

# Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. 6, No. 11.

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1937.

5 Cents a Copy

## C. I. O. DRIVES SWEEP MASS PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES; STEEL OPEN SHOP ENDED

### LEADERS OF VICTORIOUS ORGANIZATION DRIVES



AUTO UNION HEAD  
Homer Martin

C. I. O. CHIEF  
John L. Lewis



SIGNED UP STEEL  
Phillip Murray

### Rubber Workers Strike; New Sit-Downs in Chevrolet Plants

#### Steel Wage Rise and 40 Hour Week Paves Way For Enrollment of All Workers; Textile and Oil Drives Now Being Planned by CIO

With the drying of the ink on the agreement between Carnegie-Illinois Steel and the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, the forty-five year old solid front of open-shopism was broken. The amazing rapidity with which the C. I. O. has organized the steel workers has left the labor movement breathless. The failure of the crafts to organize this and other mass-production industries, the stern and apparently eternal opposition of the steel trust to permit the existence of a bona-fide union in the industry are now ended—industrial unionism has been given its strongest argument.

Once given the desire and determination to organize the workers, the C. I. O. has swept into the industry, made such strides that Steel had seriously to reconsider its whole strategy. It was the undisguised militancy of the C. I. O., its incorruptible program, and, consequently, the response of the workers, that forced Steel to sign. Secondly, the continuous war preparations of the ruling class made its undesirable that profits should be in any way obstructed. The steel industry by its agreement can now comply with the Walsh-Healy Act, bid-for Navy orders, and merrily rake in its blood-stained shekels.

The agreement recognizes the Amalgamated Association as bargaining agent for its own members, pledges the corporation against discrimination, establishes a forty-hour week and an eight hour day, with time and one-half for overtime, a minimum of \$5.00 per day and a 10c per hour raise. Further details are to be worked out this week.

The company unions in steel are "legally" still existent. But they are obviously no long the pillars of corporation strength—for this wage rise and hour decrease, altho "granted" to the company unions, came out of the CIO agreement, and it is the bona fide union that will surge ahead. The stand of the company that it will "deal with any representatives of its employees" cannot, tho it tries, negate that very important fact.

However, the management, altho forced to yield at present, still plans to make a fight for it thru the company unions. These stooges have been mobilized to protest the recognition of the C. I. O., and to battle it for membership. A sharp struggle ahead is indicated. The effect of the wage rise on prices is of course over emphasized by the enemies of the union. A price rise was planned, witness the statement of Irvin, president of U. S. Steel: "... a price rise was inevitable due to the fact that quotations on scrap iron have risen from \$14.96 per ton to \$19.88 since Feb. 1, 1936."

With the forced about-face of

U. S. Steel, the independent companies have also announced corresponding hour and wage improvements, for, once the big guy fell, competition made it impossible for such firms as Jones and Laughlin to continue on the old basis.

#### Auto Workers Make New Gains

While the GM victory of the Auto Union encouraged the steel workers and forced U. S. Steel into line, the smashing victory of the SWOC has now given additional strength to the auto workers in their negotiations with Chrysler and GM. To the former, Homer Martin presented an ultimatum for recognition as sole bargaining agency—a demand which it is expected will be won. Chrysler's company union collapsed completely when the union showed that 103 out of 120 of the representatives were theirs!

Settlements in Motor Products, Briggs and Murray Body, strategic parts plants, were effected this week, with union recognition. Negotiations will deal with hour wages, speed-up. These were also sit-down strikes.

#### General Electric To Sign

General Electric, employing 60,000 workers has been forced to enter into negotiations with the United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, a CIO affiliate. Conferences are scheduled to begin on March 15th. The Union demands are: 10c per hour increase, overtime pay, elimination of the "group incentive" system of pay (a speed-up device) etc. The union has 100% organization of three major GE plants.

Westinghouse was also confronted with a determined union list of demands, including a 20% pay rise. A strike was threatened.

#### Rubber Workers Close Firestone Plants

The United Rubber Workers of America demanded recognition as sole bargaining agency for 10,000 workers of the Firestone plants, and closed the plants to enforce their demands. Conferences are under way and a settlement is expected.

#### CIO Plans Drive In Textile and Oil

Successful in two major attempts at organizing the workers in steel and auto, the leaders of the CIO are preparing an extensive campaign to organize the textile and oil industries. It is planned, in the former, to set up a Textile Workers Organizing Committee, which will include textile, garments, shoe and leather, etc., embracing a million and a quarter workers.

### FDR Sharpens Court Fight

#### Attempts To Whip Party Conservatives Into Line On Reform Issue

In partial contrast to his recent vapid speeches, President Roosevelt, speaking at the Democratic Victory Dinner, opened up fire against opponents of his proposal anent the Supreme Court.

Apparently throwing caution to the winds and confounding those of his supporters who predicted this would be a conservative administration, he practically appealed to labor and the agrarian movement to create a fighting mass movement in behalf of court reform. Actually, it must be remembered that the spirit of his phrases is still bound by their actual content—which happen to concern a very incomplete ineffective reform of the Supreme Court.

Roosevelt's strategy was twofold: first, to so absorb the labor movement and its farm allies with his meagre proposals, so that labor's goal of a constitutional amendment would be pushed aside; secondly, to set in motion the Democratic party machinery in such a way that should the apparently oncoming party split actually take place, it would be the new deal, the Roosevelt group that would maintain the leadership and not the dissident conservatives. Press comment from opposition democratic papers show that they recognize this, raving about "personal allegiance" being the main criterion, etc. In line with this could be seen the implications of his mass appeal: the attempt to hold the growing political independence of labor within the revived New Deal, heading off the break which threatens on that side too.

