

# RANK AND FILE

PUBLISHED BY NATIONAL UAW-CIO RANK AND FILE STEERING COMMITTEE

VOL. I, NO. 1

DETROIT, MICHIGAN JANUARY 1945

51

102

## BIG BUSINESS BACKS PLEDGE

### LABOR DRAFT THREATENS UNIONS

By FRANK MARQUART

"Evidently alarmed by growing opposition to proposals to draft labor for private profit, President Roosevelt on Wednesday demanded that Congress steamroller legislation without waiting to gather further facts," said LABOR, on January 20.

Three days later, Blair Moody wrote a detailed story about the frantic efforts of the House Military Affairs committee to rush through the May bill, calling for a compulsory labor draft of some 18,000,000 workers from 18 to 45.

A thoroughly totalitarian measure, this proposed legislation is so reprehensible to the American people that in order to gain support, its proponents must whip up hysteria over an alleged manpower shortage.

As labor and farmer opposition to this bill mounts, the military brass hats feel com-

recent layoffs and cutbacks, about 600,000 men and women are unemployed in this country. The extent to which available workers respond to job calls was seen during December, when employment rose over 450,000. According to Frances Perkins this was "the largest monthly increase since August, 1942."

Plainly, if total manpower now available were fully utilized, if labor hoarding ceased, and if the Army and Navy departments planned their productive operations with reasonable efficiency, there would be no labor shortage whatever in this country. Then why the clamor for a labor draft? Well, consider the people behind the drive for compulsory service.

#### REACTIONARIES BACK DRAFT

First to be named in this connection is the military, the Army and Navy officials. These men function in a totalitarian pattern and they would like nothing so much as to fit the entire economy into this pattern. Also behind the drive for labor com-

side their resident counties to other regions and workers forced to make such change of location will be given travel and "subsistence" expenses.

#### NO SAFEGUARDS

The alarming thing about this legislation is that no safeguards are incorporated in its provisions. Nothing whatever is said about protecting wages, working conditions, living standards. It is regimentation in the most sweeping form. Under compulsion, workers would toil in industry, making profits for the private owners! Under such a setup free trade unions would soon cease to exist.

Militant union workers everywhere should organize a vigorous protest movement against this drive to foist regimentation on American labor!

### WHY A PAPER

The National Steering Committee meeting in Detroit on

#### CORPORATIONS, CP, LINE UP WITH UAW-CIO BRASS HATS

The balloting on the no-strike pledge in the UAW-CIO referendum is still going on and the campaign to rescind the no-strike pledge is not yet over. Whichever way the vote goes, however, the Rank and File group in our union can take pride in what it has already accomplished.

At the UAW convention in Grand Rapids, where the Rank and File Committee was first organized and while it was still just a small group of progressive delegates, the Rank and File Committee led the fight to give the membership of the union the democratic right to vote on the question of the no-strike pledge. Against the almost united opposition of the top leadership and the pork-choppers, the rank and file delegates fought for and won a membership referendum.

pointed out, it is the most effective means that we have at our command to create a cohesive and unified program on a nationwide basis and that it would tie in together the activities of our widely scattered forces.

Final authority for the paper and its policy rests with the National Steering Committee; the editor of the paper can only be appointed or removed by the National Steering Committee, and the editor shall be responsible to a publications committee consisting of the two Detroit members of the National

With the issue brought to the membership, the forces behind the no-strike pledge which has put labor in a straight-jacket, had to come out into the open to argue their case. The result has been a vicious, demagogic campaign which only proved the charge that the no-strike pledge serves the interests of the big corporations. Who do we find lined up behind R. J. Thomas in the attempt to force the pledge down the throats of the membership?

#### PRESS BACKS PLEDGE

First, in line are corporations represent-

Not so long ago the War Manpower Commission declared that 90,000 workers were needed in vital war plants. A few weeks later the number was raised to 140,000. Next, the figure was boosted to 300,000. Presumably even this did not sound impressive enough, so Secretary of War, Henry Stimson, reported that no less than 700,000 more workers will be required by June.

Unfortunately for the labor draft advocates, these figures do not bear up under investigation. Thus, Senator Mead, reporting for the Senate War Investigating Committee, cited "excess manpower, wasted labor, hoarded labor and enforced loafing" in the Norfolk shipyards. This sort of manpower waste is not limited to Norfolk. "In one other Navy yard in which we made a preliminary visit, we were informed that only 30 per cent of the potential work of common laborers is actually realized under present conditions, and that the production of skilled workers is not very much better," Mead said.

**LABOR HOARDING**

CIO President Phillip Murray contends that many plants practice labor hoarding. He also pointed out that employment in the Ford Rouge plant fell from 84,648 in mid-1943 to 60,308 at the end of 1944. In Detroit alone there are at least 20,000 women who would take jobs in war plants if they could get them. And in every industrial city there are thousands of available Negroes and Jews who cannot obtain employment in war plants because of prevailing discrimination policies.

It is estimated that due to

congressmen, the gentlemen who ache to strip labor of its freedom of movement, to replace independent labor organization with government regimentation. The May-Balley bill provides that registrants who refuse to obtain or remain in essential war jobs will be subject to fines reaching \$10,000 or up to five years in prison. An amendment provides a convenient loophole for anti-union elements, since it offers the registrant a "reasonable choice" of employer, giving him the alternative of selecting an open shop or a closed shop plant. The draft boards can require workers to move out-

Jan. 6, 1944 adopted a resolution calling for the publication, as soon as possible, of a newspaper to appear regularly and not less than once a month. The policy of the paper is to be in agreement with the program adopted at the 1944 UAW convention.

The resolution pointed out that "an effective campaign for the Rank and File program requires an informed membership; and it is necessary, in order to win supporters for the Rank and File program, to reach the largest possible number of UAW-CIO members in a regular organized manner." As one member of the committee

Steering Committee and the editor.

The publications committee consists of Larry Yost, Art Hughes, Detroit members of the National Committee, and John Zupan, the editor.

The paper is expected to and can be operated on a self-sustaining basis if those who agree with the policy of the paper pitch in and make a real effort to get as many subscriptions as possible. We feel that there is a real need for such a paper as we intend to publish and that it will be eagerly welcomed by thousands of UAW members.

In Detroit all the papers, the Times, News and Free Press, turned all the colors of the rainbow in the thought that the no-strike pledge might be rescinded. The peak was reached in an outrageous union-busting editorial in the Free Press which slandered Larry Yost, chairman of the National Rank and File Steering Committee, and all UAW members who have been forced to take strike action against the aggression of the corporations.

Side by side with big business (perhaps even a little ahead of it) was the Communist Party which wants the no-strike pledge now AND AFTER THE WAR. Column after column of the Daily Worker was used up to rant and rave against the terrible rank and filers who wanted the pledge removed. Leading the Communist campaign in the UAW were Nat Ganley of Local 155 who is a member of the Communist Party national committee, and W. G. Grant, chairman of the Committee to Rescind the No-Strike Pledge, who is Ganley's stooge in Local 600.

**LEADERS IN BAD COMPANY**

All the International officers of the UAW-CIO were forced to follow the lead of these reactionary elements. How can they help but line up behind the Communists if they agree with their line? Walter Rutherford, who was forced by the referendum to take a position, had to announce that he was for the pledge. But the stench of the

(Continued on Page 3)

**HELP BUILD A FIGHTING PAPER**

Get the facts to the membership by extending the circulation of the Rank and File. An informed membership is the best guarantee of progressive unionism.

**MAKE THE RANK AND FILE SELF SUPPORTING.**

**HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- 1.—Subscribe for yourself and your shopmates.  
Subscription Rate: \$1.00 for 12 issues.
- 2.—Get your Local to subscribe for the Stewards or Committeemen.  
Subscription Rate for blocks of 10 or more at one time: \$.80 for 12 issues.
- 3.—Order bundles of 25 copies or more for sale or distribution.  
Rate for bundles of 25 to 100: 7c per copy.  
Rate for bundles of over 100: 5c per copy.
- 4.—Send in contributions. Take up collections in your shop.

**THE RANK AND FILE IS YOUR PAPER**

**START BUILDING IT NOW**



**THE RANK AND FILER**

Published by The National UAW - CIO Rank and File Steering Committee

8127 Rutland Street, Detroit 10, Michigan

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE  
JOHNNY ZUPAN, Editor

LARRY YOST ART HUGHES

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Larry Yost, Local 600, Detroit—Chairman

Art Hughes, Local 140, Detroit—Secretary

Max Weinrib, Local 719, Chicago

Bob Burckhardt, Local 12, Toledo

James Barricks, Local 501, Buffalo

Single copy ..... 10c  
25 - 99 copies ..... 7c each  
100 copies and over ..... 5c each  
Subscriptions: 12 issues ..... \$1.00  
10 or more subscriptions, each ..... 80c

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

The RANK AND FILER is of, for and by the rank and file of the UAW - CIO. We need your help in writing the paper. Send in the news from your Local and your town. Let the whole union know what the progressive members are doing. News notes, articles, features — all can be used. Letters to the editor are especially welcome. This can only become a real Rank and File paper if the rank and file contributes to it. So get out your pencils and typewriters and get to work!

**Rank and File Program**

1. RESCIND THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE.
2. BREAK THE WLB BY REMOVING UAW MEMBERS FROM REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARDS.
3. SMASH THE LITTLE STEEL FORMULA BY HITCHING WAGES TO THE RISING COST OF LIVING.
4. BEGIN TODAY TO BUILD FOR AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY TOMORROW.

Wage Policy and Reconversion:

An industry-wide wage policy guaranteeing equal pay for equal work throughout the nation.

**MFC TO MEET**

As we go to press, the Michigan Commonwealth Federation, a party of The Common People, in the main supported by union-membership meeting, Jan. 1st, is holding a State 26, 1945, in Detroit.

The principal speaker scheduled to address the meeting is Lewis Corey, prominent author and leader of the Ohio Commonwealth Federation. The meeting is not legislative; it is primarily to be educational. The problems faced by the party, the question of peace-time full employment, the peace and state legislative proposals, among other questions will be discussed in a number of discussion groups that have been arranged for the all day session.

**NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS**

The five-man national steering committee of the National UAW-CIO Rank and File Caucus met at the home of Larry Yost, chairman of the caucus, on the evening of Jan. 4, 1945, to discuss the current no-strike pledge campaign and map plans for

**PROGRAM OF ORGANIZATION**

The campaign to rescind the non-strike pledge is today in full swing. Even before the conclusion of the referendum, the Rank and File Committee has won enormous prestige and support among UAW-CIO members because of the vigorous, fighting leadership it has given in the campaign. No matter which way the referendum vote goes, this support must be organized on a year-round basis to continue the fight for the full Rank and File program. Most important of all, in keeping with our spirit and our name, we must organize on the basis of the rank and file auto and aircraft workers, for only they can build the fighting union we all seek. To accomplish that end we propose the following program:

1. The establishment of local rank and file committees. The National Steering Committee must make every effort, in particular in local unions in which we as yet have no contacts, to organize rank and file around our program. The chief burden of the struggle for progressive unionism must be born in the local unions. Our goal is to organize in opposition to both old power caucuses, contest the positions of the old officials and attempt to elect officers and convention delegates pledged to fight for the Rank and File program in every local in which it is possible. The committees must be organized now, however, to begin the educational work without which success is impossible.
2. City and regional rank and file committees. Wherever there are groups in two or more locals in one locality we should attempt to organize them on a city-wide basis to make possible concerted activity among all UAW members in that area and to organize rank and file committees in previously untouched locals. Outstanding work in this line has been done by the Detroit Steering Committee. Its example should be followed wherever possible.
3. Regular correspondence. It should be the function of the secretary of the National Steering Committee to enter into correspondence with key rank and filers who support our program to gain their support and co-operation in building such committees.
4. The Rank and File newspaper will be of tremendous value in such work and should be supported in every way possible. An effort should be made to get local correspondents for the paper in auto towns outside of Detroit to draw them into the work of the Committee on a national and local scale.

- B. Fight general unemployment by instituting a thirty-hour week at a livable wage.
- C. Fight seasonal unemployment with a guaranteed annual wage.
- D. Adequate pay for all workers, to be based on seniority.
- E. Reduction of age limits on Social Security retirement.
- 6. Election for all national union department heads, such as Ford, GM, Chrysler, etc.
- 7. Establishment of a national UAW daily paper.
- 8. Fifty per cent of all international union assessments to be retained by the local unions.
- 9. Elect officers who support the program of the workers in the shops.

(This program was adopted by the Rank and File delegates to the 1944 convention of the UAW-CIO in Grand Rapids, Michigan).

### INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETS — SETTLES NOTHING

The brass hats of the UAW-CIO got together for one of their expensive sessions in New Orleans just before the RANK AND FILE went to press and the latest reports seem to indicate that New Orleans has entered into competition with Chicago for the title of "Windy City."

At the outset, R. J. Thomas went in for some of his usual fence straddling — this time on the no-strike pledge. The papers reported that Brother Thomas modified his position on the pledge and seemed to line up with Reuther in favoring revision of the pledge after the end of the war with Germany. It looked as if pressure from the ranks had finally reached as high as the august president of the UAW-CIO but on the following day R. J. was quick to correct that impression. He announced that he had been misquoted and that he still held to his position of unconditional support of the no-strike pledge. Another thing that seems to bother the board members

was the stalling around of the WLB. To everybody's amazement, they issued a threat that all UAW members on that famous cemetery if something wasn't done soon. And what do you think our brass hats wanted done? They wanted ANOTHER War Labor Board with additional powers so it would be able to force acceptance of its anti-labor decisions.

