

U. T. W. PLANNING STRIKE SELLOUT

"Fake Pact Won't Get Men Back," Mill Committees Say

By GILBERT GREEN

While the Superior Court was hearing the appeals of William Murdoch and Fred Beal, the two leading figures in the strike of the New Bedford Textile Workers Union of the T. M. C., the mill owners are holding conferences with the reactionary leadership of the New Bedford United Textile Workers Union of the A. F. of L., on the "labor extension plan." These conferences very well illustrate the bankruptcy of these pseudo-labor

leaders, and prove to the blindest workers the character of the "class collaboration" policies of Batty Binns, Riviere, Campos, and Manning.

The chairman of this conference was Charles Mitchell of the Citizens' Mediation Committee. This gentleman, whom Mr. Batty recognizes as "impartial and unbiased," in his opening remarks showed the character of his impartiality. He said, "It is the duty of the employee to cooperate with the manufacturer."

Details of the discussion that took place at these conferences prove clearly the contention of the leaders of the Textile Mills Committee that the Textile Council officialdom is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to betray the 28,000 strikers whom they purport to represent. The T. M. C. heads declare that these petty politicians do not even represent the sentiments of their own several thousand members. "Even the members of the

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U.T.W. PLANS MILL STRIKE SELL-OUT

"Fake Pact Won't Start Mills," T. M. C. Says

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United Textile Workers will stay out on strike under our leadership if any attempt is made to betray the demands of the strikers," Mill Committee spokesmen say.

Present Scheme

Mr. Barnes, a mill owner and head of the Barnes Textile Service, presented the plan to the conference. The plan, simmered down, is nothing more nor less than a speed-up and efficiency plan to be installed at the expense of the workers in order to increase production. This plan is an attempt to make the workers do "the greatest amount of work in the least amount of time," and is properly called by the press the "multiple loom system." It is the same attempt as is being made today in the coal industry with the agreement of Lewis, "to throw out the excess labor in the industry."

This can be clearly seen by the following discussion that took place at the conference. Mr. Batty asked Mr. Barnes, "If more machines were assigned per operator, there would be a flat layoff, would there not?" Mr. Barnes answered to the affirmative. Mr. Batty then asked, "If there were too much production, there would be another glut of the market," which in other words means greater unemployment, and Mr. Barnes' answer again proved the intent of the plan, "Those are economic conditions that cannot always be controlled," and so very nicely dodged the issue.

Mr. Batty, apparently trying to show his "opposition" to this plan, tried to prove to the operators that it would be much better for the industry if the weaker concerns dropped out. It was quite apparent, that all this was for the sake of the reporters, as Mr. Batty and the other reactionaries cannot at the present time openly endorse this plan. However, Mr. Ross of the Mule Spinners Union, not being so adept at diplomacy, let the cat out of the bag when he pointed out the "only objection" of the "labor representatives."

Mr. Ross said, "It is not fair to bring up the question of 'labor extension' at this time. People are out on the streets, and they will not take kindly to an innovation now. Get them back into the mills first, and then come along with this proposition. While the mills are idle, no new proposition, either theoretical or practical could be taken too kindly by the employees. This matter can be taken up only when the mills are running, and there is a better feeling among the employees." It is in this fashion that the position of the reactionaries was so bluntly split.

This has only made the workers become more militant. Batty's overtures to the picket lines, is very plainly recognized as an attempt to win back the confidence of the workers, in order to make the betrayal successful. More and more workers are joining the New Bedford Textile Workers Union, the picket lines are growing, the mass meetings are getting larger and larger, all going to prove that the workers have been betrayed once too often. They can very well distinguish between a leadership that goes to jail for them, and the leadership that bargains over the green table.

At the end of the conference a unanimous vote of thanks was extended Mr. Barnes for presenting his plan.