## A. F. L. Declares War On C. I. O. Unionism

### Green Orders CIO Unions Expelled from Central Labor Bodies; Aluminum Union in Revolt; Plans New Attacks on CIO

William Green went into session last Monday with a picked crew of 50 city and state organizers of the A. F. of L. to map a vigorous drive against the ever-expanding and victorious Committee for Industrial Organization. At the same time John L. Lewis opened a conference of CIO leaders to map the organization drives to be launched in the textile and oil industries. The difference in the aims of the two conferences is in itself an indication of the role which the two labor bodies are playing—the one negative, fighting desperately to hold on to what it has today, the other positive—organizing, striking and thereby improving the conditions of vast numbers of hitherto unorganized workers.

The war conference of the A. F. of L. comes after an order was circulated among the city and state bodies of the A. F. of L. instructing these bodies to oust all units of international unions affiliated with the CIO.

A number of local A. F. of L. leaders are resentful at the expulsion order, claiming that Green, who has not the courage to handle this problem on a national scale, is passing the buck to the local labor bodies. To date only the Cleveland organization has approved the A. F. of Labor order. In other important labor bodies the matter will not be settled so easily since the CIO organizations represent a significant force.

The first attempt to curb a CIO organization driven has already hit a snag in the case of the shoe industry. In this particular field CIO

sponsorship was able to achieve the amalgamation of several unions and the launching of a drive with this amalgamated organization as the base. Green rushed organizers into New England to aid the Boot and Shoe Workers Union and ordered the state and local labor bodies to cooperate in stopping the drive. This the state federation refused to do.

Whether the A. F. of L. intends to counter the drive in the textile industry with one of its own is not yet known. Leaders stated, however, that the CIO would be fought all along the line. It was even hinted that the craft unionists would boycott goods from industries that recognized the CIO.

As Green began to plan the drive against the CIO, insurrection against the craft union policies broke out in a new field. 6,000 aluminum workers seceded from the A. F. of L. and applied for admission to the CIO bringing with them \$27,000 which should have gone to the A. F. of L. as per capita taxes. The organization also announced its intention of calling a national convention of all aluminum organizations for the purpose of forming an international organization.

An interesting angle has developed in the case of the drive begun by the machinist unions in New Jersey. This drive is said to have the support of the CIO, yet the drive is being conducted by a member of the executive board of the machinists whose president A. O. Wharton, is among the most bitter opponents of the CIO. Wharton has issued no statement.

WORKERS AGE

Organ of the National Committee, Communist Party U. S. A. (Opposition), 131 West 33rd St., New York City.

Entered as second class matter Nov. 5, 1934, at the Post Office New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879.

THE C.I.O. VICTORY IN STEEL

It is obviously not yet possible to estimate the full sweep and magnitude of the CIO victory in the steel industry.

To what may we attribute this stupendous achievement, the significance of which is only emphasized by the puerile self-consolation of the reactionary press and the envious futilities of William Green?

In the light of this development, what has the Socialist Party of America to say on inner Spanish problems?

The Socialist Party deplores these reports and hastens to inform the Socialist Party of Spain that it hopes that it will use all of its influence to prevent any such events taking place and to correct them immediately if they have taken place.

This resolution is a good example of political chicanery and double-dealing. Especially is this indicated in the appeal to the Socialist Party of Spain.

The steel settlement, as the first great victory of the steel organization drive, represents—we do not hesitate to say so—a high-water mark of union achievement in the United States.

If anything more were needed to establish the CIO as the recognized spokesman and authoritative leader of American labor, organized and unorganized alike, the settlement in the steel industry has supplied it.

American SP Covers Up for Caballero's POUM Pogrom

At last the American Socialist Party has broken with its attitude of "neutrality" on problems of inner-Spanish policies.

The United Socialist Party of Catalonia (affiliated with the CI) and the combined Socialist and Communist forces in the people's front government of Spain struck out against the POUM because the POUM campaign was laying bare the true nature of the people's front course.

In the light of this development, what has the Socialist Party of America to say on inner Spanish problems? The recent resolution it adopted "expresses complete disapproval of and profound working class regret that the reports coming from Madrid and Catalonia are not denied—reports which indicate that there is a concerted attack by working class forces in Spain against some of their comrades in arms, namely the POUM and the CNT.

The Socialist Party deplores these reports and hastens to inform the Socialist Party of Spain that it hopes that it will use all of its influence to prevent any such events taking place and to correct them immediately if they have taken place.

This resolution is a good example of political chicanery and double-dealing. Especially is this indicated in the appeal to the Socialist Party of Spain.

The steel settlement, as the first great victory of the steel organization drive, represents—we do not hesitate to say so—a high-water mark of union achievement in the United States.

If anything more were needed to establish the CIO as the recognized spokesman and authoritative leader of American labor, organized and unorganized alike, the settlement in the steel industry has supplied it.

his participation in even reactionary cabinets, a forerunner of the present people's front course? It is against this policy of the Communist and SOCIALIST organizations that the POUM conducts its struggle.

Under the circumstances, to appeal to the Spanish Socialist Party to "prevent such events or correct them if they have taken place," as if Caballero and his party were neutral observers and not partners in crime, is a deliberate attempt to cover up the guilt of the Socialist partners in the murderous attacks against the POUM engineered by the Socialist and Communist Parties.

For many months socialist spokesmen have attempted to cash in on the right-wing course of official communism by mouthing revolutionary phrases about the people's front, war and democracy.

—G. F. M.

P.O.U.M. Calls for Trade Union Unity

Unless it is due to a desire to stay the revolution, we cannot understand what is preventing trade union unity, as already achieved by the Malaga workers.

There can be fundamental differences between political parties, with each one defending its own doctrine and trying to form the policy of the government.

The lack of trade union unity can create serious problems in the revolutionary economy. At the present time no one can put personal interests above the collective interest.

Under vastly different conditions, they fought the same good fight and our victory today is their victory as well!

A new day is dawning for American labor! Of course, the work is only just beginning, in steel as in the big mass-production industries generally.

Lambda EUROPE TODAY POUM Suppression Fails—Soviet Silent On Franco-British Sabotage

The London Committee ruled that from February 20th on, the Spanish frontiers should be closed to volunteers and war material.