The boys also talked about the next convention of the UAW-CIO. They put Addes in charge of getting a convention city but Brother Addes' first job will be to see whether he can get the government to ban the convention on the grounds of lack of transportation. The last thing the bureaucrats want to see is another democratic convention like the one that was held in Grand Rapids, where the rank and file of the union can register sweeping victories against the brass hats. Members, be on your guard! Demand a convention in 1945.

### future activities of the caucus

After considerable debate the committee adopted a resolution calling for the regular publication of a newspaper to appear at regular intervals but not less frequently than once per month; the editorial policy of the paper is to be in agreement with the Rank and File program as adopted at the 1944 UAW convention.

The committee went on record against the National draft proposal of President Roosevelt. The committee arrived at the important decision that it should continue to function even after the disposal of the no-strike issue inasmuch as the workers would be faced with many important problems in the coming crucial days for organized labor. These problems can only be resolved favorably by organized and intelligent action representing the real interests of the workers in the shop.

It was mutually agreed that the committee would meet in the near future and continue to meet from time to time to discuss policy and the plan of action on new issues as they arise.

Attending the meeting were Ted Stevens, Local 12, temporarily replacing Bob Burckhardt, who was unable to attend; James Barricks, Local 501 Buffalo; Max Weinrib, Local 719, Chicago; Art Hughes, President of Local 140, Detroit, and secretary of the committee; William Jenkins, president of Local 490, and John Zupan, of Local 50, chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Greater Detroit UAW-CIO Rank and File Caucus.

## NO WAGE FREE FOR INDUSTRY

	Assets as of		Gain since '39
	Dec. 31, 1943	Dec. 31, 1939	
American Tel. & Tel. Co.	\$6,313,000,000	\$5,227,000,000	11%
Pennsylvania R.R.	2,812,000,000	2,359,000,000	16%
Standard Oil Co. (N. J.)	2,528,000,000	2,036,000,000	14%
General Motors Corp.	2,265,000,000	1,823,000,000	71%
Southern Pacific System	2,237,000,000	1,908,000,000	16%
U. S. Steel Corp.	2,104,000,000	1,709,000,000	15%
New York Central R.R.	2,102,000,000	1,820,000,000	15%
Atchafalaya, Top. & S. Fe R.R.	1,561,000,000	1,310,000,000	19%
Union Pacific R.R.	1,456,000,000	1,219,000,000	19%
Cons. Edison Co. (N.Y.)	1,422,000,000	1,333,000,000	6%
Baltimore & Ohio R.R.	1,323,000,000	1,207,000,000	10%
Consolidated & Southern System	1,292,000,000	1,143,000,000	5%
E. I. du Pont de Nemours	1,115,000,000	858,000,000	30%
Bethlehem Steel Corp.	1,045,000,000	733,000,000	42%
Socony-Vacuum Oil Co.	1,030,000,000	830,000,000	11%
Ford Motor Co.	1,006,000,000	692,000,000	24%

The 15 nonfinancial leaders on basis of annual sales or revenues are:

General Motors Corp.	\$3,796,000,000	\$1,377,000,000	176%
J. S. Steel Corp.	1,977,000,000	904,000,000	119%
Bethlehem Steel Corp.	1,704,000,000	414,000,000	360%
American Tel. & Tel. Co.	1,648,000,000	1,107,000,000	149%
Swift & Co.	1,470,000,000	757,000,000	93%
Armour & Co.	1,417,000,000	716,000,000	97%
General Electric Co.	1,358,000,000	306,000,000	345%
Gt. A. & P. Tea Co.	1,311,000,000	690,000,000	33%
Standard Oil Co. of N. J.	1,303,000,000	934,000,000	40%
Curtiss-Wright Corp.	1,293,000,000	49,000,000	2,568%
Douglas Aircraft Co.	888,000,000	28,000,000	3,125%
Pennsylvania R.R.	880,000,000	431,000,000	127%
Chrysler Corp.	830,000,000	550,000,000	51%
Sears, Roebuck & Co.	758,000,000	467,000,000	38%
Cons. Vultee Aircraft Co.	583,000,000	515,000,000	5,444%
Bendix Aviation Corp.	529,000,000	42,000,000	1,360%

\*Fiscal year ending in October.  
 \*\*Fiscal years ending Feb. 28, 1944, and 1940.  
 †Fiscal years ending Jan. 31, 1944, and 1940.  
 ‡Fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1943 and combined sales of old Consolidated and Vultee companies in 1940.

(Ford Motor Co. and Aluminum Co. of America may properly belong in this group but no sales figures are available.)

(Reprinted from "Business Week," Oct. 7, 1944)



# ORGANIZATION SPELLS SUCCESS FOR RANKS

By LARRY YOST

Progressive members of the UAW-CIO have the opportunity of learning a valuable lesson from the current no-strike pledge referendum in the union. It is the lesson of organization.

Ever since the no-strike pledge was given by R. J. Thomas and the top leaders of the UAW-CIO, there has been widespread resentment against it among the rank and file of the union. This resentment, however, was expressed by griping in the shops and occasional speeches against the pledge at conventions by isolated delegates. Nothing was ever DONE about getting rid of the pledge because the opposition was unorganized, scattered and dispersed.

When progressive unionists, beginning in Flint and in the Detroit area, began to organize just prior to the Michigan State CIO Convention, in July of 1944, things began to pop. Was it that so many more delegates were won over to scrapping the no-strike pledge? Perhaps a few were. What really counted, however, was that the unorganized opposition was now organized. It could plan and it could fight back against the maneuvers of the bureaucrats.

### OLD LESSON LEARNED

endum, granting to the rank and file, for the first time, the democratic right to vote on the no-strike pledge.

### EXAMPLES CITED

The lesson of organization, learned at the convention, was not forgotten when the Rank and File delegates returned to their locals. They followed the same procedure back home. In Detroit, a Rank and File Committee was set up to continue the educational and other work necessary to gain the widest possible support for our program. A steering committee was set up, consisting of one member from each local represented, to direct the work. Heading the committee were Chairman Bill Jenkins, president of Chrysler Local 490, and Secretary Johnny Zupan, Bomber Local 56. The fine work of the committee in the referendum campaign augurs well for their future activity.

Detroit was not alone in this work. In Buffalo, in Chicago, in Cleveland, similar committees were organized and are functioning efficiently. The Buffalo committee holds regular bi-weekly meetings.

### SHOP ORGANIZATION

There are only two things that should be added to this. First, the example set by these Rank and File Committees should be followed in

# RANK AND FILE ANSWERS FREE PRESS ATTACK

## STATEMENT OF NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON DETROIT FREE PRESS

A new low in labor-baiting has been reached in the campaign around the No-Strike Pledge in the UAW-CIO. Perpetrator of this attack on the auto workers is the Detroit Free Press, self-appointed champion of "liberalism." In its editorial columns on Jan. 6, 1945, the Free Press denounced Brother Larry Yost, chairman of the National Rank and File Steering Committee, as a demagogue, a hypocrite and, in effect, a traitor to the boys in the armed services because of his courageous stand in favor of rescinding the No-Strike Pledge in the current UAW-CIO referendum.

The Free Press reached these conclusions on the basis of deliberate distortion of statements made by Brother Yost, scandalous violation of facts which are known to everyone and common slander and name-calling.

The Free Press denies that labor today is at the mercy of industry because, you see, the government is in complete control of industry. What does this government control mean — to industry and to labor? For industry this has meant guaranteed profits at fantastic levels, government paid-for plants

Further, the Pledge gives an incentive to the corporations to take advantage of the workers in the plants while the unions are thus weakened.

Revocation of the Pledge will mean that our elected leadership won't be forced to line up with management against the workers and order them back to work but will force them to really attempt to solve all problems before they reach a serious stage.

The truth of the matter is that the vicious attack in the Free Press is not against Yost but against the hundreds of thousands of UAW-CIO members who are in favor of revocation of the No-Strike Pledge.

Is Yost a demagogue because he favors removal of the No-Strike Pledge? Then what were the delegates to the last UAW convention, more than one-third of them, who voted to rescind the Pledge? Is Yost a hypocrite? Then what are the thousands of auto workers in Detroit and elsewhere who were forced to take strike action to settle their mounting grievances against the stubborn corporations?

The Detroit Free Press only succeeded in confirming our charge that the corporations and their "paid editors and scribblers" are the loudest shouters against the hundreds of thousands of rank and file workers who want to see the No-Strike Pledge removed so they can build a strong, fighting union.

waged at the shop level by an organizing committee; it also suggested techniques that could be used in the campaign. For example: sound trucks, educational committees, distributions, and the local union newspaper. One of the dramatic highlights was a radio roundtable discussion of the pledge.

In Flint, Mich., the educational committee of Local 659 published and distributed widely, a very effective leaflet entitled, "Stop Collective Begging." There is a considerable campaign being waged in Chicago; Buick Local 6, Melrose Park, carried a full two-page spread in their shop paper calling for the revocation of the pledge.

The UAW East Coast Committee To Revoke The Pledge is organized and functioning under the capable leadership of Thos. De Lorenzo, Pres. of Local 365, as chairman and Jerry Denehy, Pres. of Local 591. This committee has laid out a well mapped and thorough campaign that should result in a big NO vote.

We have been unable to contact Toledo for details but we understand that they have an active and organized campaign.

Clearly, the outstanding features of the campaign are the considerable interest displayed by the press and the deep interest the production worker is showing; the pros and cons of the pledge are being discussed in the shops as has no other issue since the days of the CIO's organizing campaigns. Which is as it should be.

As for the other side...

It was the old lesson of unionism that we seemed to have forgotten. Ten men acting separately and at cross-purposes can do very little even if their objective is the same. The same ten men, acting as an organized, united force can work miracles. To the fact of organization can go most of the credit for the adoption by the 1944 convention of a membership refer-

every city and town in which there is a local of the UAW-CIO. The National Steering Committee will offer any aid it can give in such organization. Second, similar committees of rank and filers should be organized in locals on a shop basis. In the final analysis, the job of building a fighting, progressive UAW-CIO must be done in the local unions and in the shops.

and materials, frozen wages and, not least of all, the opportunity to bury all grievances in the files of the WLB.

For labor-maintenance of membership in shops already organized. Nothing else. Unless you call the wage freeze a gain for labor. And no doubt the Free Press favors the wage freeze. Is this government control or government aid to industry? Under this alleged government control, union officers are fired, contracts are violated and labor has no redress whatever.

The Free Press charges Yost with showing no concern for the interests of the servicemen. This charge, unfortunately, is misplaced. It should properly be leveled against the corporations which refused to produce war materials until their profits were guaranteed, which refused to secure the jobs of draftees until forced to by the union movement, which refused to sever their profitable connections with German and Japanese industry. Are strikes treason to the boys in the service? Then what is the name for the shutdown of the Brewster aircraft plant by the Navy? What can we call the layoff of thousands of workers in war plants in the Detroit area?

There are those who argue that rescinding the no-strike pledge means that we go on strike immediately. Not true. As a matter of fact we feel that 90 per cent of the wildcat strikes can be laid at the door of the Pledge. Wildcat strikes develop only when the rank and file members lose confidence in their elected leaders' ability to settle their problems without long delay.

## The Referendum Campaign

Despite a slow and inauspicious beginning the campaign to rescind the No-Strike pledge is gaining momentum, intensity and popular support of the masses of workers to the extent that increasing numbers of unionists in the know are predicting an overwhelming "NO" vote.

The outstanding feature of the campaign is the organized, coordinated and intense activity that is in evidence throughout the country. It is not localized, spotty or peculiar to any given region; it is a well planned consistent campaign.

Very briefly here are some of the outstanding highlights. Early in Nov., 1944, a series of committee meetings were called by Larry Yost and Art Hughes, chairman and secretary of the National UAW-CIO Rank and File Steering committee to plan the pledge campaign. As a result the Greater Detroit UAW-CIO Rank and File Committee was formed to organize the Detroit area campaign to rescind the pledge. The Steering Committee of the Detroit group, composed of one delegate from each local union, formulated a nine-point program designed to wage a successful NO campaign. This program was adopted, with some improvements, at a subsequent mass meeting and mailed to all Detroit local unions, L. U. presidents and Fin.-Sec. and active unionists. The program pointed out that, first, the campaign could best be

organized, headed by General Pres. of Local 600, to uphold the pledge. Greatest part of their activity seems to be the effort to induce the brass-hats to accept honorary positions on the committee. Thomas and Addes both have accepted an honorary presidency and fin-sec'y of the committee; Walter Reuther refused to consent to the use of his name as honorary vice-presidency and charged that the committee had been organized and was controlled by the Communists.

## BIG BUSINESS BACKS PLEDGE

(Continued from Page 1)

company he had to keep was a little too great for him, so he remained off Grant's committee. He's like the ocean traveller who liked the boat all right but didn't like the skipper — so he decided to swim alongside the boat. But Walter is liable to find himself swamped by the boat.

The lineup in the campaign is the best review of the arguments involved. For the pledge: the corporations and the bureaucrats. Against the pledge: the rank and file. So if you haven't voted yet, get out and vote — NO!

BUILD A  
LABOR PARTY

## REVOKE THE PLEDGE

Delegate Emil Mazey, Local 212: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I rise to speak in opposition to the recommendation of the committee. I am for the outright revocation of the no-strike pledge, with the guarantee that our International constitution provides.

### CLASS CONFLICT

Let us analyze the issue for a moment. The interests of the workers and the employers are diametrically opposed. The employers are making as large profits as they can, and the workers are trying to get a better standard of living. The antagonism has not stopped during the war.

