made last Saturday. Below we print excerpts from this sensational report.

The daily press sought to cover its suppression of the housing report by screaming all the more loudly about the tie-up between vice and the city's law enforcement agencies, as though it were news to any adult that there are a thousand strings binding together the underworld and the government.

The exposure by the grand jury of the almost universal disregard of housing laws by greedy property owners makes it easy to understand why the tenement owners don't want this report to see the light of day.

Jury Inspects Slums

The Housing Committee relates its visits to the Building Inspector's department, the Health department, and the Fire Prevention department, to learn of the various rules, ordinances and duties. Accompanied by a building inspector, the Committee made several personal inspection tours covering the area bounded by Cedar avenue, Franklin avenue, Lyndale avenue, North Broadway, Fifth street northeast and Fifth street southeast.

"We inspected many places and were particularly interested in that district which is commonly known as the loop area and the near north side and in all instances, except two, found flagrant violations of the Housing Code of Minnesota," relates the grand jury.

Fire Traps Abound

"The most common type of violation and, in the opinion of the Committee, the most dangerous type of violation from the standpoint of human safety was the lack of proper means of escape from a building in case of fire."

The report tells of the many buildings where tenants must pass through the living quarters of other persons in order to reach the fire escape or rear stairway, and how in many cases the doors leading to the exits were locked on the outside with a padlock, "making it impossible for persons to open such door and gain entrance into the apartment from whence they could reach the fire escape."

"This condition has been brought about because of the changes made from one family apartment or dwellings, as originally planned and intended when built, to multiple dwellings . . ."

"The Committee found there is a universal violation of the health standards, as required by the State Housing Code, for instance: The Housing Code requires that there shall be separate and individual toilets available to every family. In a majority of the cases we found one bathroom available for all tenants occupying two floors, and one toilet, in most cases, available for the tenants of each floor. We found basements

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
In District Court, Fourth Judicial District,
Royal Indemnity Co., Plaintiff, C. M. Kingdon, Substituted Plaintiff,
vs.
LaSalle Motor Car Company, a corporation, Frank W. Greaves, and J. George Fulton, Defendants.

The Receiver herein, having filed his Final Account, setting forth receipts of \$10,477.13 and disbursements of \$14,377.49, and a balance on hand in the sum of \$95.64.

And the Receiver herein having further filed his Petition praying for the allowance of said Final Account and the allowance of payment to him of Receiver's fees in the sum of \$95.64, and of this Court, for an Order discharging him as such Receiver, and his sureties, and closing said estate.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, That the Petition of the Receiver for the allowance of his Final Account and the allowance of additional Receiver's fees, and the discharge of said Receiver and his sureties, and the closing of said estate, be heard before this Court at a Special Term thereof on the 20th day of March, 1940, at the hour of 9:30 A. M., at the Court House in the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, That a copy hereof be mailed within ten (10) days of this date to each of the creditors of the debtor corporation, whose claims have been filed and allowed herein, and published once within twenty (20) days of the date of this Order, in the Northwest Organizer, a legal publication of the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Dated this 12th day of March, 1940.
BY THE COURT,
FRANK E. REED, Judge
JONAS G. SCHWARTZ, Receiver
339 Metropolitan Bank Bldg.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
March 14, 1940.

**Jos. W. Du Four
Coal & Oil Co.**
100% Union Concern
COAL - COKE - WOOD
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COAL IS 50c LESS
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occupied as living quarters in direct violation of the laws of the State of Minnesota and the ordinances of the City of Minneapolis, which prohibit basements being used for living quarters, except under specific, stringent regulations. We found several families living in basements which might be classified as cellars. Although the inspection was made in broad daylight and on days when the sun was shining, there was need for flashlights in order to find our way along and through hallways . . .

"We understand the Health Department makes routine inspection of certain business properties, as for instance: Beer parlors, saloons, restaurants, flop houses, etc., but apparently does not inspect or inquire into the conditions of the dwellings occupied by those unfortunate individuals who are compelled through circumstances over which they have no control to live there and occupy such dwellings."

"Testimony of many witnesses, augmented by records, indicate that multiple dwellings are not generally inspected by the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Minneapolis Fire Department; that inspection of buildings, including the loop area . . . are completed only once every fourteen months . . ."

Jury Resents Interference
Referring to the efforts of the Property Owners Association to sidetrack the grand jury in its housing probe, the report continues: "The Committee resents the apparent effort, or efforts, which have been made by certain individuals and organizations, through mis-statements, publicly and in the press, by telephone calls and in letters to the Grand Jury, attempting to influence it."

Finding that the owner of the Marlborough had complied with the housing and fire prevention laws and departments, the grand jury states that "we feel that, since the loss of life in the Marlborough fire was so great under almost ideal conditions for a multiple dwelling, the public should interest itself as to what the result would be if a similar fire was to break out in any of these multiple dwellings as hereinbefore mentioned and described, and as visited by this Committee."

Jury's Recommendations
Finding that whereas the city has increased its population by 100,000 since 1920 and yet today has fewer building inspectors than twenty years ago, the jury recommends the addition of inspectors.

"WE HOLD THAT WHERE THE ELEMENT OF HUMAN LIFE IS INVOLVED IN ANY DEGREE, NO COMPROMISE CAN OR OUGHT TO BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED. THE CONDITIONS HEREIN REVEALED SHOULD AND MUST BE REMEDIED . . ."

The report ends by recommending the following:
1. Creation of a commission of five, selected from the fire prevention, the building inspection and the health departments of the city, to inspect all multiple dwellings within the area investigated, to observe all violations, and to see that the laws be enforced.
2. That the city council enact

an ordinance requiring all owners or lessees of multiple dwellings of eight families or more to install reliable electrical fire alarm systems.
3. That future grand juries continue to investigate the housing conditions and, if necessary, take action to prosecute dishonest officials responsible for enforcing the housing laws.

Verifies Everything We Said
When housing conditions are so atrocious that even a grand jury finds itself impelled to make such a scathing indictment as is contained in the above report, one can understand that everything the Northwest Organizer has written about the need for a radical program to improve housing locally is the truth.

It is equally apparent, from events of the last few days, that public officials and the wealthy tenement owners are going to try to escape doing anything about the horrible housing conditions.