This practically means: 1.) Up to March 6 Germany and Italy will continue to supply Franco with troops and war materials.

British government circles do not even try any more to disguise their purposes. In "L'Humanite" of February 17th, Peri advocates that the SFIO (Socialist Party) carry out the decisions of its National Council.

The USSR also agreed to accept the decision of the London Committee. Evidently, the sabotage and resistance of the British and French government make it impossible for the S.U. to give further aid to the Valencia government.

An appeal which the Madrid Defence Council addressed to the Valencia government included the following demands: 1.) Immediate introduction of compulsory military service.

This means nothing less than the disarming of the workers and the restoration to power of the old police system.

In Catalonia the PSUC wages a systematic campaign for the dissolution of the Workers Control Patrols, the proletarian safety guards.

These slogans fit the revolutionary situation of today. The effect of the slander campaign which the PSUC, the CP of Spain and the other Communist parties wage (with the support of the official

Significance of the Auto Workers Strike

WE have been living through decisive weeks that will go down in history as epoch-making for American labor—and, therefore, for the international labor movement.

Only a Beginning These great events are not the end. They are but the beginning of a movement that will change radically the face, mind and heart of the entire American labor movement.

Towards New Strike Strategy It is no accident that in a conflict waged in such an industry and under such circumstances the workers on strike should display great initiative and ingenuity and should make a major contribution to new strike strategy and technique.

It is in this light that we desire to examine the significance of the auto strike and what it heralds for the labor movement as a whole, to analyze the new problems of working class strategy.

In view of the new group of workers and new industries involved, in view of the vigorous leadership that is being developed through the dramatic struggles in the automobile fields, the entire problem of the organization of the mass production industries has been brought into the boldest relief.

overlooked the fact that the future of many of the craft unions and the interests of all of their members are also at stake in this fight for the unionization of the millions of unskilled and semi-skilled in the mass production industries.

No pigmies locked horns in the auto conflict. It was a battle of giants. It was a battle between the biggest aggregation of capitalist interests and the most militant and largest bona-fide trade union membership led by such fighting trade union stalwarts as John L. Lewis and John Brophy and such capable, energetic and inspiring leaders like Homer Martin and his colleagues.

Despite Roosevelt's persistent efforts to stem the tide of the auto strike, the Federal government was immediately drawn into it.

ON THE LABOR FRONT

NEWSPAPER GUILD SMEN broke off negotiations with the Scripps-Howard World Telegram when this sickly attempt at liberalism insisted that any contract signed with the American Newspaper Guild must be on the company union form.

FARM UNION to include all organizations of farm laborers now in the A. F. of L. or independent is now under consideration. There are about 50 organizations of farm laborers, of these 30 are independent groups made up mainly of Mexicans and Filipinos.

DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT is still being picketed. Of the sit-down strikers arrested after ejection from the factory some are still being held. The strike leaders face a two year jail term.

MEYER ADELMAN, fighting CIO leader of the Fansteel strikers, was finally arrested in Wisconsin and an attempt to extradite him to Illinois is being made. Picketing at the factory continues but under severe injunction restrictions.

KILLED BY FASCISTS



Ben Lieder

Ben Lieder, member of the Newspaper Guild, and skilled aviator, was killed flying for the Spanish government it has been learned.

at Flint. Here was an intense political experience for labor, an experience enabling labor to learn in a very short time as much as it normally takes them years.

We cannot stress with sufficient emphasis that Lewis displayed magnificent strategy and real proletarian class health and cleanliness in the way in which he handled Roosevelt throughout the automobile strike and negotiations.

SANDHOGS organized in the local which the murdered Redwood headed are continuing the strike against contractor Rosoff, who is now under suspicion for complicity in the murder.

HOSIERY WORKERS in Reading closed down 16 mills involving about 6,000 workers. Refusal to settle the strike in the Berkshire Mill was the initial cause, according to the American Federation of Hosiery Workers.

SHOE WORKERS now have one organization as a result of the merger of the United Shoe and Leather Workers and the Shoe Workers Protective. The committee heading the new organization works closely with the CIO and voted to call in representatives of the CIO to supervise its organization drive.

MINE CONFERENCES seeking a new contract for the Appalachian Districts of the soft coal industry adjourned until March 9 on motion of John L. Lewis.

BRASS WORKERS (10,000) secured wage increases adding \$1,300,000 to the payroll. New wage scales applies to all plants of the American Brass Co. located at Kenosha, Wisc., Waterbury, Ansonia, and Torrington, Conn., and at Buffalo and Detroit.

Labor Can Win 30 Hour Week

In an interview accorded the Detroit News on February 28th, William Munger, Research Director of the United Automobile Workers and secretary of the Negotiations Committee, now in conference with General Motors, presented the reasons labor demanded the thirty hour week.

Agitation for the thirty-hour week, he stated, was closely linked with the union's struggle against the inhuman speed-up and the so-called "incentive systems of pay" prevalent in the industry.

If a thirty-hour week were brought about by labor, the union, Munger pointed out, would insist on higher hourly wages, so that weekly income would not be reduced.

The relief of technological employment by the installation of the thirty-hour week was stressed. Pointing out that there are, by conservative estimate, about 9 million unemployed, with production level for all industries within 5 percent of the 1929 level, Munger stated "the thirty-hour week offers the logical way out."

"It is not sufficient to place more wages in the pockets of those already on the payrolls. We need to add more persons to the country's payrolls. Other industries have made important advances toward the thirty-hour week, proving it is not a question of ability to install a shorter work week but purely a matter of industry's willingness and labor's power to create that willingness."

"Employers were raising the same objections a few years ago to agitation for the ten hour day. There is nothing that can be said logically in justification of long hours of labor."

"The automotive industry produced 8.8 automobiles per employee in 1935 as against 5.6 in 1919. The manufacturer is getting more product for each employee. It is time for an adjustment," Munger stated.

