

# For Union Wages and Conditions in the Army and On All Defense Jobs!

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

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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!

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FIVE CENTS

## On the National Picket Line

Marvel Scholl

Two very interesting events within the past few weeks demonstrate graphically the absolute need for union control over army training. One—at a CIO council meeting in Flint, Mich., a motion was introduced to demand of the government the right of Union conscripts to hold union meetings in the camps, and to distribute union newspapers and leaflets. A heated and lively discussion, in which an almost unanimous opinion in favor of the motion was expressed, shows clearly how the workers feel about going into an open-shop army without any provisions for carrying over their union protection.

Second—when the National Guards, recently mobilized from the New York, New Jersey area—and stationed at Fort Dix, N. J.—received their first pay they found that most of the envelopes contained only \$21. More than half of the men did not receive their salaries at all. An angry demonstration in front of the pay-masters' quarters resulted. The officers threatened and cajoled without avail. Newspaper men present saw the whole thing but there was little or nothing about it in the capitalist press. The men remained in a body, refusing to disperse until all of their grievances had been registered.

Still another story about the National Guards at Fort Dix. Those from the Buffalo, N. Y., area who had been on relief or WPA when mobilized had been promised that their families would be aided by the Erie County Relief Board to make up the difference between their \$30 a month and the relief budget. Two weeks ago the Board rescinded its promise and cut many families off the payrolls entirely. Two cases about which we have heard indicate the hardship to which these women and children are being subjected as a result of their husband's enforced "patriotism." One young woman with a five month old baby was evicted from her home for non-payment of rent. Another soldier's wife and her family were refused any food or shelter.

Presently hundreds of thousands of young men will entrain for the camps, the first contingent of conscripts to be drafted. Among them will be many men listed as unemployed. How will their families fare—if this is a criterion of the methods to be used by agencies?

There is only one way to bring about union-shop conditions within the army. And that method is to start demanding union recognition now—before any of the organized workers find themselves clad in khaki and gun-boat shoes. The time is now. The method is the same used by the Flint CIO Council. Talk about it in your meetings. Act upon it. Demand it!

The twenty day old truck strike in Newark, N. J., has been settled, with complete victory for the workers. The settlement netted the 1,400 city and over-the-road drivers a \$2 per week increase in wages, two additional holidays per year, and an arbitration board for the settlement of grievance.

The UAW-CIO members of Local 488, Cleveland, who struck against the Midlands Steel Products Company, settled their three-day strike on October 10. The workers gained for themselves pay raises of from 3 to 10c per hour.

## In Fink Suit

### 544 Asks Court to Amend Its Findings

Union Attorneys File Motion Asking Judge to Strike Out Portions of Order Calling Upon Union Leadership to Pay \$6,000 to Union—Union Contends Money Was Spent for Proper Union Purposes—Also Asks Court to Amend Order Proposing to Appoint Supervisor for Elections on Ground that Court Has Found Union Elections Fairly Conducted—Asks Court to Find that Finks Were Not Members in Good Standing, Did Not Act in Good Faith and Did Not Exhaust Internal Tribunals of Union Movement

Last Wednesday attorneys for Local 544 filed motions with Judge Paul S. Carroll asking for certain amendments to the court's recent decision in the fink suit.

Earlier in the day Arthur Anderson, attorney for the finks, had filed a 60-page motion challenging every finding of the court in the suit.

Following out ideas presented to Local 544's membership by union officials, the union defense attorneys ask the court to amend its findings to strike out all portions calling upon union officials to pay some \$6,000 to the union. Attorneys motivated their motion on the grounds that the moneys spent were proper union expenditures and were intra vires, that is, within the power of the union.

Defense attorneys also ask the court to strike out its findings whereby it proposes to appoint a supervisor for the coming union elections. This motion is based upon the fact that the court has found that the union elections are fairly held.

## 40-Hour Week Goes in Effect Thursday as Wage-Hour Law Begins 3rd Year of Operation

Starting this Thursday the standard work week for industries in interstate commerce, with considerable exceptions, will be forty hours. The operation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (better known as the Wage-Hour Law) begins its third year of operation on this day.

This does not mean that an employer in a covered industry cannot work his employees longer than forty hours a week; if his employees work longer hours they must be paid at overtime rates of time and a half.

Just recently the wage-hour administration revised its rules providing for the exemption of white collar workers from hours restrictions. A \$200 monthly salary is one yardstick determining exemption. Persons performing executive or administrative functions are also exempted if they do no more than 20 per cent of the kind of work performed by non-exempt employees. If doing more than 20 per cent of such non-exempt work, such employees would be classed among those entitled to overtime pay.

The wage-hour administration warned employers against seeking to get out of paying overtime by giving fancy titles to workers.