Just last Friday the city of Minneapolis asked dismissal of its test housing case against the apartment at 2600 Portland avenue, when the defense showed that to make the necessary improvements would cost more than the property was worth. If the city officials had been serious about acting to improve housing conditions, they would have chosen any one of the thousands of ratty unhealthy fire traps infesting the city instead of the structure at 2600 Portland avenue.

If the people of this city are serious about obtaining decent housing for all they must continue to press their demands for decent housing. And first of all they must press the demand for a \$10 billion federal housing program, which would provide decent homes not only for the citizens of Minneapolis but for all Americans, and would give jobs to the millions of unemployed.

**FUR CHUBBIES
Easter Specials**

Black Manchurian Wolf. \$29.50
Blue Fox Dyed Guanaco. \$39.50
Lynx Dyed Manchurian Wolf. \$49.50
Platinum Dyed Opossum. \$49.50
Mink Dyed Conies. \$18.50
Natural Red Fox. \$59.50

ATTENTION
Special low prices now in effect until April 1st on Repairing Remodeling and Relining of any kind of Fur Coat.
Change your old Fur Coat into a Beautiful Chubbie. Ask us for an estimate.
Lichterman Furs
1920 Hennepin
SHOP - COMPARE
Terms to Suit You

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
Elliott Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.
Heinrichs Funeral Home, 902 West Broadway
Johnson Undertaking Company, 1900 Hennepin Ave.
Kozlak, Peter Funeral Home, 1918 University Ave. N. E.
Larson, O. E., 2301 Central Ave.
Oakley, Otis H., Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.
Peterson Funeral Home, 1838 Central Ave.
Sullivan, Frank D., 2617 Hennepin Ave.
Swanson's Mortuary, 1610 Lowry Ave. North
Sundeth Funeral Home, 2024 Lyndale Ave. North
Simpson, Kenneth, Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.

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

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

Conditions at General Hospital have finally evoked the ire of certain proponents of the city manager plan of government to the extent that they are writing to the papers about them. These conditions have existed and have been discussed by thousands of our humbler citizens for many years but evidently the big shots are smart enough to seize the opportunity, not to improve the hospital so much as to publicize the city manager form of charter. This charter provides for a nine-man council to be elected from the wards which pay the greater part of real estate taxes. This makes possible the election of all nine by just two wards—the 8th and the 13th. Civil service will also be a thing of the past. Nice prospect for the common people, no? This scheme will come to a vote of the people sometime this year. I hope the working class knows how to deal with it.

Brother Charles "Ham" Martin is home with an abscessed eye getting along o. k. at this writing. Hope to see you back soon, Ham.

Anybody having authentic information on the condition of Brother Pearson, Park Department, please pass it on to me.

Incidentally, watinells the matter with you brothers in the Equipment, Sewer, Sanitation and Bridge departments? Ain't heard a peep out of anybody. A little news would be appreciated and I know that's news in them thar departments. If you're all dead, send in data on same.

Forty men are scheduled to return to work Monday, March 11, for a couple of weeks. It isn't all we could wish for but better than

**BAD
WEATHER?**
★
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BY TELEPHONE

Let your telephone do your roadwork these blustery winter days. It's the easy way to keep in touch with stores, with friends.

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

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Lichterman Furs
1920 Hennepin
SHOP - COMPARE
Terms to Suit You

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
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ANOTHER LOAD From City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664

By Wally Raze

Conditions at General Hospital have finally evoked the ire of certain proponents of the city manager plan of government to the extent that they are writing to the papers about them. These conditions have existed and have been discussed by thousands of our humbler citizens for many years but evidently the big shots are smart enough to seize the opportunity, not to improve the hospital so much as to publicize the city manager form of charter. This charter provides for a nine-man council to be elected from the wards which pay the greater part of real estate taxes. This makes possible the election of all nine by just two wards—the 8th and the 13th. Civil service will also be a thing of the past. Nice prospect for the common people, no? This scheme will come to a vote of the people sometime this year. I hope the working class knows how to deal with it.

Brother Charles "Ham" Martin is home with an abscessed eye getting along o. k. at this writing. Hope to see you back soon, Ham.

Anybody having authentic information on the condition of Brother Pearson, Park Department, please pass it on to me.

Incidentally, watinells the matter with you brothers in the Equipment, Sewer, Sanitation and Bridge departments? Ain't heard a peep out of anybody. A little news would be appreciated and I know that's news in them thar departments. If you're all dead, send in data on same.

Forty men are scheduled to return to work Monday, March 11, for a couple of weeks. It isn't all we could wish for but better than

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WEATHER?**
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Terms to Suit You

nothing and should convince many doubting Thomases that concerted action, even for an hour, gets results. Bear that in mind.

To Brother Watt Notes of Local 160: Your local is welcome to any plugs I can dish up and so are all other A. F. of L. locals in Minneapolis or any other town. I'm not going to worry over possibly a few days in the dark should Local 160 go to the mat with N.S.P. What worries me and many others are the thousands of workers throughout the entire nation who, having been "in the dark" concerning unionism, all their lives, prefer to grope along until the grave eventually swallows them. Even a candle would have helped their children who must follow in their footsteps.

Edwin Markham, the man who blasted the big shots very effectively and became world-famous in doing so, was buried a few days ago. If you want the most accurate description of the peasant and laborer ever penned by man and the reasons for his mental, spiritual and physical status, read "The Man With the Hoe."

See you Friday.

**Civil Liberties
In Wartime Is
Forum Subject**

V. R. Dunne will speak on "Civil Liberties in the Second World War" at the Sunday Forum on March 17th, 3 p. m., at 919 Marquette avenue. To those who recall the Minnesota Commission of Safety and its repressive activities during the First World War—the raids on union halls, the jailing of unionists—Mr. Dunne's exposition of what we may expect in the coming World War will be understandable. To those who escaped these days, his remarks will come as a revelation.

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Watt Notes

By Amps and Volts

Looks like someone is going to be hung over at the State Capitol. A scaffold is very much in evidence in the House Chambers.

The last membership meeting was very well attended and a larger turnout is anticipated at our next meeting Thursday, March 21.

Call the union office or the officers of the union at their homes next Friday evening to find out if there is to be a hearing at the State Capitol Saturday. If so, and you are not working, by all means make arrangements to attend. It will be well worth your while.