In concluding his survey of the necessity of a thirty-hour week, Munger considered that the financial ability of the powerful and wealthy automotive industry was a prime argument for granting the shorter work week. He also pointed out its importance role in stabilizing the industry:

"Another advantage of a shorter working week would be that it would tend to lengthen the production season, providing more stability in an industry beset by peaks and layoffs. The provision for time and a half pay for over 30 hours weekly would lead to stabilization because the companies would not want to pay the higher wages and would level off production into slack seasons."

"It also would encourage modernization of machinery. Surprising as it may seem, many plants in the industry have obsolete machinery, for which improved models have been invented. The higher labor costs would force improvement of this machinery to make for more efficient production.

(See other pages for steel, auto, electrical and other labor news.)

\* Postponed to March 20.—Ed.

# 18 MONTHS OF C. I. O.

IT IS difficult to believe that the Committee for Industrial Organization is only about 18 months old, so deeply has it struck root in American economic soil, so firmly is it already established in the most decisive mass production industries, so wide-spread the confidence it enjoys among the most exploited and oppressed, whom the American Federation of Labor somehow never could organize, so feared and respected by the most powerful industrial interests in the country.

Eighteen months of existence, part of which was taken up with a vain attempt to operate thru the American Federation of Labor by securing favorable action for industrial unionism, and the results most astonishing even the hard-boiled trade unionists of many decades standing.

How was it done? By tapping the latent militancy of the masses of unorganized in the basic industries, by providing an organization which does not divide but unites in efficient fighting formation, by utilizing the spirit of flaming revolt against industrial autocracy and despotism which made organization into trade unions impossible, by generating a crusading spirit and giving it honest, inspired leadership. These are some of the factors which made it possible for the CIO to batter down the walls keeping out unionism from the automobile industry and to bring to its knees the arrogant masters of the steel industry.

It took American labor 45 years to resume the battle which the Amalgamated Association fought and lost on the left bank of the Monangahala River and it is under the flag of the CIO that the battle is now being won by Amalgamated Association against the firm which still bears the name of Carnegie.

**Victories Foreseen**  
The victories scored by the United Automobile Workers and now by the CIO unions in the steel and electrical industry have taken out of the realm of speculation the permanence of the CIO as the spokesman for labor in the most decisive, basic industries.

Yet, in its broad outlines the success of the CIO was not unexpected. In its resolution on the trade union situation (Workers Age, October 3 and 10) the CPO said that "survival and ascendancy (of the CIO) will depend primarily upon ability to meet the challenge of the new conditions, and in this the C.I.O. will undoubtedly have the great advantage. First is the challenge of the great, basic mass-production industries of the country—and these are organized and along industrial lines, that is, only by the CIO. Only the CIO will be able to absorb and assimilate into the labor movement the great hordes that will begin pouring from the rural regions into the main industrial centers once there is a more definite improvement in the economic situation. Only the CIO moreover, is in a position to meet the challenge of company unionism, which has made great headway under the NRA and since, and which has shown itself almost completely invulnerable to the attacks of craft unionism."

**Advances Made**  
These expectations were more than realized. When suspended (read: expelled) by the A. F. of L. the CIO unions included a membership of slightly more than one million. Today the membership of the CIO is easily well past the two million mark. And it has just begun to grow! An examination of a few of the leading organizations in the CIO will indicate the accomplishments made.

**Victory in Auto**  
The auto union claiming a membership of about 40,000 when it joined the CIO, reported 80,000 prior to the General Motors strike, 100,000 on the eve of the strike and close to the 200,000 mark now, according to a recent statement by President Homer Martin. The union has already won wage increases, shorter hours, seniority rights, and less speed-up.

Still growing, the union will most likely record new gains in Chrysler and other sections of the industry.

**Steel Gains**  
When the Amalgamated Association accepted the offer of the CIO to take over the organization drive in steel, it numbered between 5,000 and 7,000. The CIO set up the Steel Workers Organization Committee last June and a report by Phil Murray, leader of the steel drive, now claims a membership of 200,000. The union expects to have a majority of all steel workers within the next three months.

Now the CIO has broken down the traditional open shop policy in the steel industry and has a signed agreement with the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation, providing for increases in wages, 40 hour week, recognition of the union, and other gains. In addition, the SWOC has made considerable improvements in conditions for workers in independent firms.

**G. E. Is Nervous**  
The United Electrical and Radio Workers more than doubled its membership in the last nine months. It is now firmly established and has company recognition in key plants of the General Electric and Westinghouse and with a closed shop, 36-hour week agreement in the Philco, largest radio manufacturers.

## THE C.I.O. UNIONS

- Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers
- Amalgamated Clothing Workers
- American Newspaper Guild
- Federation of Flat Glass Workers
- Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers
- International Ladies Garment Workers
- International Typographical Union
- Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers
- Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers
- United Automobile Workers
- United Electrical and Radio Workers
- United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers
- United Mine Workers
- United Rubber Workers
- United Textile Workers

Without resorting to a national plebiscite, the mass production industries have nevertheless quite accurately sensed that the mass of the toilers in these industries stands by the CIO. This is the basis and essence for the sudden shift in labor policy by the industrial overlords of steel—by the biggest of robber barons. They determined to be "liberal" and to ask for peace because they knew that the CIO and the masses behind it were ready for industrial war. This is the secret of the changed labor policy in steel and other industries.

HOWEVER, some of the supposedly very astute craft, big-shot approach the present situation in the labor movement with their eyes shut tight. One of these is Colonel John P. Frey of the Metal Trades Council.

While speaking recently at the Cleveland Federation of Labor, a puzzled trade unionist asked him why it is that the CIO seems to have grabbed for itself the first page of the newspapers while the A. F. of L. old-line unions are hardly mentioned. Frey did not have to think long. It's really very simple, he said:

"Lewis is a shrewd man. He gave assistance to the Newspaper Guild, financed it with large amounts, he banquets Guild men in Washington.

"If instead of Lewis the A. F. of L. had given the Guild money in his fight, the action might have had some influence on the stories of the wicked A. F. of L. and the glorious, angelic CIO."

