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

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

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

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FIVE CENTS

## At Rockwell Ouster Hearing

# Stassen Attack on Schools Rocks the State

### On the National Picket Line

Marvel Scholl

A graphic example of the need for trade union control over the military training of the newly born army of conscripts is the case of the fifteen Negro sailors from the U. S. S. Philadelphia. Thirteen of them have been discharged from the Navy as "undesirables for the good of the service." The other two await even more drastic punishment. These fifteen men are guilty of what—of writing a letter in which they set forth the conditions in the Navy as imposed upon colored young men who join the service for the protection of their country. They dared to make their grievances public, after repeated protests to their own officers had resulted only in more of them being sent to the brig on bread and water. They dared to tell the rest of the world what it means to be a colored man in the United States Navy. So now they are out—undesirables.

This incident has its beginnings in a story published in the Negro paper, the Pittsburgh Courier, on October 5. Immediately after the letter was published, all fifteen of the signers were thrown into the brig. There they were forced to sign statements as to why they had written the letter, who were the ring-leaders, etc. Then thirteen were turned loose, prisoners at large, so that they could continue to make the officers' meals, keep their shoes shined, etc. For many weeks the case hung fire, the officers of the Philadelphia holding out for court-martial for the entire group. However, the Bureau of Navigation did not wish to allow the case to assume too much importance, so they ruled that court-martial for all except the two alleged ring-leaders was too drastic, and that discharges as "undesirables" would serve the purpose much better.

According to Rear Admiral Nimitz, the men have violated subparagraph 7 of Article 8 of the Articles of War which reads: "Or joins in or abets any combination to weaken the lawful authority of or to lessen the respect due to his commanding officer."

Since the publication of the Philadelphia letter, the six others, from as many groups of mess attendants on as many ships of Uncle Sam's Navy, have been published in the Negro press. They all tell the same story. Excerpts from the Philadelphia letter will illustrate:

"On this ship out of a crew of 750, there are 18 colored boys ranging in age from 18 to 25 years. They are all fresh out of high school and some have had a year of college work. Their work is limited to waiting on tables and making beds for the officers. . . . In the last nine months nine mess attendants have been given solitary confinement in the brig on bread and water . . ."

Another paragraph sets forth the conditions of employment and advancement for colored sailors—

"On enlisting we are given (Continued on page 4)

## 2 State Educators Take Royalties of \$10,000, is Charge

That H. E. Flynn and Theodore Utne of the state department of education have collected \$10,000 in royalties over a period of ten years for various copyrighted school forms was the sensational charge made Monday at 9 p. m. over station KSTP.

Both Flynn and Utne are Republicans and proteges of Dr. Boraas, chairman of the state board of education that is seeking to oust Commissioner John G. Rockwell from office.

According to KSTP, Flynn and Utne, who are in charge of the high school department of the state department of education, copyrighted the school forms years ago. Both men, in view of their jobs, are in a position to arrange for school aid funds to the state's high schools. In order to obtain school aid, the schools must send in reports. Flynn and Utne receive a 10% royalty on the printed forms for school aid and other school reports. Both their names are printed on the forms.

"Wise" To Use Forms One school superintendent is said to have reported that all superintendents thought it wise to use the forms copyrighted by Flynn and Utne.

There are said to be twelve mandatory and eleven "optional" forms copyrighted by the two men. Royalties were received on all forms.

Ostensibly, a portion of the royalties was set aside for an "endowment fund" for educational purposes. But according to the story, less and less money went into this fund in recent years, and more and more into the pockets of Flynn and Utne.

Throws New Light on Hearing The existence of the royalty arrangement with Flynn and Utne was revealed to the Minnesota Council of School Executives by Sigvard Bolstad, head of the Educational Test Bureau, 720 Washington Ave. S. E., which formerly handled the forms.

Mrs. A. R. Colvin, the one liberal member of the present state board of education, says she knew Dr. Rockwell had asked Dr. Boraas some months ago about the royalty payments.

Boraas promised to "look into the matter." Dr. Rockwell investigated further. He was preparing a report to the state board of education on the royalty matter when he was so hastily suspended from office by the Stassen majority on the board of education.

The revelation of the Flynn-Utne royalties throws a new light on the ouster proceedings against Drs. Rockwell and Carstater. Recently, a large Minneapolis stationery company whose head is a Republican has been selling the school forms to schools.