Although the proceedings at the State Capitol at times seem slow, it is quite interesting. If there are any "doubting Thomases" in our organization, they should make every effort to take in the hearings. They would then see just what the score really is and would be more union-minded men than ever before.

Just attend the hearing once and you will get behind your organization one hundred per cent and you will see why your officers feel as keenly as they do about things. You will be just as determined as your brother members are to see this thing through to a successful end.

President Baldus gave a very timely, informing and inspiring talk at our last membership meeting and the applause that followed his remarks show how keenly the membership feels.

Sorry to report Brother Muller's wife is ill. Our best wishes, Earl, and we sincerely trust it is nothing serious.

The discussion by Attorney Wargo on "Injunction Procedure" at the last stewards meeting created a great deal of interest and settled the doubts that existed in many minds.

It appears that not only the union members consult attorneys in St. Cloud on Wage and Hour laws.

The St. Cloud membership extends sympathy to the Faucher family in the loss of Mr. Faucher's father.

Who said there are no B-160 men in St. Cloud? The percentage of those eligible and who are in the UNION is over 80%. The last membership meeting showed this merely by counting noses.

We still have three linemen from St. Cloud (of the five laid off Jan. 1) who are on well-paid

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McDonough Leads Primary Race In St. Paul

John McDonough, Young Democrat who received the backing of the St. Paul Labor Progressive Association, led Mayor Fallon by 6,000 votes in the primaries held Tuesday in St. Paul. McDonough received 31,499 to Fallon's 25,842.

Herman Wenzel, labor-indorsed candidate, was nominated for comptroller, receiving 22,393 votes to 27,522 for Goodrich, the incumbent. The difference in the vote totals for McDonough and Wenzel is attributed to the fact that many Democrats supported only McDonough on the slate endorsed by the Labor Progressives. Most of the Labor Progressive candidates for the council were also nominated.

Rose Tillotson, Communist Party candidate for mayor, received 1,026 votes. Henry Rutnick, mayoralty candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, received 624 votes.

jobs in Michigan. These men went there as a result of the efforts of B-160.

We've been trying for the last two weeks to think what John Goldie puts us in mind of. We've finally come to the conclusion that it is a cross between a rat terrier and a bull-dog. He stands there waiting like a terrier for something to come out, and when it does he never lets go.

As in all his dealings, Mr. Miller on the witness stand is his usual.

It's worth while going over to St. Paul just to hear Goldie bark.

Heard on the job last week, just after one of the men had given an apprentice some job instructions. "Listen, buddy, that's inconsequential, irrelevant and immaterial."

SPORTS ITEM. Fishermen, did you ever see a worm squirm?

The new members initiated at the last meeting were well received by the membership.

At the next stewards meeting on March 20th, a man well versed in "Strike Technique," sent by the Labor School, will speak on that subject.

The charter, as requested by the International Office, will be open until March 20th for an initiation fee of \$25.

Local B-160 extends sympathy to the Ernest Carlson family in

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Quality inlaid in new patterns, color goes through to the back. DOUBLE CEMENTED OVER FELT. Material and labor complete. Sq. Yd. \$1.15

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6 and 9 ft. widths, patterns for all rooms, large remnants, square yard. 19c

6x9 FELT BASE
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Color goes through to back. Guaranteed long wear. 45 new attractive patterns at the price you expect to pay for printed floor covering. Square Yard 57c

WINDOW SHADES, high grade, guaranteed quality. Very special, each 45c

RUBBER STAIR PADS, with nosing, each 7c

F-L Convention Marks Time; Offers No Lead to Masses

As most Minneapolis unionists predicted, the biennial convention of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor association, held last Friday and Saturday in Rochester, dodged grappling with any questions, marked time, and brought forward no program to meet the burning needs of the workers, farmers and the unemployed.

The two-day session revealed that the present leadership of the Farmer-Labor movement has still not learned the lessons of its recent defeats, that it still tails after the discredited New Deal, that it is still incapable of giving progressive leadership to the mass discontent with the two old boss parties.

The one thing that characterized the five hundred delegates in Rochester was their mutual distrust and hostility towards the Stassen machine. On all other issues there was a diversity of opinion.

Will Meet Again

The question of endorsement of delegates was left to the second convention of the association, to be held in the summer, probably on June 22nd. The fight on Stalinism was made purely on constitutional grounds, and settled nothing. The matter of a program was also left to the future convention.

Former governor Phil LaFollette of Wisconsin addressed the convention the opening day, and advised the Farmer-Labor movement not to break with the old boss parties. LaFollette said that Roosevelt would be "entirely satisfactory as a Democratic presidential candidate."

Resolutions adopted praised Senator Ernest Lundeen for his fight against confirmation of Grotzback and Stolte; demanded repeal of the Stassen civil service law; approved the one-house legislature system; criticized the homestead lien law and the Stassen Slave Labor law; called for restoration of the law forbidding injunctions against unions in labor disputes; approved a statewide low cost housing program, etc.

whoop it up for ex-Governor Elmer Benson fell flat. In contrast to former years, only about twenty trade unionists attended as delegates from Hennepin County, and six of these were from the CIO. The St. Paul union movement was well represented, but Duluth and the rest of the state sent almost no union delegates. Only one unionist was represented on the credentials committee of nineteen.

Representative Ed Hagen of Milan was re-elected as state chairman of the Farmer-Labor Association; Ed Hudson of Minneapolis was chosen vice-chairman; Harold Peterson was re-elected state secretary.

The third district delegate question was settled by a compromise, each faction being seated and receiving representation on the state committee.

Results of the convention left the rank and file workers in Minnesota as apathetic towards the present program and leadership of the Farmer-Labor movement as they were before the convention.

1859 Serves Strike Notice on National Window Shade Firm

The Furniture Workers Union Local 1859, which has been seeking to negotiate a contract with the National Shade company containing union conditions won in similar Minneapolis firms, recently served the 10-day strike notice on this company when it refused to grant the union's demands. The 10-day period has expired.

The company has offered a 15% wage increase. Negotiations are still in progress. Eight men are involved.

TAXI TOPICS

By F. H. Lunde

Don't fail to attend the next regular union meeting.

Pat "Man Mountain" Hurley is "boondoggling" with a woodworking power tool set. We suppose his first project will be a chair large enough to hold his big frame while he draws a full breath or two.