Back Pay Collected Some \$4,640,000 has been collected for employees whom employers sought to cheat out of their overtime pay.

Because so many millions of workers (such as farm workers and domestic employees) are exempt, and because the wages set are so low, the Fair Labor Standards Act has not been of very measurable benefit to the working class. In some industries, however, especially the unorganized ones, workers have made some gains under this law.

## REMINDS US OF THE GIRL WHO WAS ALMOST CHASTE

William Green, head of the AFL, has written a letter to the Republican Oscar Youngdahl praising Youngdahl's labor record as follows: "Our files show that in NEARLY every instance you have advocated and supported measures sponsored by the AFL."

## 11-State Road Pact Enters Second Year

Wages of Highway Drivers, Helpers and Platform Workers Boosted

On Friday, November 1st, the eleven-state area agreement covering over-road trucking operations enters its second year.

On November 1st the rate of pay for through runs increases from 2 3/4c per mile to 3c per mile. Pickup and deliveries enroute, and time lost due to breakdowns and layovers will be paid for at the rate of 80c hourly, a nickel-an-hour increase. Dockmen and helpers will be raised to 65c hourly.

By terms of the area agreement, the new rates become effective November 1, 1940, and continue in effect until November 15, 1941.

## 160 Members!

### Meeting Schedule Is Changed

In November the new meeting schedule of the Utility Workers Union Local B-160 will go into effect.

The general membership meetings will now be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month, whereas they have previously been held monthly on the third Thursdays during the summer.

Stewards will henceforth meet on the second and fourth Thursdays in the basement hall at 257 Plymouth.

The seniority board will meet every Monday as before. The executive board will meet every Tuesday as before.

## Stassenite Stated "Carstater Too Active in Organized Labor"

State Civil Service Hearing on Important Labor Case Comes to Close—Fixed so That No Decision Will Be Rendered Until After Election—Newspaperman Testifies that Stassen Told Press He Was Holding up Program Until Carstater Was Fired

The state civil service hearing on the discharge of Eugene Carstater as state director of vocational training came to a close Tuesday with the assistant attorney general, Tedd Evans, trying desperately but unsuccessfully to keep down evidence showing that Stassen had a direct hand in ousting Carstater, and that Stassenites on the board of education objected to Carstater because they felt he was too active in the organized labor movement.

Carstater's attorney, Drake, brought before the hearing the newspaper accounts of an interview with the governor in which Stassen stated he held up the acceptance of the federal funds for defense training until Carstater could be removed. Charles Arnold, a United Press staff correspondent, appeared to testify that he was present at this interview and that the story offered was a substantially correct report.

A letter from Dean W. E. Peik of the University of Minnesota college of education was introduced in which Peik stated the relations between the college and Carstater had been entirely satisfactory and cooperative. A letter from John Barrett of the U. S. Department of Labor apprenticeship division commending the vocational education division under Carstater was also read.

### Too Active in Labor

Mrs. A. R. Colvin of St. Paul, only liberal member of the state board of education, took the stand to testify that Dr. Boraas, board president, had told her his objection to Carstater was that "he was too active in labor."

### No Decision Until After Election

Upon conclusion of the evidence the board ruled that both sides should file simultaneous briefs in eight days and that an additional five days would be allowed for reply briefs. These will be considered by the board together with the mass of evidence introduced in the five and one-half days of hearings.

It did not escape union observers of the hearings that the final briefs are to be submitted just the day before November 5th, election day. Obviously, therefore, the decision will not be given until after the election.

## 12th Ward F-L Club to Play

Twelfth Ward Farmer-Labor Club will hold a card party and dance on Saturday, October 26, 8:30 p. m., at 2815 E. Lake St. Everyone is invited to attend.

## City Council Body Backs Repeal of Stassen Slave Law

### North American Workers Meet November 7

All employees of the North American creamery plant in Alexandria are now holding monthly meetings on the first Thursdays of each month. They are members of the Brainerd Drivers Union, an affiliate of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council.

Miles Dunne, secretary-treasurer of the Council, will be guest speaker at the coming meeting, Thursday, November 7th.

### South Dakota Drivers Unions Meet Nov. 7th

Representatives of drivers unions in South Dakota will meet in Waterloo, South Dakota, on Thursday, November 7th, to discuss common problems and seek closer cooperation on over-road trucking work.

The Minneapolis General Drivers Union is cooperating with the South Dakota unions in this work. All eligible unions are urged to be represented.

### City Council Committee on Legislation Endorses Minneapolis Central Labor Union Resolution Asking Council to Record Itself for Repeal of Stassen Labor Law

The first stage in organized labor's campaign to bring about repeal of the Stassen Slave Labor Law was achieved Monday afternoon when the ordinance and legislation committee of the Minneapolis city council voted, 4-2, to support the Minneapolis Central Labor Union's request to go on record for the act's repeal.