These companies have spent many million dollars for stool pigeons to crack our heads, in times past, and they have not suddenly become members of some benevolent society that will sit down and deal with us during wartime. The only time we have been able to get anything from the employers is not because we presented our case with great eloquence or much persuasiveness — the only time we got back a nickel or a dime raise or a guy

back to work after he was fired was because the management knew on many occasions when they said, "no," we would use our strike weapon and probably shut down their plants. They said, "yes," to a lot of our demands because they were afraid of what we might do if they said, "No."

### STRENGTH BROKEN

Today the picture is different; they can say "no" to our demands and tell us to take our case to the War Labor Board, where it is stacked against labor, where we haven't got a chance to win our basic demands that labor needs at the present time.

I say in order to regain our collective bargaining it is necessary we put that club back in our hands again. People will probably get up and say, "Mazey is in favor of strikes throughout the country." I say if we had our strike weapon in our hands, there would be fewer strikes, because it would force management to bargain with us. (Taken from the Convention Proceedings, 8th convention, 1943, UAW-CIO)



# VOTE TO REPEAL THE NO STRIKE PLEDGE

## RESTORE THE FIGHTING STRENGTH OF OUR UNION

The rank and file won its first big victory at the 1944 convention of the UAW-CIO in Grand Rapids.

Against the almost unanimous opposition of the top leadership, the convention voted by an overwhelming majority to submit the question of the No-Strike Pledge to a referendum vote of the membership.

Now it is up to us, the members of the largest labor union in the world. We are in a position to clinch the victory won at Grand Rapids. The decision is in our hands. And it is a vital decision we have to make.

The question before us is this:

Shall the UAW-CIO remain in the straight-jacket of the No-Strike Pledge, at the complete mercy of the War Labor Board and the profit-bloated corporations?

Or shall we repeal the paralyzing No-Strike Pledge and restore the UAW-CIO to its fighting strength so that it is able to defend our threatened interests?

We won the right to cast a deciding ballot on this question at Grand Rapids. Before casting our votes, let us have the clearest possible understanding of what is at stake.

### THE RESULTS OF THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE

Blind men see nothing at all. Short-sighted men do not see beyond their own noses. Let us not be blind or short-sighted. Let us see how the No-Strike Pledge came into existence. Let us judge what the results of the Pledge

higher wages—because wages were frozen.

The right to look for and get another job or a better job—because jobs were frozen and we could move from place to place ONLY by the permission of the employer.

The right to have our wages go up as the cost-of-living

only what they did not want in the first place, and what they could not use without cutting their own throats.

BUT—when their contracts run out, when there are no more profits to be made, what do they do about THEIR pledge? Do the employers lock us out? Oh, no! They just "cut back" production—and we are out on the streets. When we walk the streets without a job, what difference does it make to us if we were "cut back" or "locked out."

### INDUSTRY SACRIFICED:

Nothing! Nothing except their comical pledge not to lock out labor at a time when a lockout meant suicide for them.

### INDUSTRY GAINED:

Land bought for them at government expense.

Factories erected on this land at government expense.

Machinery placed in these factories at government expense.

Raw materials guaranteed to them by a hundred government agencies.

An ample supply of labor guaranteed to them by the government with jobs frozen and wages frozen and strikes frozen and grievances frozen.

Juicy cost-plus contracts, with profits guaranteed by

modest and legitimate.

Our grievances are just. They multiply and grow more serious and intolerable every day.

When we take them to the employers, they pay no attention to us. They are too busy counting their swollen profits. They wave us aside and tell us: "Take it to the War Labor Board." That is like telling us: "Take it to the cemetery."

When this sort of run-around continues, month-in and month-out, and becomes unbearable, we go again to the employer, or send our representatives for another fying, futile trip to Washington. We get no satisfaction whatsoever.

Then we say: "We can't stand this any longer. We won't stand for it."

The company laughs in our face! "What are you going to do about it? Back to your machines, and keep your mouth shut!"

What CAN we do about it?

Nothing! We are tied hand and foot by the No-Strike Pledge! We know it and the company knows it. So long as we remain tied this way, we are completely at their mercy. They can do with us what they will. And that is exactly what they are doing. IT IS PART OF THEIR REACTION

concerned with them, than the ice-hearted corporations who squeezed a brutal profit out of everything these boys wear and everything they use.

We are so concerned with them that:

We do not want them to come back to "open shop" conditions.

We do not want them to come back to low-paid jobs and back-breaking hours.

We do not want them to come back to smashed or paralyzed unions.

When we fight to make our union strong and effective, we are also fighting for THEM!

Wherever Fascism triumphs, labor's standard of living and working conditions catapult downward.

Wherever Fascism triumphs, labor loses the right to higher wages, the right to move from job to job, AND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE!

Haven't the "boys in the foxholes" been told they are fighting to destroy Fascism and to restore these rights to labor everywhere? Isn't that what we have all been told?

Are we helping to fight to restore these rights — if we begin by giving them up ourselves?

Then let us decide on the basis of these results... but the actual results. That is the intelligent way to act.

The No-Strike Pledge was given originally by the top leadership of the unions without consulting the rank and file membership. That is point one to remember.

Point two is that the Pledge was given as part of a program called "equality of sacrifice." Labor was to make a big sacrifice for the war. Capital was to make an equal sacrifice. Remember this, too.

Now let us cast up the balance sheet and examine the results. They are clear, unmistakable, incontestable.

#### LABOR SACRIFICED:

The right to strike, that is, the right to its most powerful weapon in the fight against the big monopolists who are ALWAYS working to lower our living standards and crush our organizations.

The right to fight for

were frozen by the 15% "Little Steel Formula" while the cost-of-living has gone up, since January, 1941, by more than 45%, according to the figures of our own International President, R. J. Thomas.

The right to collective bargaining—because all demands and grievances went to the War Labor Board, which denies our demands and ignores our grievances, or else buries them in its vaults for months and even years.

#### LABOR GAINED:

Nothing!

We were told that in exchange for giving up the right to strike, the manufacturers would not resort to lockouts. That was a cruel joke played on us from the beginning. Naturally the employers will not lock out labor when there is a boom on, when there is a labor shortage, when they need us like they need life itself! Why should they? THEY gave up

the government. The biggest post-war reserves in history, also guaranteed by the government.

A War Labor Board, set up by the government, which looks carefully and tenderly after their interests.

The highest salaries in history for corporation executives, with NO "\$25,000 limitation" such as was promised. Only our wages have limitations.

And the largest, fattest, bloodiest profits the world has ever known since man first came into existence!

The corporations moan and weep about the "high taxes."

What are the facts? Let us quote just two simple ones from the statement by CIO President Philip Murray, and remember them well: "Corporate profits for 1944, AFTER TAXES, increased 98% over the 1936-1939 peacetime era. Corporate profits for the same year, before taxes, show an increase over the peacetime era of 449%."

So the results of the No-Strike Pledge add up to this:

Labor sacrificed everything and gained nothing.

The corporations sacrificed nothing and gained everything.

Isn't it high time we changed that around a little?

The trouble is, we cannot make a change unless we begin by repealing the paralyzing No-Strike Pledge.

#### WHY AND HOW DOES THE PLEDGE PARALYZE US?

Every unionist, every worker knows the answer. He knows it from bitter, accumulated experiences.

Our demands for wage adjustments to keep pace with the rising cost-of-living are

#### US ALTOGETHER IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD

Only sheep can be led to slaughter without fighting.

We are not sheep, but fighting union men, with a magnificent record and tradition of victorious battles for our rights and our interests.

Sheep have no weapons. We have a powerful weapon. It is the right to strike. But we have given it up. Let us take it back! We taught these big, cold-blooded, profit-hungry monopolists a lesson once. It seems they need another lesson.

Let us restore the fighting strength of our union.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE BOYS IN THE FOXHOLES?

The dirtiest, most hypocritical and stupidest argument in favor of the Pledge revolves around the spread-eagle talk about "the boys in the foxholes." We hear it said: "Don't betray the boys in the foxholes."

Who shouts the loudest about this? The corporation chiefs, their spokesmen, and their tools, the paid editors and scribblers.

Their nerve is almost as colossal as the profits they are making. They want to teach US patriotism! They are the same people who would not convert to war production, who would not produce a single airplane, tank, cannon, rifle or bullet for the "boys in the foxholes" until the government guaranteed them their heavy blood-profits. Remember this, too!

Who are the "boys in the foxholes"?

They are OUR sons, OUR brothers, OUR sweethearts or husbands, OUR fathers. We are a million times more

We are not sons and brothers and fathers when we fight, to store our right to strike—we are keeping faith with them!

We are keeping faith with the great principles of labor when we take back our right to strike. We are keeping faith with the heroic and self-sacrificing fighters who founded and built the UAW-CIO in fearless combat for our rights and standards as human beings. We are NOT keeping faith if we allow our union and ourselves to slip back into Big Corporation serfdom.

Brothers and Sisters,

The decision is up to you! You have the vote on this key question!

Cast it solemnly and firmly. Vote solidly to—

Repeat the No-Strike Pledge!

Put an end to crawling on our bellies!

Restore the fighting strength of our great Union!

Issued by:

NATIONAL UAW-CIO RANK AND FILE STEERING COMMITTEE

Larry Yost, Chairman  
Arthur Hughes, Secretary  
4372 Virginia Park  
Detroit 4, Mich.

(Additional copies of this page may be obtained by writing to Larry Yost, 4372 Virginia Park, Detroit 4, Mich. Price: \$9 per thousand.)



# RANK AND FILER

PUBLISHED BY NATIONAL UAW-CIO RANK AND FILE STEERING COMMITTEE

VOL. I, NO. 2

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, FEBRUARY, 1945 51

16

## GM OFFICIALS GET BALLOTS IN NO-STRIKE REFERENDUM

LANSING CIO PROTESTS CONDUCT OF VOTE

### Willow Run Chooses R. & F. Slate

The Local 50 rank and file group has proven the rallying point for progressive, anti-administration forces within the local which culminated in a well-attended and successful meeting Sunday, February 11.

Up to the present, this group has been active mainly in protesting and attempting to publicize the wholesale firings of militant Willow Run unionists by the Ford Motor Company, and campaigning against the no-strike pledge. Through contributions from the plant it distributed 5000 of the National Rank and File Steering Committee's leaflets and 5000 leaflets of its own.

At the February 11 meeting, attended by 60 Local 50 members, the committee voted to support the National Rank and File Committee and adopted the Rank and File program as its own. In addition, it was agreed to use the name of Local 50 Rank and File Committee.

do not have any program to present to the membership because there is nothing they can agree on except the desire to hold office.

Before he was elected president, Quillico was a progressive unionist, opposing the no-strike pledge, supporting a labor party, and believing in a militant fight against company abuses. Since he has been president, however, he has become just another union bureaucrat, going down the line with the International officers and their conservative policies. Tied in with this is his continual appeasement of the Ford Co. and his failure to put up any kind of fight against wholesale discharges of militant committeemen.

### JUST FOR THE RECORD

"I am just as sure as I am living that the Little Steel Formula is going to be revised. I don't think I would be far from being correct." (From the speech delivered by Philip Murray at the Grand Rapids UAW-CIO Convention Sept. 12)

President Philip Murray of the CIO made public a reply received from the Chief Executive to a similar appeal (an appeal to lift the Little Steel Formula). The answer showed the President does not intend to lift the lid for some time to come.

(From LABOR, Jan. 20, 1945.)

### SMASH THE LITTLE STEEL FORMULA!

### THE PROGRESS OF THE PAPER

The manner in which the paper was welcomed by the overwhelming majority of unionists who had occasion to

### NOT SELF-SUPPORTING

The number of subscriptions received to date does not as yet put the paper on a self-

Lansing UAW locals and the Lansing CIO Council are protesting the manner of holding the No-Strike Pledge referendum and are planning to contest the whole procedure as in violation of the spirit and letter of the referendum resolution adopted by the Grand Rapids convention.

The question of the legality of the referendum was first raised when Olds local's committeemen discovered that No-Strike Pledge referendum ballots had been received by practically all the officials of Olds Motor Works, including S. E. Skinner, president of the company and vice-president of General Motors.

Then Reo local discovered that practically all the officials of Reo Motors, Inc. had also received ballots. The Olds officials turned over to Olds local the ballots they received, but Reo officials refused to do this and, so far as anyone can find out, may be voting them.

### BALLOTS SENT TO NON-MEMBERS

A survey of Olds and Reo

locals revealed that scores and probably hundreds of Lansing workers who have changed employers during the past two or three years have received from two to as many as five ballots. One CIO Council delegate told of one man who received three ballots and who never belonged to the UAW in his life.

Officers of Olds and Reo locals conclude that the ballots are not being sent out to members of UAW but to subscribers to the Auto Worker who may or may not be members of the International Union. While supervisory em-

gram that thousands of UAW members be reached regularly with the RANK AND FILER.

In addition to subscriptions, contributions have been coming in from individual auto

...meeting to contest all  
 local offices. Brendon Sexton,  
 ... union-  
 ... was chosen to head the  
 slate as candidate for presi-  
 dent of the local. Running  
 with Sexton are the following  
 candidates:  
 Vice-President—Bill Hughes.  
 Recording Secretary—Louise  
 Staebler.  
 Financial Secretary—Johnny  
 Bateman.  
 Bargaining Committee—Jim  
 Mins, Johnny Zupan, Jimmie  
 Milletello, Jack Wademan,  
 Dick Cook.  
 Trustee—Red Cole.  
 Sergeant-at-Arms—Harry  
 Litow.  
 Plantwide Committeeman—  
 Henry Meloche.