Fred Settrum, the "Sage of Seventh Street," wants suggestions as to the proper trousers to wear because his "ice-man's" pants are too warm and "ice-cream" pants are still too cold. When the new hacks come he can wear his Sunday-go-to-meetin' pants.

Gunnar "Hill Billy" Blomgren is gonna wear those new shoes all summer because his children are big enough to be embarrassed with pa going barefooted in the big city.

The latest converts to the art of flying from Local 958 are Longly and Ramsey. We'll give you some more aviation news on all the flying hackmen next week.

The big runs of the week were all taken care of by Tony Manthis, who did an early morning jaunt to Austin, followed by two Shakopee runs in one night.

Willie "half a cup" Sorensen is brooding about the horrors of war since he heard that coffee is \$12 a pound in Russia.

To the man behind the men behind the throttle at the Minnesota Cab: It's considered bad form to ask the visitor to Minneapolis where the Chamber of Commerce is. We should know.

A good measure of back beer served once every hour ought to cure this spring fever. Anyway, Brothers Ben Erickson, Joe "The Cat" Sandberg, Vivian Johnson, George "I make a motion" Reed and "King" Oscar Benson have store-boughten suits and real fancy "billed" shirts. If they're all rushing the same gal we think Big Ben's a cinch for the inside track.

Walt Pearson of the Y. C. unit offers this cure for the "phony" who always claims he's only got a "20" case note. When working as a nickel snatcher for the Street Railway he drew a "toonerville" pull-out and about the third time the same lug pulled that \$20 bill stunt, Walt was prepared and gave him \$19.94 change in pennies, nickles and dimes.

12th Ward F-L Club Card Party March 16

The 12th Ward Farmer-Labor Club will hold a card party at its hall, 2815 East Lake Street, on Saturday evening, March 16th. The regular meeting nights of the club have been changed to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

With the Limousines

By Home James

We know what a dog's life is now. Last week in front of the Women's Club when the 12 o'clock whistle blew, the door of a shiny LaSalle flew open and a uniformed chauffeur popped out with a dish in one hand and a pound of hamburger in the other. After placing the meat in the dish, he bowed gracefully and announced: "Fido, lunch is served." Then to our amazement, out strutted a nicely groomed mut for its eats. But the lug never brought Fido a napkin. We'll bet that driver doesn't get his meals on time, though.

We hear of some of the employees want to be signed up as members—such goings on.

Brother Lilly has been laid up with an injured back for a few days.

Ray and Jack are still plugging along. New ones keep coming in steadily. Some of the boys that dropped out are taking advantage of the chance to get back in.

They say even if Carl can't play Poker, he can make darn good coffee, and we might add, he's not a bad plumber, either.

One reason why there's strife between Labor and Capital: The employers spent \$80,000,000 in one year for the sole purpose of spying on their employees, the LaFollette Civil Liberties investigation has revealed.

News comes that some tire company is going to throw a party for us soon.

By the looks of the office last Tuesday, Seavey is getting ready to organize the cops. That's swell. Call them out on strike, and leave them there.

What's become of our very good friend, Mr. W.D.W., out at Smith Auto Livery. We have missed his new brown suit and that car that he forgot where he parked it.

Well, the box for the column didn't yield much. But old Snoopy reports that Pinky is sick but still a fink.

LOCAL 1859 Knots to You

By Richard B. Gilmore

One of the brothers was on the East Side the other day, when a car went by that was laying down a smoke screen that would have been a credit to the navy. The car or driver could not be seen but I heard afterwards that it was Brother Charles Erickson of Warren Shade trying out a new kind of oil for his motor. Did it work? Ask him.

Over at Warren Shade company we are all wondering what happened to Dobell's bed. He was heard telling someone that he had a hell of a time getting to bed the other night. It seems that the said bed was running all around the room, but he finally managed to get hold of it and swing aboard and had to hold on like the devil to stay on the darn thing. It sounds more like a merry-go-round to me.

Some of the brothers had better look into their dues books and try to get them up to date on dues and on the \$1 assessment, before they run into difficulties.

It is a simple thing to keep them up if paid regularly. But fines don't feel so good. Also, if you are laid off, or get into trouble on your job, you expect the union to help you; but they will not help you if you won't help them by paying your dues promptly.

Brother Raymond says: "It's not how big a union is that's in the fight. It's how much fight there is in a union that really counts. If you won't admit defeat and keep on fighting, you can't lose."

Wonder who is going to pay fines this month for not attending meetings? Those who do not go should know.

We all welcome Brother Frank Newmuth who has returned to work after a long illness.

What is Gladys going to do with that \$104 a year raise she got on our new contract? We are hoping it will be beer for us some day at the shop. What do you say, Glad?

Thanks! Brother Raymond. At the Clark plant Harry Carlson broke the toe of his left foot Monday afternoon and will be confined for some time.

Ed Norgren had a chance to show some of his talent on a quiz program Saturday night over the radio. How'd you turn out, Ed? In a special report to the press, Ed said: "Well, I flunked every question but it wasn't the questions that got me. It was the answers that had me stumped."

Ed Sillampa was confined at home March 4th to 10th with pleurisy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mullins tripped the light fantastic out at the Friendship Club Saturday night.

Unfair Standard Oil Stations Listed by 977

Keep this list of unfair Standard stations in your car and refuse to patronize them:

- Standard Stations—Downtown
 - 13th and Harmon Place
 - 104 Glenwood Ave.
 - 7th and 2nd Ave. South
 - 4th St. and 2nd Ave. N.
- Standard Stations—South
 - Minnehaha and Lake St.
 - 50th and France Ave. S.
 - 22nd and Hennepin Ave.
 - 54th and Nicollet Ave.
 - 45th and Nicollet Ave.
 - Loise St. at Lake Calhoun
 - 50th and Xerxes Ave. S.
 - 50th and Penn Ave. S.
 - 44th and Hennepin Ave.
 - 38th and Minnehaha Ave.
 - 32nd and Lyndale Ave. S.
 - Corfield and Lake St.
 - 24th and Bloomington Ave.
 - 51st and Hiawatha
 - River Road and E. Lake St.
 - 27th and Hennepin Ave.
 - 44th and Chicago Ave.
 - 38th and 2nd Ave. S.
 - 22nd and Hennepin Ave.
 - 40th and Nicollet Ave.
 - 46th and Bryant Ave. S.
 - Excelsior and Minnetonka Blvd.
 - 26th and 1st Ave. S.
 - 54th and Lyndale Ave. S.
 - 38th and Chicago Ave.
 - Holmes and Lake St.
 - 22nd and Cedar Ave.
 - 42nd and 28th Ave. S.
- Standard Stations—North
 - 7th and Lyndale Ave. N.
 - Girard and Plymouth Ave. N.
 - Penn and 6th Ave. S.
 - Plymouth and Oliver Ave. N.
 - 37th and Fremont Ave. N.
 - Broadway and Rockford Road

Willie Warner and Gust Zetterman were there too, and I want to tell you they guys ain't no wall flowers, if you know what I mean.

