

U.S. GOV. and UNION LEADERS UNITE AGAINST RAIL STRIKE

20,000 Chicago terminus railroad workers, part of the 275,000 who stand ready to defy the biggest strikebreaking machine in history, the American government, have moved just one step short of demonstrating the tremendous power of the working-class. Only at the last moment under combined pressure of their own union "leaders", A.F. Whitney and Al. Johnston, and the government, did they yield to a five day truce.

average wage increase demanded by the union should really be 16 cents. The 337 rail companies promptly agreed.

This became their take-it-or-leave-it offer to the workers. The rail bosses were safe. If the workers tried to

strike the government would seize the roads and declaring, "You can't strike against the government!" break the strike "in the name of public welfare."

Once again, a small group of workers (They are only about 275 thousand out of 50 million gainfully employed in the U.S.) has the opportunity to demonstrate its power. Their strike can tie up most of American industry;

"Come to the Duel
But Don't Bring
Your Sword"
STRIKE
GOV. SEIZURE
TAKES THIS WEAPON
FROM THE WORKERS HANDS
THEN, UNDER THE SAME WAGES
AND WORKING CONDITIONS, THE
WORKER MUST FIGHT THE BOSS IN
THE ARENA OF ARBITRATION.
THE WORKER HAS COME TO THE
ARENA WITHOUT HIS SWORD.

"Federal seizure," reports the Chicago Daily News, "is no more than 'token government possession'." Indeed! The same management is in control, the same owners collect the profits.

Trucks can handle only 16 percent of the freight and airplanes and buses an even smaller part of the passenger service. Mail will be stopped. Food and fuel will stand unmoved. The bosses of industry will lose untold millions in profits.

Under the government seizure order, Charles H. Buford, executive vice-president of the Milwaukee Road has been appointed federal manager of 337 railroads and the rest of the officials are merely deputized into the government. Nothing else has changed.

Only by this action can the railroad men gain their demands, and at every step the railroad bosses have used the government to block this action.

Nothing. Except that now a railroad worker can be put in jail for simply saying out loud that other railroad men ought to go out on strike. He can stay out himself but he is forbidden from telling others to follow him. He is forbidden to urge, to publicize, to instruct, to picket--in short, to take any organized strike action. He is forbidden to strike.

First, the workers were made to wait a month while the government "fact-finding" board passed judgment that the 22.4 cents

Should the railroad workers strike against the government? Government seizure of the rails merely changes them from the left hand to the right hand of the same bosses. Railroad workers, if they
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THIS IS YOUR PAPER.
IT CAN LIVE ONLY THROUGH
YOUR APPROVAL, YOUR CRITICISM
YOUR LETTERS, YOUR ARTICLES
AND ONLY
YOUR MONEY REPORTS IT.
N. Clark St. City

A WORKERS LETTER

Here's the way things are at the former Buick plant at Melrose Park. The Buick plant shut down on V.J. Day. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation took it over and sold it to International Harvester at the beginning of 1946. Harvester brought some machinery and personnel from Milwaukee and began its speed up policy.

The former Buick workers who are here in the plant find that the conditions and wages established when G. M. was here are only things of the past. Local 6 (UAW) is no longer recognized by the new ownership. The Farm Equipment Workers of America, who represent the Harvester men in other plants, has moved in and is now contending for control at the Labor Board election. Meantime, we are subject to speed up, insult, abuse, and the lowest wages paid in any mass production plant.

Since the Stalinist controlled FEWA union has obtained one of the worst contracts in the other Harvester plants, for a mass production industry, I believe that by retaining the UAW we will have better opportunity to fight for rank and file control and to improve our conditions here.

Your Friend, J.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Fowler McCormick, chairman of International Harvester told a press conference this week that after the settlement of the three month strike,

"The men went right to work...and schedules were exceeded." He revealed that not counting new additions to the plants they are producing "about \$400,000,000 a fiscal year compared with a 1941 rate of \$361,000,000."

That Harvesters can now wring nearly 10 per cent more production from its workers is clear evidence of the kind of contract FEWA has gotten its workers.

MINERS STRIKE WITHOUT LEWIS

On Wednesday, three days after John L. Lewis had declared a truce in the coal strike, 128,000 miners had still refused to go back to work. Thus almost a third of the striking miners demonstrated that it is they who are on strike, not John L. Lewis, as the newspapers and radio would have us think.

Lewis is merely a talking point to raise a hysteria against the mine workers in particular and against the working-class in general. Lewis has a notorious record in the use of goons to shoot down militant workers and in selling out strikes. Remembering his 1919, '22, and '27 coal strikes, thousands despise him.

The recent coal strike is a response not to Lewis, but to very grim facts from which employers would like to divert our minds: (1) The Bureau of Mines reports that in the last 15 years 17,272 miners were killed and 790,991, injured. (2) Miners occupational diseases are silicosis, asthma and T.B. (3) Compensation for accidents is pitifully small (totally disabled miners in Kentucky draw \$15.00 a week). (4) No basic pay raise has been granted since 1941 (for soft coal miners).

Also, resulting from increased mining mechanization, mine owners' returns went up 58% between '38 and '45 while basic

hourly wage rose only 15.1% in the same period. The miners' response to these facts is--strike action.

But how has Lewis responded to these facts? By timing the strike call in spring when coal usage is declining and by keeping the strike demands far short of the miners' basic needs. Miners need not only a health fund; they need a basic change in the entire level of their work and living. No mere fund can do this.

While Lewis and the mine barons merely shout at each other, the real fight is between the industrialists and the miners themselves. Here both the bosses and the Lewis bureaucracy are obstacles to overcome.

From this struggle we workers in Chicago can see this important idea! That unless workers establish progressive groups in their own unions and drive for rank-and-file control and better working conditions, the Lewis's, Rauthers and "leaders" of their stripe will dissipate our energies while we win nothing.

RAIL SEIZURE (con't)

are to win, have no choice but to strike against both the boss and his government.

Chicago workers on the floors of their local unions should:

VOTE SOLID SUPPORT TO THE RAILROAD MEN;
URGE YOUR LEADERS TO ORGANIZE CITY
WIDE, ALL-UNION DEMONSTRATIONS IN
PATHY WITH THE RAILROAD