Opposing the Rank and File  
 group is a conglomeration of  
 opportunists and people with  
 all sorts of program or no  
 program at all headed by  
 Walter Quillico, incumbent  
 president of the local. They

**FLINT**

We hear from Flint that a  
 group of job seekers, disgrunt-  
 led reactionaries and Com-  
 munist Party supporters in  
 Chevrolet Local 659 is at-  
 tempting to ride into power  
 by linking themselves with  
 the National Rank and File  
 Committee. These elements  
 think that by using the pres-  
 tige of the Rank and File  
 Committee they will be able  
 to oppose the genuine pro-  
 gressive in Local 659.

This points a lesson to all  
 UAW members. Don't be tak-  
 en in by the misuse of a  
 name. The program is all-im-  
 portant. Only a group that  
 has a genuine progressive  
 program that really repre-  
 sents the interests of the  
 rank and file is worth of  
 your support.

...clearly indicates the  
 vital need for such a paper  
 as the RANK AND FILER.

Subscription to the paper  
 have been coming in from all  
 parts of the country in en-  
 couraging quantities. Forty-  
 five subscription to the paper  
 have been received from Lo-  
 cal 50 at Willow Run alone.  
 The most significant and en-  
 couraging request came from  
 the Timken plant, Local 174,  
 for 4000 copies of the Feb-  
 ruary issue and 5000 copies of  
 the March issue.

The paper will be distribut-  
 ed at the Timken plant with  
 and added leaflet dealing  
 with the local situation.

...financially  
 From all indications, however,  
 it appears certain that we  
 will reach this goal.

But we want to urge that  
 our people get as many more  
 subscriptions as possible. It is  
 not only urgent that the pa-  
 per be financially solvent, but  
 also an increased circulation  
 will permit making the paper  
 better and larger and perhaps  
 with a lower subscription  
 rate.

**REACH UAW MEMBERS**

Even more important than  
 that, is absolutely necessary  
 for the success of our pro-

workers and from local  
 groups and committees. Con-  
 tributions are still needed to  
 pay for the first issue, most  
 of which was distributed free,  
 and to make it possible to  
 reach more and more UAW  
 members who have not yet  
 seen our paper.

**Demand a 1945  
 Convention!**

...have been received from  
 some whole locals with  
 great numbers of members. For ex-  
 ample the amalgamated  
 die local in Lansing, Mich., re-  
 ceived no ballots at all.

**INTERNATIONAL BOARD  
 REFUSES TO ACT**

Olds local placed the whole  
 matter before the Interna-  
 tional Board meeting at New  
 Orleans. The Board asked the  
 local to send someone to New  
 Orleans with the proof. The  
 local asked that the Interna-  
 tional share the expense, and  
 the International Board drop-  
 ped the whole subject. The  
 local was later advised that  
 the board has nothing to do  
 with the election and that all  
 protests should go to the elec-  
 tion committee.

**CIO COUNCIL PROTESTS**

R. E. Richardson, President  
 of Olds local, laid the matter  
 before the Lansing CIO Coun-  
 cil, which passed a resolution  
 directed to the International  
 Board, the International Of-  
 ficers and the election com-  
 mittee, denouncing the elec-  
 tion as not a true referendum.  
 Similar action is now being  
 taken by practically all Lan-  
 sing locals as their regular  
 monthly meetings come  
 around.

"This is a mockery of a re-  
 ferendum and a violation of  
 the orders of the Grand Ra-  
 pids convention," Richardson  
 declared. "In the first place  
 the question is framed as a  
 Hitler ballot, not an honest  
 yes-or-no question. In the  
 second place the election is  
 being conducted in a way to  
 permit all sorts of non-mem-  
 bers, including General Mo-  
 tors officials, to vote."

**MAKE THE RANK AND FILER  
 SELF-SUPPORTING**

- SEND IN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
- GET SUBS FROM YOUR SHOPMATES

**THE RANK AND FILER**

S127 Rutland Detroit 10, Michigan

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 12 ISSUES**

Single sub: \$1.00      10 or more subs: \$.80 each

Name .....

Street & No. ....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

L. U. No. .... Solicitor .....

(Please Print)



...the Little Steel Formula, the anti-union decrees of the WLB, the proposed peace-time conscription and the National Service Law, brings the startling conclusion that while allegedly fighting for democracy we are winning the battle for totalitarian state.

Watching the complete and unqualified capitulation of our labor leaders during this same period teach us that we cannot look for intelligent leadership and guidance to the labor bureaucracy.

The trend toward the complete enslavement of the workers goes on with the inexorableness of time. The trend can only be reversed by the independent political and economic struggle of the workers.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The RANK AND FILER is of, for and by the rank and file of the UAW - CIO. We need your help in writing the paper. Send in the news from your Local and your town. Let the whole union know what the progressive members are doing. News notes, articles, features — all can be used. Letters to the editor are especially welcome. This can only become a real Rank and File paper if the rank and file contributes to it. So get out your pencils and typewriters and get to work!

### THE RANK AND FILER

Published by The National UAW - CIO Rank and File Steering Committee

8127 Rutland Street, Detroit 10, Michigan

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

JOHNNY ZUPAN, Editor

LARRY YOST

ART HUGHES

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Larry Yost, Local 600, Detroit—Chairman

Art Hughes, Local 140, Detroit—Secretary

Max Weinrib, Local 719, Chicago

Bob Burkhardt, Local 12, Toledo

James Barricks, Local 501, Buffalo

Single copy ..... 10c

25 - 99 copies ..... 7c each

100 copies and over ..... 5c each

Subscriptions: 12 issues ..... \$1.00

10 or more subscriptions, each ..... 80c

### FREE ENTERPRISE NOT ENOUGH

"There are some in this country who lost faith in capitalism," said Senator James E. Murray, author of the Murray Bill. Speaking for himself, Senator Murray assured the country that he has complete faith in capitalism. Actually, however, he has little faith in capitalism's ability to achieve full production and employment, unless it gets a big helping hand from Uncle Sam. Unlike many manufacturers who sing the praises of "free enterprise" and demand a hands-off policy on the part of the Government, Senator Murray is convinced that only by state intervention can anything like full employment be achieved. A careful reading of the Murray Bill leaves one a little doubtful as to the future of full employment, even granting government assistance.

For example the bill says that the federal government must take steps to insure the greatest possible amount of employment by aiding industry, farmers, workers and state and local governments to achieve the goal.

### DIVERGENT INTERESTS

In concrete terms, what does this mean? Measures which aid labor may be considered harmful by industry. Industry is determined to obtain at firesale prices the up-to-date plants and machinery built by the government during the war with tax payers money. Labor would benefit immensely if these plants were used to produce goods for use. But industry would never stand for such an ar-

Apparently Senator Murray forsores the danger of crisis even if all the things called for in his bill come to pass. The bill stipulates such means as "banking and currency policies, monopoly and competition, wages and working conditions, foreign trade and investment, agriculture, taxation, social security and development of natural resources." And after these have run their courses, what? Then the President is to propose a program of federal expenditures to make up the deficit. A postwar WPA, forsooth!

All sections of organized labor will undoubtedly sup-

ever hearing the end. Enclosed is \$3.00 as the National Steering Committee's share of our last collection. Please send me a receipt when away.

Fraternally,  
Max Weinrib

### LOCAL 652

Bob Richardson, President of Olds Local 652, Lansing Mich. reports that his local voted unanimously to support the elimination of the no-strike pledge. In addition the local circularized the entire membership to bring out a "No" vote in the referendum.

## Rank and File Program

1. RESCIND THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE.
2. BREAK THE WLB BY REMOVING UAW MEMBERS FROM REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARDS.
3. SMASH THE LITTLE STEEL FORMULA BY HITCHING WAGES TO THE RISING COST OF LIVING.
4. BEGIN TODAY TO BUILD FOR AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY TOMORROW.
5. Wage Policy and Reconversion:
  - A. An industry-wide wage policy guaranteeing equal pay for equal work throughout the nation.
  - B. Fight general unemployment by instituting a thirty-hour week at a livable wage.
  - C. Fight seasonal unemployment with a guaranteed annual wage.
  - D. Adequate severance pay for all workers, to be based on seniority.
  - E. Reduction of age limits on Social Security retirement.
6. Election for all national union department heads, such as Ford, GM, Chrysler, etc.
7. Establishment of a national UAW daily paper.
8. Fifty per cent of all international union assessments to be retained by the local unions.
9. Elect officers who support the program of the workers in the shops.

(This program was adopted by the Rank and File delegates to the 1944 convention of the UAW - CIO in Grand Rapids, Michigan).

with the brass hats. The results of this, however, soon had its repercussions in the shops. As conditions became increasingly worse, the workers became increasingly per-

as for International convention delegates leaves no doubt of our permanency or of the ultimate success of restoring the fighting strength of our great union.

ganizations. Labor had to take what these money-grabbing manufacturers wanted to give them.

Now, with labor having a small voice in the destiny, and trying to better conditions for working people and returning soldiers, it seems that the anvil chorus has started to stop labor's gains, to create unfriendly feeling between war workers and service people and to make the public believe that labor's attempt to strike is causing the armed forces to froth at the mouth.

Here is my answer: Labor's gains are the soldiers' gains. If you have to draft labor to increase production, then draft excess profits. I'll bet that the first bill that tries to draft profit will be denounced as confiscation.

I am a veteran of the African-Italian campaign, and am still in the Army.

Sgt. Barrett L. Bearedry,  
Barksdale Field, La.

should be thrown out of Local 600—but not in order to put another group of job-seekers with the same program into office. The McCusker group will only continue the do-nothing policies of the Grant administration.

Local 600 didate for re-election. Aircraft chairman in order to be able to devote more time to the National Steering Committee and to the organization of a Rank and File Group at the Rouge Local.

## FLINT CIO OPPOSES EUROPEAN POLICY

The following resolution was adopted by the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council at its regular meeting on January 6, 1945:

**WHEREAS:** To forestall a Democratic Government in Greece and restore the puppet King George, the Churchill Government has slaughtered Greek Soldiers of the Worker's Army (ELAS) that drove the Nazis out of Greece, and

**WHEREAS:** Allied tanks, planes, munitions and men were used against Greek Workers at the very moment when American Workers were being slandered with blame for an alleged shortage of armaments on the Western Front, and

**WHEREAS:** Allied forces have been used also against Italian and Belgian workers who protested being ruled after "liberation" by the same native S. L. Averys, Tom Girdlers and Smith-Connollys who oppressed them under the Nazi heel, and

**WHEREAS:** American workers with our own Quislings and would-be Hitlers and Mussolinis to deal with have common cause with European workers trying to make a reality of their so-called liberation, and

**WHEREAS:** The right of Nations to determine their own government is a fundamental demand of oppressed peoples everywhere, regardless whether there ever was an Atlantic Charter, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council calls upon the CIO National Office immediately to launch a nation-wide campaign to protest the use of Allied troops against workers of any country who are trying to establish their own democracy. We particularly protest the Churchill-Scobie butchery in Greece. Let the people of Greece, Belgium, Italy, North Africa, etc., choose their own governments and deal in their own way with their native Mayor Hagenez, Hoovers, etc. We protest our brothers in the Allied forces—mostly denied the right to vote here at home,—being ordered to shoot European workers who want a voice in their governments, and be it finally

**RESOLVED:** That copies of this Resolution be sent to the CIO National Office, to the White House, State Department, Winston Churchill, affiliated Local Unions and the press.

## CLEVELAND MEETING

Larry Yost, Chairman of the National Rank and File Steering Committee, made a flying trip to Cleveland and spoke to the members of the local steering committee Sunday, February 17.

Brother Yost reported on the activities of the National Committee in the no-strike pledge referendum and presented the program of the National Steering Committee. He also brought with him copies of the RANK AND FILE which were distributed in Cleveland for the first time.

The Cleveland steering committee endorsed the program of the National Committee and welcomed the first issue of the paper with enthusiasm. They expect a flow of subscriptions to the RANK AND FILE to begin shortly.

## IS LABOR TAKING A LICKING?

Labor went all out in 1944 for the election of President Roosevelt, and labor's power probably more than any single factor, helped elect our President.

The first move was not made by the President but by the House of Representatives in passing a bill to make the un-American or so-called Dies' Committee a permanent committee of the House. This was followed by the resignation of Hull as Secretary of State, and the appointment of Stettinius to that post. This meant the elimination of a man fighting cartels for a man who has been part of the cartel setup. The new Secretary of State immediately appointed as Undersecretaries, a group of millionaires more or less identified with cartels, or the efforts to continue to supply our future enemies with the material with which they could wage war against us.

More recently, the President fired cabinet member Jones to make room for former Vice-President Wallace with the blunt assertion that Mr. Wallace had this job coming because of his fine work during the recent campaign. From where we sit it appears that the President hoped by this method, to get rid of both Mr. Jones and Mr. Wallace.

The latest move is the appointment of ex-Senator Gillette of Iowa, to a high post in government. This is the Mr. Gillette, whom the P.A.C. had on their "must" list to be defeated, and P.A.C. won out. Now the President takes care of Mr. Gillette.

All in all it begins to look as though that old lion of the labor movement has once again proven that he knows more about labor and what is good for labor than our own C.I.O. leadership. If labor is not getting a black eye out of their battle for Mr. Roosevelt, then things must change darned soon! To add to this list one must also mention the labor draft proposed by the President, and now being worked on by Congress.

It is time for labor to wake up, and fight their own battles and not depend on either the democratic or republican parties to fight for them. A true labor party under the control of labor, and not under the control of minority groups is what we need. Wake up, labor, and fight for your rights and the rights of the returning veterans.