Brother Joe Novak hurries home every night after work to see if Joe, Jr., has got a tooth yet.

Gassing With 977

The general membership meeting held last Monday night was well attended and the group reaffirmed their decision in regard to the final proposal for the new working agreement. It was nice to see so many of the Erickson attendants out, and then one of their number, Gordon Culhane, won the door prize; congratulations, Gordon.

The membership seem to be very enthusiastic about the medical care which may be obtained through the local. The cost of this union benefit is \$1.20 per year per member, and covers all medical service which does not require the attention of a specialist. Each member must be in good standing with the local, however, as a check is made with the office by the union doctor.

Secretary Davidson is assisting in the organization of the filling station attendants in Brainerd, and made a trip there this week. While in Brainerd, Davidson met with the State Conciliator and assisted in negotiations for the Brewery Drivers of that section.

Archie Dean of Apex Oil is confined to his home this week with the flu.

A rumor has been going the rounds that the members at the Co-op Service Stations were not being paid for over-time. The union investigated and report that the men are being paid for over-time at the rate of time-and-one-half.

Robert Tragasar was returned to work and will retain his seniority standing with the Petroleum Service drivers who are now employed by the Connolly Contracting Company.

The Co-op boys report that Andy Rost is working overtime to negotiate his new set of teeth; we hope the process is not as lengthy as to negotiate some contracts!

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MINNEHAHA GREENHOUSE 4258 40th Ave. S. Flowers, Plants, Floral Designs Members of The Setters and Truck Drivers Union DRexal 4402 DRexal 0974

With the Dairy Workers Local 471

By George Bergquist

A word of caution to all members who operate trucks, that they must have a chauffeur's license. Last week a couple of our brothers found themselves in serious trouble by failing to comply. Such a condition has existed throughout the entire year and the matter has become serious. We must all get a badge. In addition, get a drivers license for protection while driving your own car. In case of a mixup or accident during off hours you will not endanger your livelihood by involving your chauffeur's license. Make a point of getting your licenses one way or another. Possibly the officers of our union can give you some help or co-operation.

Our special order of business at last meeting, to decide about buying old East High, brought out some interesting figures and facts regarding the Labor Temple Association. One group insisted on nothing short of a brand new building; another group seemed to be satisfied with the East High proposal, but everyone united in being satisfied with our building lot which is paying its own way and increasing steadily in value. Our membership passed a motion that Local 471 cannot vote its stock for construction or the purchase of an old building until 80 per cent of the unions affiliated with the Central Labor Union become stockholders in the Labor Temple Association.

This week our best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery go to Gene Larson, our secretary-treasurer, who underwent a gall bladder operation at Swedish hospital last Thursday. Brother Larson insisted on a "union" hospital and had to put his doctor on the spot to operate at the Swedish hospital. His doctor came through, so possibly we can do likewise and build up respect among the medical profession in behalf of unionism.

Martin Rasmussen tried a new wrinkle which filled all of the front seats at our last membership meeting; he promised many brothers a "swell floor show" toward the end of the meeting. It has been a problem of long standing to get the front seats in use. If this "gag" wears out, possibly the Executive Board will have to come through with the real article.

Mike Lavery (153), on the first number drawn, won free dues and assessments at our last meeting; the good news gave him a bit of "buck fever" and we had a hard time to keep him under control.

We just learned there is one model milk setup in operation in Milwaukee, Wis.; that of state control. They name the price which the farmer is to receive, the price to the public and require all stores to maintain the wagon price. If our employers desired harmony and equalization they could establish a similar system.

Our union had four representatives at the Farmer-Labor State Convention held in Rochester, March 8 and 9; two as third district delegates and two from Local 471. A complete report on proceedings will be given at the next meeting by Thomas Ammerman, Ole Ogg, Sivert Gordon and George Bergquist.

In spite of our great attendance at recent membership meetings, a great many brothers have fines for failure to attend one meeting during two months. Our fined brothers need not get excited about paying the fifty cents; the notices are mailed out about the first of the month and you have until the fifteenth of the month to pay same. You can pay these fines with your dues and yet be in good

Fidelity State Bank Place your Federal Housing Loans and Auto Finance with us. The only bank controlled by Labor and business men INDEPENDENT

Be Wise! Skelly's Liquor Store Has Quality Buys The NORTH SIDE LEADING LIQUOR STORE 174 W. Broadway HY 9719

Office Furniture Files - Safes - Store Fixtures - Immense Stocks - New and Used WE BUY - RENT EXCHANGE JACOBSON FICTURE EXCHANGE 219 S. 5th St. MA. 8828

YELLOW TAXI CO. Main 7171

The Bread Lines Grow and Grow . . .

"1,250,000 more persons have become unemployed in the last 60 days, due to the business decline."

This is the private report made to President Roosevelt by his own economists, according to columnist Paul Mallon writing in the March 9th Minneapolis Star.

Roosevelt's economist now predict that another 1,500,000 workers will be made jobless by July, 1940, and warn the president that if he carries out his plan to slash relief, that the relief rolls, now carrying 2,300,000, will have to be cut by nearly two-thirds to 900,000 in July.

When the president proposed early in January to slash WPA, he promised that those thrown off relief would get jobs in private industry. Not only has private industry created no new jobs, but it has actually thrown another million and more persons out of work.

A \$10 billion federal housing program would create jobs for millions, and build decent homes for the American people. There seems to be plenty of money for armaments. Why not take this money and spend it for the good of the people? For decent homes?

Two men were talking in the Minneapolis public library. "The dime novel is gone, I wonder where it's gone to," said one. "It's gone up to a dollar ninety cents," the other said.

standing all the time. New "fine cards" are being printed and they will help clear the misunderstanding.