### Ready Mixed Concrete, 544 Sign Pact

A five per cent hourly wage increase (from 75c to 78 3/4c) and back pay to June 1st are won in a new one-year working agreement signed Friday between Local 544 and the Ready Mixed Concrete company, 37 20th avenue South.

Fourteen men are involved. The pact expires June 1, 1941.

### Franklin Co-op Women to Stage Bunco Party

The Women's Franklin Co-op Guild will have a card and bunco party Wednesday, October 30th, 8 p. m. at the Franklin auditorium, 2108 Washington avenue north. Admission is 25c and everyone is invited.

### Labor Has Endorsed the FLP Slate

The Minneapolis Central Labor Union has endorsed the complete slate of Farmer-Labor candidates in the November 5th election, and urges all workers to vote the straight Farmer-Labor ticket.

The cabinet workers' strike is the most popular struggle in Burlington history and aid continues to flow to strike headquarters from all quarters. The Bartenders Union is laying plans for a Strike Benefit Dance. The local Elks Club has bought shoes for needy children of strikers. Merchants and businessmen are coming through with fine moral and material support. With such backing, the strikers are grimly determined to hold out until victory, a signed contract covering hours, wages and seniority.

### Central Labor Union Also Endorses Roosevelt and Wallace

Following is the list of labor-endorsed candidates: President—Franklin Roosevelt Vice-president—Henry Wallace U. S. Senator—Elmer Benson Governor—Hjalmer Petersen

Secretary of State—James I. Heller State Treasurer—C. A. Halvorson Attorney General—David J. Erickson R. R. and W. Commissioner—Charles Munn Congressman, 3rd Dist.—Henry G. Teigan Congressman, 5th Dist.—Dewey W. Johnson County Com., 1st Dist.—Ralph Dickman Legislator, 28th Dist.—Joseph A. Kozlak and John J. McNulty Legislator, 29th Dist.—David Tidlund Legislator, 30th Dist.—Andrew Hayford Legislator, 31st Dist.—Carl G. Hagland and E. M. Stanchfield Legislator, 32nd Dist.—S. A. Stockwell Legislator, 32nd Dist.—Oscar J. Cleve and Kenneth A. Lindstrom Legislator, 35th Dist.—Samuel H. Bellman and William F. Bennett

Responding to the appeal from organized labor were Aldermen Kauth, Finseth, Anderson and Lund. Rejecting labor's demand were Aldermen Robb and Straiton.

At the legislation committee's first hearing on the Central Labor Union request, on Friday morning, a lengthy debate ensued. Speaking in favor of labor's proposal to repeal the Stassen Labor Law were Walter Frank, William Sinnott, John B. Boscoe, Harold Seavey, Gene Larson, Robley Cramer, and Aldermen Kauth, Finseth, Anderson and Hudson.

Alderman Pratt led the opposition to labor, and was supported by Straiton and Lund. On Monday Lund switched his vote to favor labor's request.

Pratt made a campaign speech for Stassen and then charged that some labor leaders were seeking repeal of the Stassen Labor Law at this time merely to embarrass the governor and as a political move.

He did not mention that his refusal to endorse labor's demand and to seek to postpone a decision on the Central Labor Union resolution until after the election was ALSO a political act.

Policy Committee Praised John B. Boscoe, president of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, credited the Policy Committees of the city central labor bodies in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth with any lessening in strikes in recent years. He condemned the Stassen Labor Law as encouraging anti-labor employers to delay negotiations and war on the union movement. The Stassen Law has also put the unions to heavy legal expenses, he said.

Stassen's Is Fink Law Bob Cramer charged that the law "gathers into the hands of Stassen and his lackey labor conciliator more power than two people should have over the people of this state. This law was NOT carefully considered by the state legislature. It was considered in an atmosphere of labor hatred whipped up by the daily press. The law was the creature of Stassen and the strike-breakers Myre and Vance. It had the backing of the conglomeration of finks and strike-breakers that make up the Associated Independent Unions . . . As to Stassen's claim that the law has discouraged strikes, there are strikes being fought right now in this state—the tannery strike in Red Wing, the Seeger strike, the recent highway strike. Stassen should call his law a law for the destruction of the trade unions."

Walter Frank pointed out that the law is an especially severe handicap to the building trades unions, inasmuch as the 10-day and 30-day waiting clauses of the law really prohibit strikes in the construction industry, for most building jobs are finished within ten days.

The Minneapolis city council will debate this Friday on the recommendation of its legislation committee to move for repeal of the law.

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town