Benjamin Drake, attorney for Dr. Rockwell, said Tuesday that the question of royalty payments would certainly form one of the chief arguments for the defense when the Rockwell hearing is resumed on Monday, January 13th.

Mr. Flynn could not be reached for a statement on the matter. His secretary said he had nothing to say, but would issue a "clarification" later.

FOR BOSSES ONLY Previously, a law was a law until it was overturned, now a law is not a law until all attempts to overturn it have failed.—Fortune Magazine.

## 2 Fink Jobs Straightened By Building Trade Unions

The Minneapolis Building Trades Council in the past week has successfully straightened out two jobs being attempted by members of the fink Associated Independent Unions. The union succeeded in its efforts following meetings between a Council committee and representatives of the Towle Management company and the Thorpe Bros. outfit.

However, no satisfactory settlement was reached on future work. The Building Trades Council asks all members of organized labor to be on close guard when work is being performed on the building in which you live.

Ask all workmen for their union cards. AFL workers will be glad to show them. Your rent money is being spent and you have the right and duty to see that it is going to members of the AFL Building Trades Council.

## Xmas Food For Iowa Strikers

Burlington, Iowa—Thanks to the labor solidarity of the Upholsterers International Union and of other unions, strikers at the Northwestern Cabinet company all received well-stocked baskets of Christmas food. The day before Christmas, the union distributed to each strike family a basket containing a large picnic ham, vegetables, fruit, cranberry sauce, coffee, etc.

The Upholsterers International donated \$200 to this worthy cause. The Minneapolis Utility Workers Union Local 160 donated \$25, as did the Upholsterers Union at New London and at Jefferson, Wisconsin. District 2 of the Upholsterers International donated \$25, and many Burlington unions gave financial aid.

Mr. Wolf, superintendent at the struck plant, made a gesture towards settling the 4-months' strike, but as he admitted he had no power, the matter came to nothing.

An interesting development of the week was a foul letter appearing in the Burlington NEWS, attacking the strikers. Though the letter was anonymous, being signed "Retail Merchant," the union has good reason to believe it was actually written by a group of preachers who have been sticking their noses into the strike.

This is the same bunch of ministers who, earlier in the strike, sought to get all parties together. When only the union showed its good faith by attending a meeting called by the preachers, the latter said they would publicize that fact. Instead of exposing the bad faith of Starker and the company, the preachers go behind the union's back and write lying anonymous letters in the press attacking the union.

## Oil Drivers to Meet Second Wednesday

Because the first Wednesday of the month falls on New Year's Day, the Oil Drivers and Warehousemen will meet on the second Wednesday, January 8, at the Union Headquarters.

Larry J. Davidson, Sec.-Treas. Local 977

## 544 Membership to Vote On January 8th and 9th

In accordance with union by-laws, the annual election of officers for the General Drivers Union Local 544 will be held in union headquarters at 257 Plymouth Avenue north on Wednesday and Thursday, January 8th and 9th.

Voting shall be by secret ballot. The polls will be open for balloting from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. All union members are urged to place themselves in good standing and to vote.

544 ELECTION BOARD William Ambrose, Secretary

## Mother of Waller To Speak in City

Annie Waller, aged mother of Odell Waller, colored sharecropper who was saved from the electric chair December 27th and whose case is being appealed to the Virginia state supreme court, will be in the Twin Cities on January 9th to 11th. Local branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and of the Workers Defense League, will arrange meetings for her.

Mrs. Waller will tell of her life as a sharecropper in the South, and of the events leading up to her son's arrest for the alleged murder of his white landlord. She is making a nationwide tour, speaking before unions, churches and liberal groups. Though she had never before been out of Virginia, this old mother is going from city to city fighting for the life of her son, telling her story to thousands of people. She is willing to explain to everybody who will listen. As she herself says, "There ain't nobody else can do it."

Groups interested in arranging a meeting for Mrs. Waller are asked to phone Sam Reed, president of the St. Paul branch of the NAACP, Humboldt 3029; or Mrs. Dorothy Schultz, secretary of the Workers Defense League, Garfield 8980.

## Skoglund Explains Position, Urges All 544 Men to Vote

By Carl Skoglund

Inasmuch as there have been many rumors circulating among the membership as to why I am not running for president of the union, and other rumors about dissension and disagreements among the board and staff, I want to issue this statement to the membership of the General Drivers Union Local 544.