First, our brothers at Ewald's are producers and second they produce the cigars as well. Thanks to Gordon Meinke, Bill Bosen, Ernie Henschel, George Smith, Ralph Burgess, and we send our best wishes to their tiny babies.

Are you acquainted with the Townsend Plan and all its provisions? Mr. Shaw will give us a twenty minute talk at our next meeting. Questions will be in order and everyone will have a splendid chance to learn all about the Townsend movement.

ORGANIZER WANT ADS

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

GIVE AWAY—5 six-weeks' old puppies. 1964 4th Ave. N. **HELP WANTED**—Girl or woman. Good with children. Light housework. 1710 Elliot Ave., No. 27, Ma. 9393.

WANTED—Walnut or maple dinette set. DU. 9585. **WANTED**—Upper or lower duplex for two elderly people. HY. 5931.

EXPERIENCED WOMAN wants day-work, washing, ironing, cleaning. 2733 29th Ave. S., DU. 8166.

Sale Miscellaneous

1934 FORD 1 1/2-ton hydraulic dump truck, 3 yd. box, A1 shape. Bill Hansen, Du. 2521. 4056 30th Ave. S.

TWO CROCHETED bed spreads. Crocheted scarves, dresser covers, table cloths. DU. 8166. 2733 29th Ave. S.

TWO 2-WHEEL trailers and one 4-wheel trailer. Cheap. 4510 35th Ave. S.

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40-ACRE FARM. Clear. Good buildings. Near highway No. 65. 60 miles north of city. Water in house and barn. Will trade for two bedroom city or suburban house close to transportation. Re. 4635, 5529 Stevens.

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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.

Behind the 544 Suit

VI.

Inasmuch as the five plaintiffs bringing the suit against Local 544 were all active members and organizers for Local Number One of the Associated Independent Unions, it is worth while to examine this fink outfit, who is behind it, when and why it was set up, and what its program is.

The Associated Independent Unions

In the fall of 1937 and the spring of 1938 the United States was again on the economic skids, in as steep an economic decline as that of 1929-1932. The employers, intent as always in maintaining their profits, initiated a wage-cutting drive throughout the nation. In all parts of the country employers' organizations were busy raising war chests to fight the union movement, and were reorganizing their ranks for a new onslaught on organized labor.

It was during this period that the Minneapolis Associated Industries arose on the ashes of the hated Citizens Alliance, and launched a campaign for an anti-labor fund of \$325,000.

The old Citizens Alliance free employment office was discontinued, and there came into being the new Associated Independent Unions.

At the city-wide labor mass meeting held April 11, 1938, in the Minneapolis auditorium, Roy Weir, organizer for the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, revealed that a Mr. Galloway, an agent of the National Association of Manufacturers, had come to Minneapolis recently to aid in the formation of the Associated Independent Unions. Galloway was a specialist in combatting the genuine union movement and setting up fake company unions.

(Just last week a trade union official in New Haven, Connecticut, informed us that the Mr. Galloway who was in Minneapolis in 1938 to aid in building the Associated Independent Unions is very likely the same man who has done similar work for the National Association of Manufacturers in New England, under the name of "Charles Gallagher." Gallagher is said to have left Worcester, Massachusetts, two weeks ago "and gone to Minnesota for a rest.")

The fact that no sooner had the Citizens Alliance fink employment agency been discontinued than the Minneapolis labor movement found itself confronted with the Associated Independent Unions, tells volumes about the origin and sponsorship of Local Number One and its associates.

Why Company Unions?

A genuine union—honest, militant, democratic, intelligently organized and led—is capable of defending its members and winning wage increases and improvements in working conditions.

Quite naturally, under the present scheme of things, the employing class hates and opposes such genuine unions, because the more the workers receive in wages, the less the employers receive in profits; the more the workers have to say about their own lives, the less the employers can dominate them.

So the union movement is under constant pressure from the employing class which seeks in a thousand ways to break the union, to weaken it, to corrupt its leaders, to frame them up or to assassinate them, to spread lies about organized labor, to besmirch its banner, to bring organized labor under the control of the government, etc., etc.

Accompanying their ceaseless anti-union campaign, the employers also try to set up organizations of workers which they (the employers) can control. Such organizations are commonly known as "company unions."

Company unions do not fight for higher wages, or for shorter hours, or for paid vacations, etc. Instead, they take whatever the bosses give them, and they lick the bosses' boots. Once in a great while, in order to keep a real union out of a plant or industry, the employer will push his workers into a company union and then grant a small wage increase or install a water bubbler, in order that his stooges in charge of the company union can claim the organization won the wage increase or the water bubbler. Such a maneuver often fools workers for a time into thinking the company union is the real thing. Company unions bring no benefits at all to their members, and are merely instruments through which the employers can tighten their grip on the bodies and minds and lives of their workers.

Record of Associated Unions

The Associated Independent Unions bear all the earmarks of company unionism. They oppose the genuine union movement. They oppose strikes. Instead of fighting for higher wages, this outfit, wherever it went, sought to cut wages, its leaders making deals with employers whereby members would work for a lower wage scale than that established by the American Federation of Labor unions in Minneapolis.

At first the Associated Independent Unions fooled scores of honest Minneapolis workers, who were taken in by the glib promises of the Associated leaders that they had plenty of jobs lined up, that the AFL was through in Minneapolis, etc. Fortunately the real union movement was able to rally the workers of Minneapolis to expose and defeat the Associated Independent Unions, to prevent them from getting a foothold in the city.

The Associated Independent Unions organized what drivers it could get into its Local Number One. Other "Locals" were set up for carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers, decorators, mechanics, helpers and common laborers.

Tied Up With Vigilantes

From the very beginning, the Associated Independent Unions were tied up with various sorts of anti-labor vigilante groups such as the Minute Men, the Silver Shirts, etc. Such organizations commonly masquerade as "patriotic" groups, as is usual with anti-labor outfits.

The leaders of the Associated Independent Unions were the same people who organized the "Minnesota Minute Men." In May, 1938, the Minute Men, in a letter sent to prospective contributors, boasted they were responsible for preventing several strikes and for preventing the unemployed from receiving "increases in relief."