—Reprinted from the Headlight, published by Local 599, January 31, 1945.



## LAMOTTE RULES LOCAL 856

In an attempt to smash the progressive unionist Goodyear Aircraft Local 856 in Akron, Ohio, R. J. Thomas appointed Leo Lamotte administrator over the local. The membership had voted to request an administrator because of the mismanagement of the local by former president McCoy and his administration.

Lamotte, however, immediately proceeded to appoint McCoy and his cohorts as his assistants in running the local and opened up an intensive campaign against the Rank and File group. Lamotte is the man who, when he was Chrysler director of the UAW was repudiated in resolutions by practically every Chrysler local in the Detroit area. Yet Thomas had the gall to send him out to Akron to take over Local 856.

### SMEAR CAMPAIGN

In his drive to get rid of all the progressive elements

in the local, Lamotte did not hesitate to use the most vicious smear tactics. He removed the leading militant members from posts, on the bargaining committee and other offices to which they had been elected by the rank and file.

Most vicious of all his tactics was the use of anti-semitic references in the local paper, The Dive Bomber, during his administration. The UAW leaders, who are on record as being opposed to all discrimination against any minority in the union, did not utter so much as a word of protest against this.

### LAMOTTE SOON OUT

Lamotte's reign of terror, however, will soon be over. The sixty day period during which the local may be taken over by the International is about over. The Progressive group of Local 856 is conducting a vigorous campaign

fighting officers to undo Lamotte's dirty work. Lamotte's rule has only resulted in another local discovering that a hatchet man like him has no place as an official of the UAW.

### DEADLINE

Deadline for material to be included in the next issue of the RANK AND FILE is March 12. Please submit material before that date so that we can get the paper out on time.

### LOCAL 946

The Rank and File slate, headed by Bob McAtamney, as president, won by a landslide vote in Local 946, DeSoto Warren plant, executive officers and plant committee elections just concluded.

### LOCAL 3

As we go to press the papers report a strike of members of Local 3 at the Dodge Main plant. With the no-strike referendum vote over, International Secretary-Treasurer Addes returned to his old tactics of smearing striking members of the UAW and trying to high-pressure them into acceptance of any kind of treatment the Chrysler Corp. wants to hand out. We are sure Dodge workers will remember this when the time comes to vote for delegates to the next convention.

**Get Off the WLB!**

conservative unionists, the bureaucrats behind the back of the rank and file and without its prior authority is an act of bureaucratic dictatorship aimed at subordinating the unions of labor to agencies of government whose sympathies will always be with the corporations.

The illusion that the irreconcilable interests between the owners of industries and the wage workers can be resolved by authoritarian boards or commissions established by law, and that therefore the "strike weapon" is now as outmoded as the bow and arrow, will, if accepted by labor, unerringly lead to the destruction of free unionism in this country. That this reactionary concept is a "bear trap" set for labor and is rapidly closing its crushing jaws on the workers is clearly evident to all close observers, and will be denied only by the bureaucratic minded misleaders and their anti-union friends in high places of business and politics.

### LABOR REGIMENTATION

Beside the enslaving "no-strike pledge" and the boldy proposed slave labor law now before the United States Senate; there has been much undercover agitation for various legal forms of labor control and regimentation. While the nation is at war against the fascist hang men of Europe, the political and propaganda foot-boys of big business have quietly stolen a few pages from the Fascist's Bible, and have cleverly translated them into the American version, "Progressive social regulation of the human factor in the economy," obviously a sweet scented treatment of the ugly and infamous word "fascism."

By their skillful presentation of the idea of social control they have sown in the minds of unwary millions the seeds of sur-

### LABOR TOMORROW

With the world left in ruin by the war, with certain areas spread unemployment and economic dislocation in the United States of America, and elsewhere in the world, the warring people of all lands indeed face a grave future. Shall it be a future of freedoms just such as blighted the lives of the masses in Europe? Shall we become victims of the decaying pedlars of the current bromides there can be a "good fascism" a "progressive fascism," if it is "made in America?"

### THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE OPENED THE FLOOD GATES

The no-strike pledge, the work or go to jail bill, and the demands of the bosses and government officials for a permanent post war authoritarian agency for "the regulation of the human factor in the economy" (read Labor) are one and all fascist in character and form, and while hiding behind false labels, are aimed at the destruction of the American workers' traditional freedom of movement through the organizations of their own choice and creation.

Only the bureaucrats will deny that the no-strike pledge made by them has opened the flood gates to a wide variety of proposed anti-labor measures, most of which receiving their inspiration and impetus from the treacherous pledge.

Labor, busy at its machines and benches, has lost more ground to its enemies than it presently realizes as a result of the treachery of their misleaders and unless it soon realizes what it is drifting, its tomorrow will be years of hard struggles to throw off the enslaving chains now being forged.

# RANK AND FILER

PUBLISHED BY NATIONAL UAW-CIO RANK AND FILE STEERING COMMITTEE

Vol. 1 — No. 3

27

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

APRIL, 1945

## 35% AGAINST STRIKE PLEDGE

### WLB BACK DOWN

### DODGE STRIKERS MAKE GAINS

By WILLIAM JENKINS  
President, Local 490

The recent Dodge strike originated in Department 234 which has seven gear-shaving machines. The production on this operation was originally 100 pieces per hour. The company pushed this figure up to 153 pieces, which the workers were unable to make.

The union processed a grievance on the production rate which was carried to the second step in the grievance procedure when the company suddenly fired the men involved, claiming at the same time that production should be 184 pieces per hour.

#### WALKOUT PROVOKED

This resulted in a walkout which virtually paralyzed the Chrysler Corporation on the eve of a Senatorial investigation.

George F. Addes, Acting President of the International, following his usual procedure, ordered the men back to work. The Regional War Labor Board and later on a majority of the Dodge Local 3 Executive Board also ordered the workers back into the plant.

#### WORKERS STAND FIRM

In spite of all this, the workers refused to return and maintained

finally ordered both the Local 3 Executive Board and the Chrysler management to appear in Washington for a "show-cause" hearing.

#### GAINS MADE

After the hearing the President of the Local, Mike Novak, reported the following concessions:

1. The company agreed that the cases of the discharged men should go to immediate arbitration.
2. The jobs in question will be immediately retimed, with a union representative present.

plant a couple of weeks earlier. It was in many ways a victory for the workers. It may prove a deterrent to the company's efforts to speed up production beyond human endurance now that they think the end of the war is in sight.

#### INTERNATIONAL BACK TRACKS

It is interesting to note that in spite of all their blustering the International did not suspend the Local officers or take over the Local. *It is our opinion that the boys who wear the brass hats are beginning to feel the rising tide of resentment against the dictatorial practice of suspending local officers.* It is also pretty plain that

#### Chrysler Corporation Profits Reach New Peak

	1943	1944
Net Profits	\$ 23,322,566	\$ 24,819,469
Reserves	28,000,000	40,000,000
Surplus	140,245,377	132,012,070

3. The company will stop their wholesale discharges and speed up the officers of a large local union with a sizable vote.

### Fight to Scrap Continues

The first report on the no-strike pledge referendum, issued by Ben Garrison, chairman of the referendum committee, indicates that the no-strike pledge has been upheld by 63.4% of the vote. 231,225 of the almost one and a quarter million members of the UAW-CIO participated in the vote. 99,186 members, or 35.3% of the voters, voted to scrap the pledge.

This vote is a step forward for the progressive rank and file of our union which fought against tremendous odds to rid the UAW of the no-strike pledge shackles that bind it. When we chose to fight the conservative leadership that now controls the UAW, we did not minimize their strength or influence. As was pointed out in the RANK AND FILER, the top officers of the union had on their side two old and powerful caucuses which did not hesitate to distribute freely the dues dollars of the membership to buy support for their policy of appeasement.

#### BRASS HATS GET SUPPORT

They had in addition the support of the top bureaucracy of the CIO which graciously issued a special number of the CIO News devoted to support of the no-strike pledge and mailed free to every UAW member. The Communist controlled International Unions, also came to their aid with money, organizers and publicity as when the National Maritime Union, run by the Communists with an iron hand, propagandized with sound trucks outside of auto shops in Detroit.

The brass hats also counted on, and got, the support of the corporation-controlled daily press which did not stop at any standard of lie in fighting the progressive forces of the union. And they were joined by army and government officials, whose entirely unequalled interference in a union referendum was entirely on the side of our own brass hats.

That the newly organized Rank and File Committee, with practically no funds, could rally one-third of the vote to rescind the pledge is no small achievement.



...picket lines at the plant. Local President dissented from the majority opinion of his Board and courageously urged them to continue their strike until the discharged workers were reinstated.

The National War Labor Board

...timing and disposition of these cases.

4. No one will be penalized as a result of the strike.

While the strike was obviously provoked by the company, which had tried to provoke a strike in the Highland Park

Note: As we go to press the news comes that the eight Dodge workers who were fired were ordered reinstated by the umpire. Seven received a 30-day suspension and the loss of one year's seniority. One man was given a 20-day suspension.

#### VOTE SMALL

A most significant feature of the vote which added to the surprise was the surprising number of auto and aircraft workers who did not vote. To understand why the vote was so small is to understand why the pledge was upheld.

Thousands upon thousands of UAW members who are opposed to the no-strike pledge did not cast any ballots in the referendum. Where, for example, were the thousands of Chrysler workers in Detroit who showed what they thought of the no-strike pledge by walking out of their plants in protest against a company speed-up? Where were the Briggs workers, the Ford workers, who have not hesitated in the past to use the strike weapon to protect their rights?

#### STRIKE WEAPON NOT ENOUGH

Only one answer can be given: The majority of UAW members did not think that rescinding the no-strike pledge would result in any considerable change in the policies of the union leadership or in the status of the union.

They felt that the leadership would continue to sell them out to the corporations, that the government would still continue to clamp down on the unions with new and more stringent restrictions.

What was not realized was that restoration of the right to strike was not intended to solve ALL the problems which the workers and the union face. It was only the first step. For a strong, fighting, united labor movement the full Rank and File program is necessary.

The Rank and File Committee will continue the fight to remove the no-strike clause which binds us. It will also continue the fight for the full program, of which rescinding the pledge is only a part.

#### RANK AND FILE PROGRAM

- The Union must scrap the no-strike pledge!
- The Union must remove its members from the War Labor Board and thereby destroy the Board which acts only as a graveyard for labor's grievances!
- The Union must replace the old sell-out leadership with a new fighting leadership that is dedicated to carry out this program!
- The Union must take the lead in the organization of an Independent Labor Party which will end company-unionism in politics and fight directly against the government laws and regulations which hamstringing labor and lower its standard of living!

The fight for this program has only begun.

UAW members: JOIN WITH US IN THIS FIGHT. BUILD THE RANK AND FILE COMMITTEE IN YOUR SHOP AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL.

## BRIGGS OFFENSIVE AGAINST UNION

Briggs Manufacturing Company has launched a war of attrition against Local 212, UAW-CIO. Main strategy of this offensive consists of deliberately provoking an incident as an excuse for getting rid of militant stewards and committeemen.

Thus on Feb. 6 supervision ordered 15 burr room workers, receiving \$1.02 an hour, to do rework which customarily pays \$1.17 an hour. When the chief steward attempted to negotiate the matter, the foreman admitted he had been instructed to send home all workers who refused to do rework.

Sparking trouble, the steward sent out an emergency call to the plant committee, but by the time the committeemen arrived on the scene, three workers were sent home. Immediately the plant committee arranged a meeting with the plant management. While the meeting was in progress eleven additional burr workers and their chief steward were sent home.

#### REFUSED TO BARGAIN

The meeting with plant management came to nothing, since the company officials simply refused to bargain. Aroused over the arbitrary action of the company, eight Mack Plant employees walked out and the plant went down. Three days later Dean Robinson, Vice-president of Briggs, announced publicly that an investi-

gation would be made to find and discharge those responsible for the trouble. Needless to say, Robinson made no mention of the company's own responsibility in the matter.

On Monday, Feb. 12 the workers returned to their jobs on condition that the Regional War Labor Board send an arbitrator to assure prompt negotiations of the rework issue. But the company went through with its "investigations" and on Feb. 28, seven workers were fired, accused of having instigated 57 work stoppages, resulting in a loss of nearly half a million man hours. Not an ounce of proof was produced to substantiate those wild charges. Indeed management was not interested in proof, but in goading the workers. Again the Mack Ave. Plant went down. This time the workers were really roused. About 400 made a bee line for the International Union headquarters, displaying picket signs and demanding action from the International officers.

#### BLACK LISTED

At a packed meeting March 1 the membership resolved not to return to work until the seven discharged workers are re-instated. Within the next four days eight more workers were discharged, designated as "trouble breeders and agitators" on their employment release slips. Evidently the Company was not satisfied merely

with firing them, but decided to black-ball them to boot. Determined to overlook no angles, the Company notified the draft board that six workers were no longer in the employ of the company.

On Sunday, March 4, the members again jammed the local hall and voted to stay out until all discharged workers were put back on their jobs without qualifications. The International representative who urged them to go back to work on the grounds that grievances could not be taken up while a dispute was in progress were unmercifully booed.

On the following Wednesday the Local officers appeared at a show-cause hearing before the War Labor Board. Out of this hearing came three developments: (1) the Company was ordered to re-instate the eight workers fired subsequent to the March 12 walkout. (2) The company, yielding to RWLB pressure, agreed to notify the draft board that the six deferments be put on a status-quo basis. (3) It was agreed that the case involving the seven originally fired workers be taken up at the fifth stage of Grievance procedure as soon as possible after resumption of plant operations.