The only reason I refused the nomination for president is that, as a non-citizen, I am barred from holding office by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters constitution. As it will be several months before I receive my final citizenship papers, I decided not to run.

There has not been any disagreement on this or any other point within the 544 board and staff. Ever since our trying struggles in 1934, the unity of the board and staff of our union has been and is one of the main reasons for the success and advancement of this organization and its members' welfare.

Though not a candidate for office, I want to endorse the following brothers who have been nominated:

Nick Wagner, running for 3-year trustee, is a sincere and militant man who has contributed much to our union. He is 544's delegate to the Building Trades Council and vice-president of that Council. The finks have been particularly anxious to "get" Nick Wagner, and his re-election will be a fitting answer to give the enemies of the union.

Emil Hanson, running for 2-year trustee, has been a member of the union since 1934. He has taken part in all the struggles of the union. He has been on the staff for about three and one-half years and has demonstrated his ability.

Ray Rainbolt is unopposed for recording secretary. His ability and services to the union were recognized by the membership at the nominations meeting.

Kelly Postal has served as secretary-treasurer since Brother Dobbs left. Kelly was also the main witness for the union in the

## Educators and Union Leaders Call on Governor to Dump His Four Henchmen on State Board of Education—Red-Baiting and Base Appeal to Race Prejudice Color Public Hearing into "Charges" Against Dr. Rockwell—Hearing Develops into Great Popular Uprising Against Republican Board Members—Chicago Educator Tells Stassen His "Political and Professional Career Will End"

With educators from all parts of the state in attendance, the state board of education has opened—and recessed—its public hearing of its charges against the suspended state commissioner of education, Dr. John G. Rockwell. The educators came to see for themselves what was involved in the case. They remained to add their voices of disapproval against the amazingly dishonest and cowardly behaviour of the majority of the board of education, and to solidarize themselves with Dr. Rockwell.

Before the hearing of last Thursday afternoon and Friday morning had adjourned, all the liberal vanguard of the Stassen state administration had been rubbed off completely. The governor, through his appointees on the board of education and its attorney, Mr. Tedd Evans, had revealed his Republican machine to be the spearhead of old-fashioned black reaction, a compound of red-baiting and an appeal to all the backward prejudices and superstitions of the people.

By 1:30 p. m. Thursday the auditorium in the state office building was packed with educators, union leaders, and citizens concerned about the future of the public school system in this state. Some 25 minutes late, the Stassenite majority on the board of education took their seats on the stage, together with the assistant attorney-general, Tedd Evans. Flynn and Schmid, who have replaced Rockwell and Carstater, were also present, as was Stassen's personal observer, Richard Purcell.

No sooner had Chairman Dr. Boraas opened the meeting than he was addressed by that venerable old liberal legislator, S. A. Stockwell, who challenged his right to take possession of a citizens' meeting.

After considerable clamor of approval for Stockwell's protest the meeting proceeded with the inquiry.

No Charges Specified Mr. Drake rose to declare that Dr. Rockwell has never received notice of WHAT charges have been preferred against him. "This board is more on trial than Dr. Rockwell," he said as the audience applauded.

Boraas mouthed a few phrases about his "love for orderly democracy," whereat Robley Cramer of the Minneapolis Labor Review asked "How can people present evidence when you don't specify the charges?"

Roy Wier, organizer of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, after sharply criticizing the conduct of the board of education, expressed his pleasure that the educators of the state "can now see what this is about."

No Evidence of Inefficiency . . . The board then opened its hearing into its charge that Dr. Rockwell was "inefficient." It immediately developed that the board possesses not a shred of evidence upon to base its charge. Instead of investigating Rockwell's record of his administration in all its phases, the board's attorney, Evans, turned the proceedings to the most vile sort of red-baiting.

No sooner had Rockwell recited his professional background than Evans asked: "How long have you been acquainted with Mrs. Grace Carlson?"

Dr. Grace Carlson has been employed in the rehabilitation department under Rockwell for five years. In September Dr. Carlson resigned her post to run for U. S.

Evans then introduced into evidence various correspondence between Dr. Rockwell and Grace Carlson; a portion of Rockwell's correspondence with U. S. Education Commissioner J. G. Wright; a letter to Paul McNutt; a com-

(Continued on page 2)

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town