Strike-Breakers

In the spring of 1938 a bitterly-fought strike of the Sash and Door Workers Union Local 1865 was being conducted in Minneapolis. In the midst of the strike the Associated Independent Unions sent letters to all strikers asking: "Would you be interested in going back to work? Are you tired of being bullied and forced out on strike when you know that the majority of your fellow workers really want work? Are you sick of being dominated, coerced, intimidated by a few racketeering, so-called union leaders? Wouldn't you like a union that was run strictly by working men like yourselves?"

The letter ended with an appeal to "get in personal contact with the Associated Council of Independent Unions immediately." Enclosed was a card reading: "LET'S GO TO WORK. Meet with us Tuesday night, May 24, 8 o'clock, at 320 Eighth Avenue South."

Any reader even slightly familiar with the labor movement and with industrial disputes will immediately recognize this sort of work as strike-breaking, as employer-inspired.

The strikers discussed the letter among themselves, and decided to go to the meeting in a body and challenge the finks, which they did, asking so many embarrassing questions that the would-be strike breakers retired in confusion.

Tie-up With Silver Shirts

A few months later, in August, 1938, even more conclusive evidence of the close tie-up between the Associated Independent Unions and the Associated Industries came to light. Representatives of both groups were caught attending meetings of the fascist Silver Shirt outfit, then active in Minneapolis. Mr. George K. Belden, wealthy industrialist and head of the Associated Industries, claimed he attended the Silver Shirt meetings only as "an individual," though he admitted that the Silver Shirts "had some ideas that are good."

One of the ideas pushed by the Silver Shirts was the idea of raiding our Drivers Hall at 257 Plymouth avenue north.

Through arrangements with the Silver Shirt leaders, officials of the Associated Independent Unions also attended the meetings, distributed literature and asked those present to join the fink union set-up.

The exposure of the working relation between the employer-financed Associated Independent Unions and the fascist Silver Shirt gangsters just about killed off the company union organization so far as the overwhelming majority of Minneapolis workers were concerned.

From that time the Associated Independent Unions have gradually gone downhill, growing seedier and seedier. Today they meet in the basement of a tailor shop and their leaders are frankly gloomy about the future.

The working men and women of Minneapolis have seen through these creatures of the employers, and just won't believe the Associated leaders when they claim to have the interests of the workers at heart.

Before dropping out of sight, the Associated Unions tried several other dirty jobs against the union movement, of which we present a few samples. In August, 1938, the head of the Associated Unions charged Walter Frank of the Lathers Union with third-degree burglary, when Frank walked into a house being built by finks.

Again, the Associated Unions, through arrangement with the management of the Direct Service Oil company, signed up Direct Service oil station attendants in "Local 15." When the AFL union in the industry, Local 977, called a strike against Direct Service, the Associated Independent Unions, with the cooperation of the management, made a deal whereby the CIO in Minneapolis, led by the Communist Party, took over the finks.

On August, 1938, a Local Number One fink pulled a gun on an AFL picket at Columbia Heights, where the AFL was picketing a house being built by finks. Local Number One officials often boasted of support received from Mayor Leach, and said city officials had permitted Local Number One members to carry guns "for protection" against organized labor.

Who Pays the Bills?

During the three years of their existence, the Associated Independent Unions have never explained where the money came from to pay their rent and operating expenses, just as the plaintiffs in the fink suit against Local 544 have never revealed where they are obtaining the huge sums of money necessary to carry on the fight against the General Drivers Union.

With all the generous support from the Minneapolis employers, the Associated company unions have not been able to gain a toe-hold among the Minneapolis workers. Confronted by failure at every turn, the organization has been in constant turmoil internally, with the leadership changing hands often, amid mutual charges and recriminations, and counter-charges of crookery, thieving, etc. All the decent workers who at one time or another were mistakenly attracted to the company unions have since come back into the genuine labor movement.

This, briefly, is the history of the Associated Independent Unions, with which the five plaintiffs suing Local 544 have been affiliated.

Do you wonder why the claims of the plaintiffs that they are working loyally in the interests of Local 544 and its membership meet almost universal disbelief? Do you wonder why decent union men and women have nothing but contempt for the Associated Independent Unions, and only hatred for those who inspire them and finance their foul attacks on the glorious trade union movement of this city?

(To be continued)

Hearing Reveals Company Threats

(Continued from Page 1)
On Monday Frank Miller was on the stand and reiterated the company's refusal to arbitrate the unions' demands for a union shop, and its refusal to arbitrate any matter not specifically covered by the contract. Frank Gleason, assistant personnel man, and George Snyder, company paymaster, also testified. Snyder said he didn't know the union contract required that employees receive double time for overtime work on Sundays and holidays.

Gleason gave the sort of testimony calculated to infer that leading officers of Local 110 were disloyal to the membership, but the attempt to undermine the faith of the St. Paul utility workers in their union and its leadership was so palpably raw that it boomeranged against the company.

Unions Prepared for Strike
Should the company, in the face of the devastating testimony as to its bad faith, its chiseling on the agreement, its generally atrocious labor policies, still refuse to grant the demands of the union, both Local 110 and Local 169 are fully prepared for strike action. All necessary steps have been taken to insure that the strike machinery will operate smoothly and efficiently.

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On the National Picket Line

(Continued from page 1)
property, and to institute popular free education.

An investigation into industrial conditions was begun. All factories, closed by their owners when the Thiers government fled, were to have been reopened and operated by their former workmen. The idea of "one big union" for all workers in each industry was propagated. Formerly all workers had been organized into small societies, within their own factories.

The Commune ordered that the standing army be abolished, that conscription be discontinued, and that all men eligible to bear arms constitute the National Guard, which was to be the only armed force of France.

Rents on dwelling places, inhabited by the workers, were abolished from October, 1870 to April 1, 1871. It was declared illegal for the managers of the National pawn shops to sell any articles of pledge given them for loans by the workers.

Many of these reforms were put into practice immediately, but many of them were projected for the near future. However, Time, that most precious of elements, was running out.

On May 11 the French army broke through the walls of the city on three fronts. By a deal with Bismark, two regiments, captured by the Prussians at Sedan, were rushed back into France to accomplish the annihilation of the Paris Commune. Marching like a dreadnaught, crushing all the small Communes in its way into Paris,

Eight days of fierce and awful fighting followed, before the workers went down to defeat. They fought with heroic bravery against tremendous odds. The carnage of the victors was horrible. Women and children were slain in cold blood. Whole regiments of captured national guards were shot down by a firing squad which never rested.