Some of Frey's statements are correct, namely, that the Newspaper Guild received no aid from the A. F. of L.—in which the Federation showed itself strictly impartial, for other unions have received similar "aid"—and that

Amalgamated Clothing Workers. CIO Has Met Test

It is doubtful whether these advances, to be counted in terms of new recruits, higher wages, improved conditions and union recognition in such industries as steel and auto, will be recognized by the officials of the A. F. of L. Whether or not they do is becoming of decreasing importance to the American workers.

As the great battle of American labor for unionization unfolds itself the young and vigorous CIO shows a militancy and resourcefulness which promises much for its future. On the other hand, the A. F. of L., already outstripped, has lost key industries to the CIO. As the CIO continues to develop the prestige of the A. F. of L. which is already outside the main current of labor struggles, will continue to decline.

Other Unions Grow  
Without any exceptions the CIO unions have grown. The United Rubber Workers has increased its membership more than ten times in the last year. Akron alone accounts for a membership of 25,000. Many locals have won victories securing seniority rights, shorter hours, wage increases, vacation with pay and union recognition.

The CIO has also made gains thru its affiliates in the glass and ship building industries, has participated in the merging of a number of shoe workers organizations into one numbering about 20,000 workers, and is now preparing to launch a drive in the textile and oil industries. Great progress has also been made by well established organizations of the CIO such as the International Ladies Garment Workers and the

They appreciate, even joined, the CIO because John L. Lewis and the other leaders of unions did assist them in their struggles. However, when Frey states that that's the reason for the publicity in the press he is voicing the argument of the union-hating publishers who insist that signing an agreement with the Guild means the abrogation of freedom of the press—that the Guild members would censor the news and color editorial policy. That in essence is Frey's charge, and by voicing it he places himself on the side of the union-busting publishers just as he did on the side of General Motors during the auto strike.

In the eyes of this "unbiased" gentleman, the publicity about the CIO has no relation with the CIO's participation and aid (yes, even financial!) in hundreds of strikes in dozens of industries throughout the land.

IT'S about time that progressive and militant trade unionists in Chicago begin to speak up against the increasingly reactionary policies of the Chicago Federation of Labor. Once upon a time the C.F.L. led by Fitzpatrick and Knockles, was in the forefront as a ground-breaker for progressive thought in the American Federation of Labor. This was true on the question of amalgamation of the craft unions into industrial unions, labor party, and other issues. But that was about fifteen years ago. A lot of things have happened. Fitz and Knockles are both getting old and with increasing age has come an extremely conservative outlook on the burning problems of labor such as labor party, industrial unionism and CIO.

For a while the policy of the leadership seemed to be to dodge any commitments on the floor of the C.F.L. The progressives seemed to fall for it. More recently, however, Federation News has spoken up against Lewis and the CIO in an impermissible manner which progressives should not tolerate. The recent issue of February 20, 1937, gleefully and approvingly reprints a slanderous attack on Lewis by Dr. Glenn Frank (the former president of the University of Wisconsin who got his walking papers from Governor LaFollette) and captions it "Industrial Career of C.I.O. Fuehrer Set Forth." The front page item goes on to say:

# TRADE UNION NOTES

By George F. Miles

**ELSEWHERE** in this issue will be found details of the sweeping victories just scored by the Committee for Industrial Organization. First was General Motors and now, with negotiations with Chrysler and Murray begun, comes the joyous news of the agreement with the Carnegie-Illinois Steel and the negotiations with General Electric.

With these victories, the croakings of the craft leaders have been silenced, for they cannot fail to recognize that these victories for the CIO and the mass production workers, constitute a sweeping refutation of their struggle against industrial unionism, and a crushing defeat organizationally for the craft union apologists.

Without resorting to a national plebiscite, the mass production industries have nevertheless quite accurately sensed that the mass of the toilers in these industries stands by the CIO. This is the basis and essence for the sudden shift in labor policy by the industrial overlords of steel—by the biggest of robber barons. They determined to be "liberal" and to ask for peace because they knew that the CIO and the masses behind it were ready for industrial war. This is the secret of the changed labor policy in steel and other industries.

HOWEVER, some of the supposedly very astute craft, big-shot approach the present situation in the labor movement with their eyes shut tight. One of these is Colonel John P. Frey of the Metal Trades Council.

While speaking recently at the Cleveland Federation of Labor, a puzzled trade unionist asked him why it is that the CIO seems to have grabbed for itself the first page of the newspapers while the A. F. of L. old-line unions are hardly mentioned. Frey did not have to think long. It's really very simple, he said:

"Lewis is a shrewd man. He gave assistance to the Newspaper Guild, financed it with large amounts, he banquets Guild men in Washington.

"If instead of Lewis the A. F. of L. had given the Guild money in his fight, the action might have had some influence on the stories of the wicked A. F. of L. and the glorious, angelic CIO."

Some of Frey's statements are correct, namely, that the Newspaper Guild received no aid from the A. F. of L.—in which the Federation showed itself strictly impartial, for other unions have received similar "aid"—and that

Amalgamated Clothing Workers. CIO Has Met Test

It is doubtful whether these advances, to be counted in terms of new recruits, higher wages, improved conditions and union recognition in such industries as steel and auto, will be recognized by the officials of the A. F. of L. Whether or not they do is becoming of decreasing importance to the American workers.

As the great battle of American labor for unionization unfolds itself the young and vigorous CIO shows a militancy and resourcefulness which promises much for its future. On the other hand, the A. F. of L., already outstripped, has lost key industries to the CIO. As the CIO continues to develop the prestige of the A. F. of L. which is already outside the main current of labor struggles, will continue to decline.

Other Unions Grow  
Without any exceptions the CIO unions have grown. The United Rubber Workers has increased its membership more than ten times in the last year. Akron alone accounts for a membership of 25,000. Many locals have won victories securing seniority rights, shorter hours, wage increases, vacation with pay and union recognition.