(Continued on page 4)

#### INSIDE

Willow Run Election Page 4  
Chicago Local 715, Page 3

The UAW in a recent press release announced its support of the miners' demands but the story was later described by R. J. Thomas as having been issued in error. Since then there has been no official word from the UAW officialdom on any support to the United Mine Workers.

In line with their sell-out policies, we can expect the union bureaucrats to attack rather than defend the miners in their struggle.

The Communist Party, too, has gone all out against the miners. The New York City Industrial Union Council, which is CP dominated, has not only denounced Lewis but has gone on record against the miners' demands.

The miners once again will have not only the operators but also the government and the trade union bureaucracy to fight against in their struggle for economic justice.

Probably the most bitterly disputed issue in the current controversy will be Lewis' demand for a ten cent royalty on every ton of coal mined to provide a reserve fund for the miners physical, social and economic welfare. On this novel demand we can only say: if a reserve is good enough for big business, it is good enough for the workers.

The reactionaries—press, coal operators, government officials, labor hawks, CPers—in their concerted drive against the miners will attempt to confuse the issue by attacking Lewis rather than the miners directly.

An attack on Lewis for his demands in the current negotiations is an attack on the miners.

We urge all auto workers to support the miners and their demands in their present struggle.

## THE RANK AND FILER

Published by the

NATIONAL UAW-CIO RANK AND FILE STEERING COMMITTEE

8127 Rutland Street — Detroit 10, Michigan

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

JOHN ZUPAN, Editor

LARRY YOST

ART HUGHES

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

LARRY YOST, Local 600, Detroit—Chairman

ART HUGHES, Local 140, Detroit—Secretary

MAX WEINRIB, Local 719, Chicago

BOB BURCKHARDT, Local 12, Toledo

JAMES BARRICKS, Local 501, Buffalo

25-100 copies	each	5c
1000 copies		\$15
3000 copies or over	per thousand	\$10
Subscriptions: 12 issues		\$1
10 or more subscriptions	each	\$0c

to one. Other top officers who ran

## From the Ranks

### THANKS

To the Editor:

Enclosed please find 2 bucks—one for a subscription to the "RANK AND FILER" and one for a small donation to the same. Best of luck and keep up the good work.

PFC. SEYMOUR KEHAN  
Buckley Field, Colorado

### PHILADELPHIA SHIP BUILDER

To the Editor:

Enclosed find one dollar for a subscription to the RANK AND FILER. Please begin the sub with Issue No. 1.

In the Philadelphia area there are some 40 or 50 trade unionists who will be very much interested in a really progressive union paper. And I understand that the RANK AND FILER will be that. If it is possible, please send me a number of sample copies. I'll see that subscriptions are obtained right away.

Good luck to a mighty encouraging development.

JERRY Y. KOTZ  
Editor, Local 42 News  
Industrial Union of Marine  
and Shipbuilding Workers  
of America, CIO

### A WORKERS PAPER

To the Editor:

Enclosed you will find one dollar for a sub to the RANK AND FILER.

From what I heard so far it sounds like a real workers' paper, not like the stogie sheets that are supported by our executive board. Please keep it that way. The labor movement needs such

What is needed is a group in

a paper. Here's wishing you luck.  
MILTON SHATAN  
New York City

### UNFAIR PRESS

To the Editor:

I am getting sick and tired of the unfair publicity given by the press about strikes.

Did it ever occur to you that these so-called "unpatriotic union men and women" who produce an avalanche of weapons of war and who buy all the defense bonds they can, also have sons, brothers, sisters and sweethearts on the battle fronts?

We are winning the battles for democracy in Europe and the Pacific, but labor is fast losing all the gains achieved through organized labor in peacetime, because some hungry capitalists are taking advantage of the no-strike pledge.

Seven union officers are discharged for allegedly instigating strikes, but management is exonerated of all blame by the press for any of these strikes.

Jobs and wages are frozen, the grievance procedure is inefficient, the War Labor Board is not much better, the prices of commodities have skyrocketed. The corporations have done their share, too—they have given up big profits for bigger profits.

If you sincerely want to stop these strikes you had better appeal to the patriotism of management to treat the war production workers the way our ex-servicemen will expect to be treated when they return to the jobs they left to fight dictatorship, oppression, slavery and intolerance.

Five million union men and wo-

men cannot all be wrong.  
HENRY MILECH  
Bomber Local No. 70  
Romulus, Mich.

### FROM THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

To the Editor:

I want to express my opinion of the forthcoming membership referendum on the no-strike referendum. I am in favor of the revocation of the no-strike pledge.

I do not pretend to represent the thinking of any other serviceman but I believe that very few soldiers coming from a unionized shop and who are acquainted with our union's aims, and who also know that we are fighting a war against fascism, will disagree with me. We know that the majority of the strike were provoked by the management and the real causes were not for higher wages but for a system of true collective bargaining. The workers in the shop today will have to answer to the serviceman when they come back.

They will want a strict account of their gains that were acquired by hard work and sacrifice before they went into the service. The only way our unions today can keep those gains, and get more of them, is to marshal all their weapons to stop the well-organized union-busting program that management is using today. The right to strike is one of them.

Therefore, being guided by my past experience as a Unit No. 2 Committeeman, I urge the membership to vote to rescind the no-strike pledge.

Yours for better unionism,  
PVT. ELMO PINARD  
Philippines

(Reprinted from Equibator Local 53)



workers employed has  
 The heart of the problem is control over production schedules. Tommy doesn't want any interference with the setting of such schedules by management. But having the deciding voice in just such a problem is one of the primary objectives of the UAW. From its earliest days, the UAW has fought to speed-up and has succeeded in establishing its right to limit production schedules to rates which conform to the reasonable safety and comfort of the workers.

#### SPEED UP AGAIN

This is a prime and fundamental right of the union. It is not difficult to imagine what auto shops would be like if Foreman could raise production whenever he pleased, if a union representative did not have the right to oppose and prevent the establishment of any production schedule which created a health hazard to the workers.

Let no one take that right from our Union!

#### FRIENDS OF LABOR

The activities of the Mead Committee brings to mind another aspect of the question. In their first hearings, the Committee, and espe-

#### DUMB?

W. G. Grant, President of Ford Local 600, was looking through the article on the Ford-Local elections which appeared in the last issue of the RANK AND FILE. In it, the slate which he heads and the opposition slate, headed by McCusker were called equally bad — a case of Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

Asked Grant, "Which one am I, Tweedledee or Tweedledum?" Shot back Larry Yost, "Dum."

vention had been planned for Grand Rapids, Mich., June 18-20. At the same time it is reported that Secretary-Treasurer George Addes has formally filed a request for permission to hold the tenth annual convention of the UAW-CIO in Grand Rapids beginning September 10.

Elementary union democracy demands that a UAW convention be held this year. Have your local union resolve to let no stone unturned to get a convention in 1945.



"For the benefit of the private from the UAW the name is Col. McSwagger not Brother Chairman!"

FROM AMMUNITION, UAW-CIO

## Rank and File Program

1. RESCIND THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE.
2. BREAK THE WLB BY REMOVING UAW MEMBERS FROM REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARDS.
3. SMASH THE LITTLE STEEL FORMULA BY HITCHING WAGES TO THE RISING COST OF LIVING.
4. BEGIN TODAY TO BUILD FOR AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY TOMORROW.
5. Wage Policy and Reconversion:
  - A. An industry-wide wage policy guaranteeing equal pay for equal work throughout the nation.
  - B. Fight general unemployment by instituting a thirty-hour week at a livable wage.
  - C. Fight seasonal unemployment with a guaranteed annual wage.
  - D. Adequate severance pay for all workers, to be based on seniority.
  - E. Reduction of age limits on Social Security retirement.
6. Election for all national union department heads, such as Ford, GM, Chrysler, etc.
7. Establishment of a national UAW daily paper.
8. Fifty per cent of all international union assessments to be retained by the local unions.
9. Elect officers who support the program of the workers in the shops.

(This program was adopted by the Rank and File delegates to the 1944 convention of the UAW-CIO in Grand Rapids, Michigan.)

## CHRYSLER CORP. ANTI-UNION

In a recent magazine article, John W. Scoville, an economist for the Chrysler Corporation, states what is apparently the attitude of the Chrysler Corporation toward full-employment and industrial relations.

The Chrysler expert, Scoville, states flatly that "one of the most absurd of our current fallacies is the idea that everyone has the right to a job." "The guaranteed right to a job in private industry is a promise the government cannot meet—a right the government cannot grant—without replacing freedom with communism."

Scoville's panacea for prosperity is in his own words, "By repealing every law to regulate trade, wages, prices, and employment, and by restoring economic freedom."

This attitude of the corporation which is evidently official, inasmuch as it has not been repudiated by the company, explains in large part the cause for the recent strike in the Dodge plants.

Draft — get along with it. In the entire labor movement there is only one group that favors National Service legislation — that crowd is the Communist Party — excuse me — Communist Political Association and its fellow travelers. That this phony "unity" group failed to take a position on this most important question should make it clear to every man, woman, or child above the age of four that this group is trying to tie the Local to the C. P. kite.

## PURE AND SIMPLE DEMAGOGY

One of the arguments used in the Campaign, by Bob Wilson, ex-acting President and supporter of the "unity" gang was that in 1944 they were able to win grievances because they had "unity" in the local. Brother Wilson conveniently forgets that since that time we have a NO-STRIKE PLEDGE which he helped foist on the UAW, that since that time we have a War Labor Board which he wants to "streamline."

A majority of the people who voted grasped at the straw of "nulty" not understanding that it was a fake. The events of the coming period will show everybody that only the effectuation of the program of the national RANK AND FILE CAUCUS can get labor out of the rat it finds itself in today.

The Progressive Group does not feel that all is lost because of its temporary defeat in the Local union elections. It intends to continue fighting for progressive unionism until victory is won. The Group is more determined than ever to help build the RANK AND FILE CAUCUS so that it becomes the central rallying point of all progressive militants in the UAW.

...the foreman, he has a lower efficiency rating than some of the workers with only one year seniority.

What a wonderful opportunity for foremen and supervisors to practice favoritism and discrimination! Employees will be rated for retention purposes on the basis of 96 for an EXCELLENT rating.

else will decide who is to be promoted. No matter how long a worker has been on a certain job, he will be ineligible to promotion if the foreman says he does not have the proper rating.

The CIO has already warned the government not to place the Center Line Arsenal in Navy hands. Many workers in that plant have declared they will promptly quit rather than put up with the kind of labor relations proposed by the Navy. The Michigan Commonwealth Federation asks that the government—not the Navy—take over the plant and operate it as a public corporation, similar to TVA, without in any way altering union conditions.

The Center Line Arsenal issue should be a lesson to those innocent workers who are often heard to say: "Let the Army or the Navy take over the plant! We couldn't possibly be any worse off than we are now." The Center Line workers think they would be considerably worse off. And they would!

**WE APOLOGIZE . . .**

To our many correspondents for not being able to answer all the letters we have received. As you know, the RANK AND FILER has no paid help. All work for the paper is done after regular working hours in the shop and we have just been unable to find the time to take care of our correspondence. So don't stop writing—we appreciate receiving words of encouragement—but please bear with us.

*The Editor*

**BRIGGS OFFENSIVE AGAINST UNION**

(Continued from page 1)

**VOTE TO RETURN**

On the basis of these arguments, the Local officers called a meeting at Cass High and recommended that the members return to their jobs. Overwhelmingly the workers voted in favor of the recommendation.

As this is being written, Local and International officers are negotiating with management on the seven cases. Whether the company will succeed in eliminating all or at least some of these workers, known for their union loyalty or militancy, remains to be seen.

Bill Hudnik, Vice President  
Louise Stakelen, Rec. Secretary  
John Zupan, Plant Chairman  
Red Cole, Trustee  
Robert Kidd, Sergeant-at-Arms

Gene Wilson and Chuck Wade, candidates for Unit II chairman, both support the "Rank and File" program.

The Quillico "United Bomber" slate has as the center of its program appeasement of the company. This is evident from the record that Quillico established while in office. It is also made official in the printed program of the group.

**UAW POLICY**

They announce that they stand for full support to "UAW-CIO policy". That is the policy of the UAW brass hats: giving up the right to strike for a stronger War Labor

their control of the plant. The primary objective is to get Quillico thrown out. Most of the employees left with a few executive posts where they could do harm.

**DEADLINE**

Deadline for material to be included in the May issue of the RANK AND FILER is April 30. Please submit your material before that date so that it can be included in the May issue of the paper.

**Subscribe to the Rank and Filer**

**THE RANK AND FILER**

8127 Rutland Detroit 10, Mich.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 12 ISSUES**

Single sub: \$1.00 10 or more subs: \$.80 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street and No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

L. U. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Solicitor \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

UAW-CIO



# REVOKE THE NO-

In a month or six weeks the membership will express itself as to whether it wishes to retain or reject the no-strike pledge. The resolutions committee of the Convention has been ordered by the delegates to poll the entire membership within ninety days following the date of the close of the convention, September 18, 1944.

Buick Local 6 delegates, welded in joint struggle with the most militant and progressive forces in the UAW, waged a heroic fight to revoke the infamous no-strike pledge. Stacked against them was the majority might of the International Executive Board—Thomas, Frankenstein, Addes, Reuther; President Murray of the CIO, Secretary of the Interior Ickes, and the arch betrayers of the labor movement; the Communist Party, who used every browbeating method and every shoddy trick at their command to force the convention to retain the pledge. After the sound and fury of these opposing forces were over, 38 per cent of the delegation remained steadfast. They refused to budge. Thirty-eight per cent of the delegates voted outright repeal of the pledge. They put up a good fight; but they were defeated and forced to accept a compromise, a referendum of the membership within ninety days.