On May 19, 1871, the Paris Commune went down to bloody but glorious defeat.

The capitalists, in their mopping-up operations, revealed how murderous they can be against slaves who dare revolt. The streets of Paris ran red for days with workers' blood. The cries of workers who had been buried alive could be heard coming from the ground. The Wall of the Federals at the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris still stands, the wall where the Commune adherents stood up to be shot. Each year the French workers make a pilgrimage to this wall.

An amateur boxing show between Minneapolis and St. Paul champions will be presented April 10th by various civic organizations on the Northside. Profits will be used to finance the trip of the championship North High school band to the New York World's Fair. It appeared possible that Jack Dempsey may appear as referee.

The boxing show will be held at the Minneapolis auditorium. Tickets can be obtained at the Hennepin Insurance Agency, 1228 Washington avenue north, for 40-75c.

Northside to Sponsor Boxing

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Area Drivers Defend Sioux City Victims

(Continued from Page 1)
cord, and departed when they got ready.

"But the word got out about the visit of the three drivers to union headquarters, and two policemen appeared at the drivers office and inquired of Johnson whether the three Havelock drivers were there. Johnson didn't know, and told the policemen that he thought the Havelock drivers had left; and the policemen went away.

"Next thing was the arrest of Cunningham, Fouts and Johnson on the charge of 'kidnaping for ransom' which 'carries a penalty of either life imprisonment or death.'

"It is true that Fouts and Johnson have been convicted by juries in Sioux Falls, and in Sioux City, of certain offenses in connection with the campaign of Local 383 to organize the drivers of the Sioux City territory.

Illuminates Former Frame-Ups
"The Unionist has expressed doubts as to the justice of these convictions. This last case in Sioux City serves to strengthen our belief that certain powers have determined to pick on certain officials of the drivers' union merely because these officials have been active and aggressive in pursuit of their campaign for organization."

Just what action the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has taken to defend the Sioux City Drivers Union was not known at press time.

All indications noted in public forecasts and confirmed by our own private sources point toward an excellent construction season from the employment viewpoint for truckers. The total length of the season is not so definitely outlined, however, and the main consideration, if we are to favor ourselves, is to look at the picture only from the basis of the wages it can bring us to accumulate a satisfactory annual income. In this respect we run into difficulties.

For most of us we begin the current year of 1940 three months in arrears. Present day wage schedules are not adjusted sufficiently any more on a seasonal basis to provide a year's income from the wages of a summer's work. Therefore, we face a crucial test. Our work begins in April. From that time on we must secure the greatest amount of job hours possible within every work week if we are to come out ahead. We can do this only if we cooperate; if we demand our union wage scale, the protection our union contracts afford us, proper job conditions, and above all see to it that the union becomes the employment source for all jobs available in the industry.

The executive board meeting with your Ways and Means committee sanctioned the proposals approved by our membership for the enforcement of our contracts for the ITO section. The grievance board will act on all reports of violations, and your committee will acquaint itself with each case presented as well as review the decision of the board for your information. Please remember each report must be made in writing. These provisions will become effective from the date of this issue of the Organizer. If any are in doubt as to these matters please consult your organizer.

This is a swell time to be talking of dirt-moving when the radio announcer this Wednesday morning reports the snow fall so far is twelve inches.

Next week I hope to have a complete picture of the new insurance rates which were announced as being reduced approximately 15 per cent. Also, if a tracer sent out gets the desired results, you will find out what happened to that license reduction announced way last fall.

As a prize for a news item you would consider sending one in. Is that o. k. witchu?

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UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

LOCAL 471 General Membership—First and third Tuesday 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—March 6, 1940 Box Section—March 13, 1940 J. R. Clark Meeting—March 20, 1940 Warren Shade Meeting—March 21, 1940 Air-Loc Seat, Inc.—March 22, 1940 Grievance Board—March 7 and 21, 1940 Executive Board—Every Friday, 8 p. m. Twin City Stewards—March 11 and 25, 1940 General Membership—April 3, 1940
LOCAL 664 General Membership—First and third Fridays. Park Board Grievance Committee—Monday night preceding last meeting of month.	LOCAL 20481 General Membership—March 6, 1940
LOCAL 1086 The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.	LOCAL 958 Night Drivers—1 p. m., third Thursday each month. Day Drivers—7 p. m., third Thursday each month.
PETROLEUM DRIVERS Regular Membership Meeting—First Wednesday each month.	LOCAL 544 Wednesday, March 6—Sausage; Petroleum Thursday, March 7—Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners Friday, March 8—Wholesale Grocery; Meat Drivers Monday, March 11—General Membership Tuesday, March 12—Lumber Wednesday, March 13—Market; Wholesale Paper, Wholesale Liquor Friday, March 15—Job Stewards Monday, March 18—Furniture; Coal Thursday, March 21—Tent & Awning; Newspaper 10 a.m.; Ways & Means ITO Friday, March 22—Cold Storage and Produce Monday, March 25—Spring Water Tuesday, March 26—Building Material. Wednesday, March 27—Sand & Gravel & Excavating Thursday, March 28—Sanifer & Warehouse; Wholesale Drug Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. in Hall 3. Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. in Local 544 office, first floor. The Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 10 a. m. in the large hall on the first floor. All regular meetings start at 8 p. m. unless otherwise indicated.
LOCAL 977 General Membership—Second Monday each month, 9 p. m. Grievance and Seniority Boards—Each Thursday, 7 p. m. Stewards—Fourth Monday, 9 p. m. Executive Board—Each Thursday, 8 p. m. Lessee Section—Third Wednesday, 9 p. m.	LOCAL 275 Regular Membership Meeting—2nd Monday each month, 8:30 p. m., 4th Monday each month, 1:30 p. m.
LOCAL 1086 The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.	LOCAL 103 Regular Membership Meeting—First Monday each month. Executive Committee Meeting on call.
LOCAL 131 Second Thursday each month, 8 p. m., third floor.	PRIVATE CHAUFFEURS The Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Local 912 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month.
LOCAL 259 Second Monday of each month.	LOCAL 275 Tea and Coffee Drivers, Local 275, meets the first Friday of every month.
LOCAL 664 General Membership—First and third Fridays. Park Board Grievance Committee—Monday night preceding last meeting	