The CIO has also made gains thru its affiliates in the glass and ship building industries, has participated in the merging of a number of shoe workers organizations into one numbering about 20,000 workers, and is now preparing to launch a drive in the textile and oil industries. Great progress has also been made by well established organizations of the CIO such as the International Ladies Garment Workers and the

They appreciate, even joined, the CIO because John L. Lewis and the other leaders of unions did assist them in their struggles. However, when Frey states that that's the reason for the publicity in the press he is voicing the argument of the union-hating publishers who insist that signing an agreement with the Guild means the abrogation of freedom of the press—that the Guild members would censor the news and color editorial policy. That in essence is Frey's charge, and by voicing it he places himself on the side of the union-busting publishers just as he did on the side of General Motors during the auto strike.

In the eyes of this "unbiased" gentleman, the publicity about the CIO has no relation with the CIO's participation and aid (yes, even financial!) in hundreds of strikes in dozens of industries throughout the land.

IT'S about time that progressive and militant trade unionists in Chicago begin to speak up against the increasingly reactionary policies of the Chicago Federation of Labor. Once upon a time the C.F.L. led by Fitzpatrick and Knockles, was in the forefront as a ground-breaker for progressive thought in the American Federation of Labor. This was true on the question of amalgamation of the craft unions into industrial unions, labor party, and other issues. But that was about fifteen years ago. A lot of things have happened. Fitz and Knockles are both getting old and with increasing age has come an extremely conservative outlook on the burning problems of labor such as labor party, industrial unionism and CIO.

For a while the policy of the leadership seemed to be to dodge any commitments on the floor of the C.F.L. The progressives seemed to fall for it. More recently, however, Federation News has spoken up against Lewis and the CIO in an impermissible manner which progressives should not tolerate. The recent issue of February 20, 1937, gleefully and approvingly reprints a slanderous attack on Lewis by Dr. Glenn Frank (the former president of the University of Wisconsin who got his walking papers from Governor LaFollette) and captions it "Industrial Career of C.I.O. Fuehrer Set Forth." The front page item goes on to say:

"While defending industrial unionism as a sound movement in line with historic necessity, he characterized Lewis as 'A man of inordinate personal ambition. He has a capacity for ruthlessness that I cannot believe is a qualification for great civil leadership, he has the lust for power that has made dictators.'"

The story ends with the following remark:

"Is more convincing proof of the correctness of Prof. Frank's deductions of Lewis' character required than that furnished by the action of the press accounts (action against Green of the Lewis dominated U.M.W. Policy Committee?)"

Articles of this kind are not personal attacks against Lewis. They are the attacks of shifty-eyed politicians who haven't the courage to fight on the issue of industrial unionism. The progressives are duty bound to demand a public repudiation of this article.

## Report Declares for Industrial Unions In Steel Industry

(From the report of Dr. Ralph J. Watkins at a gathering of the Maurice and Laura Falk Foundation, Pittsburgh, Feb. 15, 1937.)

WE come now to broad questions of public policy. I shall consider first the labor problem and then the price problem.

It has been shown in this study (a) that, for many years up to the Code period, the industry had exercised unilateral control over labor and that that control had been mainly autocratic or paternalistic and frequently harsh and repressive and destructive of those qualities of citizenship that are aspired to in a democracy and (b) that under the Code there was definite improvement with respect to labor's right of self-expression and in provisions for settlement of grievances and in discontinuance of many repressive measures but (c) that there was not essential change in the aim or in the fact of one-sided control of labor by the industry.

**Need For Industrial Union**  
It is not the function of this discussion to outline ways and means of organizing steel workers or to indicate under whose auspices they should be organized, but it is in point to state some general principles. (At this point I should like to interject a word of caution. The statement of principles I am about to read was formulated and written more than a year ago and was sent to the publisher, along with the rest of the manuscript, eight months ago. Consequently, I want to make it clear that Dr. Daugherty's statement of general principles is precisely that and must not be construed as either endorsement or condemnation of any specific agency.) First, steel workers should be organized. Effective administration of personnel relations in plants employing thousands of workers and in companies employing tens of thousands of workers is dependent on organization that extends to the lower reaches. Moreover, only through organization can the workers protect their interest. Second, the logic of the industry's operation is such that vertical rather than horizontal operations extending from blast furnace to the finished rolled product constitute the economic unit and a form of organization that would encourage judicially inefficient. Furthermore, since management is organized on a vertical basis, any approach to equality of bargaining would require a similar vertical organization of the workers. Third, collective bargaining should be on a national basis and not on a plant basis. The plant is little more than a cell in the iron and steel industry, and the economic factors bearing on wage rates and hours proceed from and in turn effect the national market. Wages constitute a significant part of costs, and management must consider them in national setting. In short, discussion a national point of view backed usually by the industry's united front, formed on the advice of both "inside" and "outside" experts. Should not the workers do likewise? Fourth, organization of steel workers should be in accord with the principles of industrial democracy, under which the workers are accorded the unrestrained exercise of the liberties of self-expression and participation in measures affecting their welfare. Anything short of these liberties, whether by employer coercion or autocratic union methods and leadership, would be contrary to the ideals attainable in a democratic society.

to conceive of a working class party seeking to overthrow a democratic government by revolutionary means. It is this viewpoint which explains its venom and brutality against the P.O.U.M. It is anxious to demonstrate in Spain that it practices what it preaches. The Communist Party has quickly forgotten that the proletarian revolution in Russia was led by an "armed party or faction which by insurrection" overthrew a democratic government, in fact, a people's front coalition government. But it is too much to expect that those who forget so easily the principles of communism on democracy and the war question, who cast off the teachings of Marx and Lenin, should remember the history of the struggle against the last imperialist world war and for the proletarian revolution.

**Advertising Peace-Loving U. S. Imperialism**  
The Daily Worker after frowning upon insurrectionists in general, properly concludes by a complete endorsement of the existing foreign policy and neutrality legislation of the American government: "The peace which the American people so ardently desire to maintain can be preserved by collective action under already existing legislation and treaties."