The membership of Buick Local 6, the executive board, the shop committee, the district committeemen and stewards, have not changed their minds. They are against the no-strike pledge. Nothing has happened to change their minds. On the contrary the recent decision of the War Labor Board in refusing to revise the Little Steel Formula only confirms the conviction that nothing can be expected from a continuation of the past policy.

The equality of sacrifice program, foisted upon the labor movement, proved to be a hideous myth from its very inception. The trade union movement was duped. In return for the surrender by the international leadership of labor's most powerful weapon, the strike, labor was promised that prices and wages would be frozen. The cost of living

## These Are the Conditions Under Which We Will Operate as a Union

### The Strikes, Stoppages and Lockouts Section of the Union-Corp. Contract

(128) It is the intent of the parties to this Agreement that the procedures herein shall serve as a means for peaceable settlement of all disputes that may arise between them.

(129) During the life of this Agreement, the Corporation will not lockout any employees until all of the bargaining procedures as outlined in this Agreement has been exhausted and in no case on which the Umpire shall have ruled, and in no other case on which the Umpire is not empowered to rule until after negotiations have continued for at least five days at the third step of the Grievance Procedure. In case a lockout shall occur the Union has the option of cancelling the Agreement at any time between the tenth day after the lockout occurs and the date of its settlement.

(30) During the life of this Agreement, the Union will not cause or permit its members to cause, nor will any member of the Union take part in, any sit-down, stay-in or slow-down, in any plant of the Corporation, or any curtailment of work or restriction of production, or interference with production of the Corporation. The Union will not cause or permit its members to cause nor will any member of the Union take part in any strike or stoppage of any of the Corporation's plants or premises until

# STRIKE PLEDGE

## Under Which We Would Without a No-Strike Pledge

### The International Union Constitution Sections on Strikes

#### ARTICLE 25 — STRIKES

Section 1. Whenever any difficulty arises within the jurisdiction of any Local Union within the shop involved, between its members and any employer or employers, growing out of reduction in wages, lengthening of hours of labor, or other grievances incident to the conditions of employment, or whenever any Local Union desires to secure for its members an increase in wages, or shorter work day or other changes in the conditions of employment, the Local Union involved shall call a meeting of all members to decide by secret ballot whether the proposed changes shall be accepted or rejected. The majority vote of those present and voting on the question shall decide. If, as a result of this decision, a strike vote is decided upon, the Local Union Executive Board shall notify all members, and it shall require a two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot of those voting to declare a strike. Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote on the question of declaring a strike.

Section 2. If the Local Union involved is unable to reach an agree-

ment, the no-strike pledge and put an end to the hypocrisy of saying one thing for public opinion and actually doing another. In the recent strike of maintenance men in Detroit, for example, many local unions whose policy is unquestioning support of the no-strike pledge went out on strike while locals whose delegates fought furiously at the Grand Rapids convention to have the no-strike pledge thrown out, actually stayed at work, preferring to exhaust negotiations. Locals representing General Motors workers voted in unison to revoke the pledge and these locals have the best work records. Ford locals and Packard have flagrantly violated the pledge yet they continue to support its retention.

Revocation of the pledge will force a return of the International Executive Board to the practice of solving the problems of the workers in the shops instead of using the no-strike pledge as a means of evading their responsibilities as union leaders while they perfect the "tea drinking techniques" of the labor statesman. So accustomed to the ease and comfort of the no-strike pledge have some of them become that each year that the pledge has come up for consideration at UAW conventions they have favored extending it beyond its original intent.

In the 1942 UAW convention, held in Chicago, the resolution on the no-strike pledge contained a time limit to be invoked by the International Executive Board if managements and the government failed to live up to their obligations under the equality of sacrifice program. This they failed to do. Yet the International Executive Board refused to invoke the time limit as the convention had demanded.

In the Buffalo convention in 1943, we slipped back a notch further. No time limit was included in the no-strike pledge. Instead the Government was to be requested to take over and "operate without profit" to



has risen 45.3 per cent. Wages remain frozen. Labor was promised effective arbitration machinery for the speedy and just settlement of grievances. For a whole year we have been working without a contract. Grievances have piled up and the War Labor Board continues to stall. Labor was promised that this war, in contrast to World War I, could not give rise to a whole new crop of war-millionaires. Hundreds of new millionaires have been created since the war, and profits have risen five times the pre-war level. The labor movement has, indeed, been duped. If any one ever thought that the War Labor Board was a fair and "impartial" body, recent events should convince him that he was wrong. Nothing can be expected but a raw deal from this anti-labor agency.

Just as the utter dependence upon the phony promises of the War Labor Board and other government agencies, during the war has served only to hamstring the labor movement, continued reliance upon them after the war will drive our union along with the rest of the labor movement into the same blind alley. Recently the Murray-Kilgore bill, which would have given labor some measure of economic security during the reconversion period, was defeated in Congress. Instead we were given the George "Starvation" bill. This is the tip-off of what we can expect. Labor must learn to depend solely upon its own might. The forces that were welded together at the convention against the no-strike pledge were determined to combat the present reactionary program and policy of our International Executive Board. They want a return to that program, policy, and methods that brought General Motors to its knees. They want a return to that program which brought them the greatest gains. They want a return to that program which inspired the entire labor movement with its vision, resourcefulness and vitality. There is a program which will deal a body blow to crush the growing reaction within the UAW.

In the coming referendum it is the duty of every active union member to assume his share of responsibility in clarifying the membership on this issue. The very life of our union is at stake. We aim to abolish the false and treacherous policies of our International Executive Board. FOR A RETURN OF THE STRIKE WEAPON! AGAINST THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE!

all the bargaining procedures as outlined in this Agreement has been exhausted, and in no case on which the Umpire shall have ruled, and in no other case on which the Umpire is not empowered to rule until after negotiations have continued for at least five days at the third step of the Grievance Procedure and not even then unless sanction by the International Union, United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, CIO. In case a strike or stoppage of production shall occur, the Corporation has the option of cancelling the Agreement at any time between the tenth day after the strike occurs and the day of its settlement. The Corporation reserves the right to discipline any employee taking part in any violation of this Section of the Agreement.

(131) The Union has requested this National Agreement in place of independent agreements for each bargaining unit covered hereby. Accordingly, any authorized strike in one bargaining unit under this Agreement which results in an interruption of the flow of material or services to operations in any other bargaining unit under this Agreement, will be considered an authorized strike in any such affected bargaining unit.

**Remember! A Vote to Revoke  
A Vote to Strike; It Is a V**

**Your Ballot Will**

**Vote on the**

the employer without strike action, the Recording Secretary of the Local Union shall prepare a full statement of the matters in controversy and forward the same to the Regional Director and International President. The Regional Director or his assigned representative in conjunction with the Local Union Committee shall attempt to effect a settlement. Upon failure to effect a settlement he shall send the International President his recommendation of approval or disapproval of a strike. Upon receipt of the statement of matters in controversy from the Regional Director, the International President shall prepare and forward a copy thereof to each member of the International Executive Board together for a request for their vote upon the question of approving a strike of those involved to enforce their decision in relation thereto. Upon receipt of the vote of the members of the International Executive Board, the International President shall forthwith notify in writing the Regional Director and the Local Union of the decision of the International Executive Board.

the employer, plants where management refused to bargain in good faith. Sounded good, but nothing was ever done.

In Grand Rapids in 1944, the "supporters" of the no-strike pledge were set to take the Union for another ride. This time they wanted to pass an unqualified no-strike pledge which could not be revoked even after the war. Fortunately for the Union, these "supporters" of the no-strike pledge were defeated and the problem has been taken to the membership for referendum to be conducted through the United States mails.

Now, after three conventions the rank and file members of the Union can make a final decision on this vital question without the issue being clouded. The question is to be presented in its simplest form. Each member will mark his ballot either "For the No-Strike Pledge" or "Against the No-Strike Pledge," and mail his ballot back to the referendum committee for tabulation.

**REMEMBER THIS WHEN YOU VOTE:** Some are confused and misled into believing that revoking the no-strike pledge means strike. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** Just read our constitution and contract as they apply to the question of strike action.

**REMEMBER THIS ALSO:** Wildcat strikes develop only when the rank and file members lose confidence in their elected leaders' ability to settle their problems without long delay. They are willing to subject themselves to the risk of severe disciplinary actions so that their problems will get the attention they deserve. This same elected leadership in such a situation is forced to line up with management against the workers under the no-strike pledge and order the workers back to work without a solution to the problems. A union can not survive under such conditions. The gap between the rank and file and their elected leaders will grow so wide that our whole union structure will collapse. Vote against the no-strike pledge and save your union. Vote for the pledge and you will have NO Union.

**the No-Strike Pledge Is Not  
Vote for a Union Program**

**Be Mailed to You**

**Referendum!**



# **Vote to Repeal** *THE* **NO STRIKE PLEDGE**

  
**RESTORE THE FIGHTING STRENGTH  
OF OUR UNION**

  
The rank and file won its first big victory at the 1944 convention of the UAW-CIO in Grand Rapids.

Against the almost unanimous opposition of the top leadership, the convention voted by an overwhelming majority to submit the question of the No-Strike Pledge to a referendum vote of the membership.

Now it is up to us, the members of the largest labor union in the world. We are in a position to clinch the victory won at Grand Rapids. The decision is in our hands. And it is a vital decision we have to make.

The question before us is this:

Shall the UAW-CIO remain in the straight-jacket of the No-Strike Pledge, at the complete mercy of the War Labor Board and the profit-bloated corporations?

Or shall we repeal the paralyzing No-Strike Pledge and restore the UAW-CIO to its fighting strength so that it is able to defend our threatened interests?

We won the right to cast a deciding ballot on this question at Grand Rapids. Before casting our votes, let us have the clearest possible understanding of what is at stake.

### THE RESULTS OF THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE

Blind men see nothing at all. Short-sighted men do not see beyond their own noses. Let us not be blind or short-sighted. Let us see how the No-Strike Pledge came into existence. Let us judge what the results of the Pledge have been. Then let us decide on the basis of these results—not the promises, but the actual results. That is the intelligent way to act.

The No-Strike Pledge was given originally by the top leadership of the unions without consulting the rank and file membership. That is point one to remember.

Point two is that the Pledge was given as part of a program called "equality of sacrifice." Labor was to make a big sacrifice for the war. Capital was to make an equal sacrifice. Remember this, too.

Now let us cast up the balance sheet and examine the results. They are clear, unmistakable, incontestable.

#### LABOR SACRIFICED:

The right to strike, that is, the right to its most powerful weapon in the fight against the big monopolists who are ALWAYS working to lower our living standards and crush our organizations.

The right to fight for higher wages—because wages were frozen.

The right to look for and get another job or a better job—because jobs were frozen and we could move from place to place ONLY by the permission of the employer.

The right to have our wages go up as the cost-of-living went up—because our wages were frozen by the 15% "Little Steel Formula" while the cost-of-living has gone up, since January, 1941, by more than 45%, according to the figures of our own International President, R. J. Thomas.

The right to collective bargaining—because all demands and grievances went to the War Labor Board, which denies our demands and ignores our grievances, or else buries them in its vaults for months and even years.

#### LABOR GAINED:

Nothing!

We were told that in exchange for giving up the right to strike, the manufacturers would not resort to lockouts. That was a cruel joke played on us from the beginning. Naturally the employers will not lock out labor when there is a boom on, when there is a labor shortage when they need us like they need life itself! Why should they? THEY gave up only what they did not want in the first place, and what they could not use without cutting their own throats.

BUT—when their contracts run out, when there are no more profits to be made, what do they do about THEIR pledge? Do the employers lock us out? Oh, no! They just "cut back" production—and we are out on the streets. When we walk the streets without a job, what difference does it make to us if we were "cut back" or "locked out."

#### INDUSTRY SACRIFICED:

Nothing! Nothing except their comical pledge not to lock out labor at a time when a lockout meant suicide for them.

#### INDUSTRY GAINED:

Land bought for them at government expense.

Factories erected on this land at government expense.

Machinery placed in these factories at government expense.

Raw materials guaranteed to them by a hundred government agencies.

An ample supply of labor guaranteed to them by the government, with jobs frozen and wages frozen and strikes frozen and grievances frozen.



Juicy cost-plus contracts, with profits guaranteed by the government.

The biggest post-war reserves in history, also guaranteed by the government.

A War Labor Board, set up by the government, which looks carefully and tenderly after their interests.

The highest salaries in history for corporation executives, with NO "\$25,000 limitation" such as was promised. Only our wages have limitations.

And the largest, fattest, bloodiest profits the world has ever known since man first came into existence!

The corporations moan and weep about the "high taxes." What are the facts? Let us quote just two simple ones from the statement by CIO President Philip Murray, and remember them well: "Corporate profits for 1944, AFTER TAXES, increased 198% over the 1936-1939 peacetime era. Corporate profits for the same year, before taxes, show an increase over the peacetime era of 449%."

So the results of the No-Strike Pledge add up to this:

Labor sacrificed everything and gained nothing.

The corporations sacrificed nothing and gained everything.

Isn't it high time we changed that around a little?

The trouble is, we cannot make a change unless we begin by repealing the paralyzing No-Strike Pledge.

#### **WHY AND HOW DOES THE PLEDGE PARALYZE US?**

Every unionist, every worker knows the answer. He knows it from bitter, accumulated experiences.

Our demands for wage adjustments to keep pace with the rising cost-of-living are modest and legitimate.