It is only in keeping that the best offenders of bourgeois democracy become the best apologists for the diplomacy of the democratic bourgeois governments—all of whom are preparing for a war of plunder. The existing treaties, such as the Kellogg Pact, which could not prevent the seizure of Manchuria by Japan, the rape of Ethiopia by Italy, or the armed support of Franco by Hitler, the C.P. tells us, can keep the peace of the world. If the Communist Party, has lost all class consciousness in its analysis of this question, the bourgeoisie has not.

**Who Fired the First Shot?**  
Revolutionary Marxists have never based their attitude towards the Communist Party which will keep peace in the world:

"The Communist Party proposes that in the event of the danger of war, or an actual war between two or more nations, the Kellogg Peace Pact be invoked. Collaborating with other signatories of this pact, the United States can then enforce an embargo against the aggressor power, the nation threatening world peace. Such an aggressor can be defined as that state which declares war upon another state, or which uses its armed force, with or without declaration of war, to invade another state. FURTHERMORE, AN AGGRESSOR SHOULD BE DEFINED AS AN ARMED PARTY OR FACTION WHICH BY INSURRECTION SEEKS TO OVERTHROW A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT."

Woe betide a workers' revolutionary party if it should attempt to overthrow a capitalist government of the democratic type! The C.P. will leap upon the "aggressor", together with the bourgeois powers, or without them if they should be so blind to their interests as to remain neutral, and tear the "aggressor apart," limb by limb! And woe betide a revolutionary party in the colonies that should begin a revolutionary struggle against its democratic masters and thus disturb the peace of the world!

It would receive the same peace medicine. It is to such lengths that the bourgeoisie democratic cretinism against its democratic masters and thus disturb the peace of the world!

If Morocco were to declare war against France tomorrow, or India against England, or Persia or China against (Czarist—B. H.) Russia, those wars would be just "defensive" wars, no matter which one was the first to attack. Every Socialist would then wish the vic-

## C.P. 'Progresses' to Social-Chauvinism

By B. H.

THE Daily Worker, the people's champion of liberty, progress, peace and prosperity, carried a leading editorial on February 22nd, opposing the Pittman "Neutrality Act" which, for sheer, outright chauvinism, would put even the right-wing social-democracy to shame. Instead of exposing the Roosevelt administration as an imperialist one, directed against the Spanish proletariat, placing a cordon sanitaire around the Spanish workers while Franco receives troops, arms and money from Hitler and Mussolini, the Daily Worker objects to the Pittman Act because it fails to distinguish between the aggressor and the victim. It declares:

"If the peace of the world is the desideratum, then a neutrality resolution which dictates that an aggressor and its victim are to be treated alike is not neutrality either in name or fact."

**Invoking the Spirit of Kellogg**  
In the "classless" spirit of Kellogg, if the embargo is against the "aggressor," then the neutrality legislation is acceptable to the Communist Party! Thus, paradoxically, the policy of "defense of bourgeois democracy against the menace of fascism," of supporting "bourgeois democratic nations against the fascist aggressor" leads the Communist Party to make a choice between the policy of the Roosevelt government on neutrality and the Republican-Hoover-Kellogg policy, the policy of the Liberty Leaguers—and the C.P. chooses the latter!

**Embargo Against Insurrection**  
The editorial, with more courage than wisdom, proceeds to accept the full logic of the C.P. position, (that is, the suppression of the "aggressors"). It even out-Kelloggs Kellogg, and calls upon the powers to suppress all perfidious insurrectionists who dare to resort to aggression against our good democratic governments! This is how the Communist Party will keep peace in the world:

"The Communist Party proposes that in the event of the danger of war, or an actual war between two or more nations, the Kellogg Peace Pact be invoked. Collaborating with other signatories of this pact, the United States can then enforce an embargo against the aggressor power, the nation threatening world peace. Such an aggressor can be defined as that state which declares war upon another state, or which uses its armed force, with or without declaration of war, to invade another state. FURTHERMORE, AN AGGRESSOR SHOULD BE DEFINED AS AN ARMED PARTY OR FACTION WHICH BY INSURRECTION SEEKS TO OVERTHROW A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT."

Woe betide a workers' revolutionary party if it should attempt to overthrow a capitalist government of the democratic type! The C.P. will leap upon the "aggressor", together with the bourgeois powers, or without them if they should be so blind to their interests as to remain neutral, and tear the "aggressor apart," limb by limb! And woe betide a revolutionary party in the colonies that should begin a revolutionary struggle against its democratic masters and thus disturb the peace of the world!

It would receive the same peace medicine. It is to such lengths that the bourgeoisie democratic cretinism against its democratic masters and thus disturb the peace of the world!

If Morocco were to declare war against France tomorrow, or India against England, or Persia or China against (Czarist—B. H.) Russia, those wars would be just "defensive" wars, no matter which one was the first to attack. Every Socialist would then wish the vic-

## P.O.U.M. MILITIAMEN



Pictured with the militiamen of the P.O.U.M. are: third from the left, top row, Bert Wolfe who has just left for Europe, and seated in front of him is Jay Lovestone. The picture was taken at the meeting described on this page.

## POUM Militiamen Hailed At Special CPO Meeting

Before three hundred wildly enthusiastic workers gathered in Rivera Hall on February 26th, representatives of the Spanish Workers Party of Marxist Unity (P.O.U.M.) presented the story of revolutionary Spain and its proletarian aspirations.

Speaking for the POUM, Comrade Costa, a young militiaman, likened its struggle today with the

great drive of the Russian Bolsheviks in 1917, compared its role with the traditions and heritage of the heroic Spartacus Group of Liebhrecht and Luxembourg in Germany. With fiery eloquence he decried the division of the Spanish workers by the false policies of the Communist and Socialist parties of Spain who were acting in opposition to the proletarian revolution. The proletarian revolution was inevitable, however, and the POUM carried its banner high, he declared, while his listeners cheered.