Our grievances are just. They multiply and grow more serious and intolerable every day.

When we take them to the employers, they pay no attention to us. They are too busy counting their swollen profits. They wave us aside and tell us: "Take it to the War Labor Board." That is like telling us: "Take it to the cemetery."

When this sort of run-around continues, month-in and month-out, and becomes unbearable, we go again to the employer, or send our representatives for another flying, futile trip to Washington. We get no satisfaction whatsoever.

Then we say: "We can't stand this any longer. We won't stand for it."

The company laughs in our face! "What are you going to do about it? Back to your machines, and keep your mouth shut!"

What CAN we do about it?

Nothing! We are tied hand and foot by the No-Strike Pledge! We know it and the company knows it. So long as we remain tied this way, we are completely at their mercy. They can do with us what they will. And that is exactly what they are doing. **IT IS PART OF THEIR REACTIONARY PLAN TO SLAUGHTER US ALTOGETHER IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD.**

Only sheep can be led to slaughter without fighting.

We are not sheep, but fighting union men, with a magnificent record and tradition of victorious battles for our rights and our interests.

Sheep have no weapons. We have a powerful weapon. It is the right to strike. But we have given it up. Let us take it back! We taught these big, cold-blooded, profit-hungry monopolists a lesson once. It seems they need another lesson.

Let us restore the fighting strength of our union.

**9150**

### WHAT ABOUT THE BOYS IN THE FOXHOLES?

The dirtiest, most hypocritical and stupidest argument in favor of the Pledge revolves around the spread-eagle talk about "the boys in the foxholes." We hear it said: "Don't betray the boys in the foxholes."

Who shouts the loudest about this? The corporation chiefs, their spokesmen and their tools, their paid editors and scribblers.

Their nerve is almost as colossal as the profits they are making. They want to teach US patriotism! They are the same people who would not convert to war production, who would not produce a single airplane, tank, cannon, rifle or bullet for the "boys in the foxholes" until the government guaranteed them their heavy blood-profits. Remember this, too!

Who are the "boys in the foxholes"?

They are OUR sons, OUR brothers, OUR sweethearts or husbands, OUR fathers. We are a million times more concerned with them than the ice-hearted corporations who squeeze a brutal profit out of everything these boys wear and everything they use.

We are so concerned with them that:

We do not want them to come back to "open shop" conditions.

We do not want them to come back to low-paid jobs and back-breaking hours.

We do not want them to come back to smashed or paralyzed unions.

When we fight to make our union strong and effective, we are also fighting for THEM.

Wherever Fascism triumphs, labor's standard of living and working conditions catapult downward.

Wherever Fascism triumphs, labor loses the right to higher wages, the right to move from job to job. **AND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE.**

Haven't the "boys in the foxholes" been told they are fighting to destroy Fascism and to restore these rights to labor everywhere? Isn't that what we have all been told?

Are we helping to fight to restore these rights — if we begin by giving them up ourselves?

We are not betraying our sons and brothers and sweethearts and husbands and fathers when we fight to restore our right to strike — we are keeping faith with them!

We are keeping faith with the great principles of labor when we take back our right to strike.

We are keeping faith with the heroic and self-sacrificing fighters who founded and built the UAW-CIO in fearless combat for our rights and standards as human beings. We are NOT keeping faith if we allow our union and ourselves to slip back into Big Corporation serfdom.

Brothers and Sisters:

The decision is up to you!

You have the vote on this key question!

Cast it solemnly and firmly. Vote solidly to —

Repeat the No-Strike Pledge!

Put an end to crawling on our bellies!

Restore the fighting strength of our great Union!

Issued by:

**NATIONAL UAW-CIO RANK AND FILE STEERING COMMITTEE**

Larry Yost, Chairman     Arthur Hughes, Secretary

4372 Virginia Park, Detroit 4, Mich.

(Additional copies of this folder may be obtained by writing to Larry Yost, 4372 Virginia Park, Detroit 4, Mich. Price: \$9 per thousand.)

9151



## Rescind the No-Strike Pledge

When this pledge was given, we were promised that our union would be unmolested; that, collective bargaining would be maintained; that, prices would be held in line with wages, and, no salaries above \$25,000; that, profit would be taken out of this war. Labor has been betrayed by every one of those promises.

Now organized labor can only BEG. If you take back your no-strike pledge, you will demonstrate not irresponsibility, but genuine responsibility and loyalty, that workers have a right to DEMOCRACY, TOO.

## Smash The Little Steel Formula

The so-called Little Steel Formula, limits wages to 15% above the January, 1941, wage level. . . . It was designed along with price control to prevent inflation.

Since the government has failed to control prices, it leaves the workers actually suffering a wage cut. We have only controlled wages and not controlled inflation; therefore, it is past the time we must fight to "Smash The Little Steel Formula."

## Independent Political Action By Labor

Since the Republican Party and the Democratic party have reduced politics to a stench in the nostrils of the people by their combined attacks upon democracy (Southern democratic bourbons and the northern Republican reactionaries), why is any political movement desirable at this time?

What we need is a political party with mass appeal based on democratically realizable principles. We are convinced not only that such a party is urgently NEEDED, but that it is possible not only that it is possible, but that it is possible NOW.

There are many people with sufficient belief in democracy who would rather boldly and courageously grasp the promise of a better future than be condemned to stand still or muddle backward. There are many Americans, who are willing to act together for the conquest of war and poverty and for the achievement of that fellowship of free men, which is our noble destiny.

## A Stabilized Compensation Act

This act at present, changes at the whims and fancies of the unemployment commission. The worker never knows how much he is entitled to, or if he is eligible or not. By having this a Stabilized Act, the worker would be familiar with his rights and would and could demand them.

## Post-War Security

A guaranteed yearly wage TO ALL with equal pay for equal work regardless of Plant Location, and a minimum wage, sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living. These points to be guaranteed by a fund set up from the earnings of the corporations, the same as the fund they have set up to guarantee security for their executives.

BERT BOONE  
CLYDE F. KING  
TONY O'BRIEN  
ORA BOONE  
DON "Sugar" CHAPMAN

CHARLIE ZIY  
LOU TANNER  
WM. C. "Blackie" JOHNSON  
ART WESTFALL  
ANDY MICHELSON

EVERETT SIDES  
FRANCIS PALMER  
BOB GREEN  
JAMES KIGER  
RAYMOND WALKER

LUTHER CRANE  
CARL JOHNSON  
LOUIS BOEGNER  
LAWRENCE DELANEY  
BOB BOLERJACK

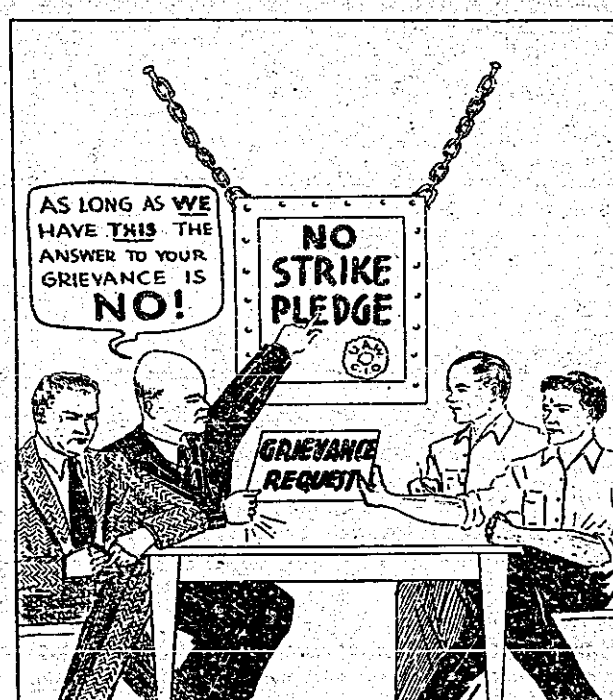
Local 659 - U. A. W. - C. I. O.



9152

# STOP

## *Collective Begging*



**VOTE** TO REPEAL THE  
**NO STRIKE PLEDGE**



9153



## THE STRIKE WEAPON IS

The delegates to the 1944 Convention of the U.A.W.A.-C.I.O. granted the first opportunity yet offered any of the rank and file of the organized labor movement of this country to express their opinions on the "no-strike pledge" by a referendum vote.

Today the big corporations are convinced that they can win an anti-union victory. They are heartened now because they have reason to believe that they have already scored a preliminary victory. They have their Smith-Connally Bill, a friendly W.L.B., and a threatening War Manpower Commission.

### Labor's Situation Today

If this were all, it would be bad enough. But the employers and their government have more. They have a "no-strike pledge" from labor. The employers have also squeezed other concessions from organized labor. While it is true that you were not consulted about the "no-strike pledge", it is nevertheless true that you have rather passively accepted the situation.

All of the concessions which you have been pushed into making, including the "no-strike pledge", have developed into a millstone about the necks of the auto workers and organized labor in general. You were told that your first duty was to win the war, that you should be prepared to make any and all sacrifices for the winning of the war. We were promised that our union would be unmolested, that collective bargaining would be maintained, that prices would be held in line with wages, that no new crop of millionaires would be born as a result of war profits.

Not one of these promises, made to labor, has been fulfilled. Any confidence which workers place in promises made to their leaders has been betrayed. It is only wages that have been held down, while hours have been increased. The War Labor Board has taken a steadfast and consistent position that if labor gets more money in the pay envelope, it must come not from an increase in the basic hourly rate of pay, but from putting in longer hours. There is no real collective bargaining today. This time-honored union management procedure has been transferred from the factory to the W.L.B. and numerous other government agencies. The cost of living has risen 45.5 per cent—74.5 per cent on food alone, and this since January, 1941. Our wages, however, are tied to the Little Steel 15 per cent Formula.

Any man, woman, or child should be able to see that the talk about "Equality of Sacrifice" was pure bunk.

## LABORS ONLY WEAPON

The only argument that the supporters of the "no-strike pledge" can give is a lot of phony flag waving. They try to move us to tears about the "boys in the fox holes." What they refuse to see is that the only way to defend the interests of the men and women in the services, the only way we can help them here at home, is to build a strong, militant, fighting union. **THAT IS PART OF THE FREEDOM THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR.**

The men and women in the services are OUR brothers, sons, and sisters, and we are the only ones who can put up a real battle for their rights. Who else is going to do it? A. P. Sloan. J. P. Morgan. H. Ford, or their stooges in Congress? NO! We are the allies of the service men and women—and it is our job to safeguard their future as well as our own.

### Labor Must Be Free

The fundamental and basic weapon of the trade union movement is the right to strike, without it labor is not free. Rescinding the "no-strike pledge" does not mean a strike over every grievance and dispute. We want the RIGHT to strike. Now with our hands tied behind our back by the pledge we are absolutely defenseless.

Today the workers must prepare to meet the "Post War Crisis", which is absolutely certain to come, and without the RIGHT to strike the labor movement will be totally helpless.

Big Business does not say, "There is a war on, therefore, we will sacrifice our profits and wealth to win it." Do they say, "We will not make any demands for our protection or extension of our economic and political power. We will not make a fight over any question affecting this power, no matter how important."

On the contrary the "war crisis" is a BOOM to them. They mean to come out of the war with greater economic power and with a stronger political position from which to protect this power than they ever had before. They fight every inch of the way for bigger profits, for firmer control of the government machinery. They fight every inch of the way to DEPRIVE LABOR of its rights. They know perfectly well that the stronger they are the WEAKER labor is, and the other way around.

They did not reach their powerful position by crawling on their bellies. They will not yield an inch without a fight. They will go their way without paying the slightest bit of attention to the good advice of labor leaders.



---

## Labor Must Continue Its Fighting Spirit

---

There is no need to go any further with facts and figures. If there is going to be any improvement in our union such improvement will have to come from the pressure of the RANK and FILE. The overwhelming majority of the workers are against the "no-strike pledge" and have always been against it. The only people who have been for the "no-strike pledge" are the top leaders of the labor movement, the Communist Party, the employers, and the government.

IF YOU TAKE BACK YOUR "NO-STRIKE" PLEDGE, YOU WILL DEMONSTRATE, NOT IRRESPONSIBILITY, AS WILL BE CHARGED, BUT GENUINE RESPONSIBILITY AND LOYALTY. THEN YOUR UNION WILL MEAN SOMETHING, AND YOU WILL BE IN A POSITION, IF THE NEED ARISES, TO ENFORCE YOUR DEMAND FOR A GOOD STANDARD OF LIVING, AND THE OTHER DEMANDS WHICH YOU HAVE ON YOUR PROGRAM.

THE U.A.W. WAS A STRONG, MILITANT UNION: WE HAD TO FIGHT, BLEED, SUFFER, YES—AND SOME DIED FIGHTING FOR LABOR'S RIGHTS. THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT MADE A GREAT UNION. LEADERSHIP MAY COME AND GO, BUT THESE MILITANT TRADITIONS MUST GO ON FOREVER. OUR DUTY TO EACH OTHER IS CLEAR, WE MUST VOTE TO RESCIND THE "NO-STRIKE PLEDGE." THE RIGHT TO STRIKE AND THE RIGHT TO THREATEN A STRIKE WOULD SEND THE ENEMIES OF A LIVING WAGE SCURRYING FOR THEIR RATHOLES. IF YOU VOTE TO REPEAL NOTHING CAN STAND BETWEEN LABOR AND THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS JUST DEMANDS.

Issued by  
EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE — LOCAL 658 UAW-CIO  
1208 Glenwood Avenue, Flint 3, Mich.  
Andrew Michelson, Chairman — Carl Johnson, Secretary  
Francis R. Palmer, Publicity

9156