Then a political report was presented to the assembled workers by one of the editors of *La Batalla*, official organ of the POUM, Comrade Raboul. Formerly an anarchist, he became one of the founders of the Spanish Communist party, and in the split which occurred in 1929 internationally, was expelled with Joaquin Maurin, now slain by the fascists, and founded the Iberian Communist Federation, which later became the POUM.

His first words brought a frenzied response when he stated that: "The workers are three thousand miles from Spain, here we feel at home and among our own kind."

Comrade Raboul then told the story of the first days of the uprising in Barcelona. The solidarity and heroism of the workers quickly quelled the rebel fascist officers. In this fight the members of the POUM and its Youth organization played a decisive role. When word came that the troops were marching on the city, the POUM men went forth armed with what few rifles and pistols that could be scavenged up and defeated them. In this battle, the general-secretary of the Youth organization was slain.

The political problems of Spain, and the attitude of the various workers parties were discussed. Answering the oft-repeated accusation of Trotskyism, Comrade Raboul stated:

"We are as far from Trotskyism as we are from Stalinism. It is becoming increasingly clear to us that both Stalin and Trotsky represent two harmful tendencies."

The workers members of the Communist Party Opposition and its sympathizers, responded not merely with the spirited enthusiasm natural at such a meeting, but, after a short announcement of the need for funds, immediately responded with \$300.

Comrade Lovestone, speaking for the CPO sent fraternal greetings to the POUM, in its struggle for a Soviet Spain.

The meeting continued long after it was formally closed, all present singing and cheering for hours.

## EUROPE TODAY

(Continued from Page 2)

Soviet representative in Spain) against the POUM is just the opposite of what they expected. FAI, the CNT, even the Esquerra and the Estat Catala of Barcelona joined the POUM in denouncing this campaign.

At the sessions of the National Council of the SFIO held on February 14th, 1937, it became very evident that the struggle against the policy of the Blum government and against the right wing and the center of the SFIO has ceased. There was no opposition and the Blum government received a vote of confidence. Pivert's as well as Zyromski's followers have surrendered. This is due to the policy of the CPP and to its renunciation of all criticisms of, and opposition to the Blum government.

What line the Blum government follows appears clearly in the speech Blum made before the civil service officials. He talked about the necessities of a "recess" in the government's social program. This means that the civil service officials will not receive any raise, although the cost of living is rising, and that

### Subscribe Now To Workers Age

\$1.00 for one year  
\$.60 for six months

WORKERS AGE  
131 W. 33rd St.  
New York, N. Y.

Enclosed find \$.....  
for a ..... months sub.  
Name .....  
Address .....  
City .....  
State .....

as we are far from Trotskyism as we are from Stalinism. It is becoming increasingly clear to us that both Stalin and Trotsky represent two harmful tendencies."

The workers members of the Communist Party Opposition and its sympathizers, responded not merely with the spirited enthusiasm natural at such a meeting, but, after a short announcement of the need for funds, immediately responded with \$300.

Comrade Lovestone, speaking for the CPO sent fraternal greetings to the POUM, in its struggle for a Soviet Spain.

The meeting continued long after it was formally closed, all present singing and cheering for hours.

## Catholic Church Is Child Labor Backer

The Child Labor Amendment is heading for certain defeat in New York State: that is the consensus of opinion of well-informed sources. *Workers Age* has been informed that regardless of whether the legislature acts or whether the issue is submitted to a referendum vote, the amendment faces defeat.

The line-up against the amendment is substantially the same cut-throat gang that ganged-up on the measure on previous occasions: the Catholic Church, the State Grange, and the affiliates of the National Association of Manufacturers—State Economic Council, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

The outlook this year was exceedingly promising until the intransigent opposition of the Church came into full play. The tide was turned when Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons of Albany delivered his blast before the Assembly Judiciary Committee and Cardinal Hayes sent an episcopal letter to his Churches.

While it is well-known that Catholicism has everywhere and at all times bitterly contested the right of any secular power to exercise any kind of regulation of youth, it is felt in more analytical quarters that Catholicism has much more at stake in warding off the Amendment than any future abuses which it claims would follow in the wake of ratification.

### Catholic Complaints

Boiling the Catholic grievances down to the essentials we discover the following two major complaints: 1) The amendment would give the Federal government "excessively broad powers" and since it would be administered by "a remote agency at Washington" it would "contravene the principles of our government and seriously endanger the rights of parents." State child labor laws are favored. 2) The use of the word "labor" instead of "employment" as the object to be regulated will permit the government to interfere in Catholic educational institutions because "labor" can be interpreted as encompassing mental labor.

The objection to the word "labor" is easy to comprehend, for the National Child Labor Committee has pointed out that, "Any one familiar with the administration of state child labor laws knows the evasions which occur when the word employment alone is used. In industrial home work, in the beet fields, frequently in canneries, children who work are not employed in the technical sense of the term."

The argument that "work" encompasses "mental work" is the sheerest kind of bunk. This argument was deflated long ago by the economist, Henry R. Seager: "It is charged that the amendment will give Congress control over our educational system. The language of the amendment, relating as it does solely to child labor, is proof to the contrary, unless out of it can be distilled the implied power to regulate all other activities of children. But the 'implied powers' of Congress are, as every lawyer understands, only those necessary and appropriate to the exercise of the powers expressly conferred. The utmost in the field of education which Congress could possibly do in connection with regulating child labor in accordance with the amendment would be to add to a minimum age qualification a minimum educational qualification as a condition to the lawful employment of children under eighteen. How such education should be acquired could not by any stretch of the doctrine of implied powers become a subject for Federal determination."

What is the real, though never so much as hinted, objection of the

Catholic Church? All this talk about its being for "States rights" against "federal dictatorship?" all this blather about "work" meaning "mental work," etc., is a smoke-screen. The preference for "employment" instead of "work," the preference for State as opposed to Federal regulation, exposes the whole dirty game.

The Catholic Church fears that the passage of the Child Labor Amendment would for the first time permit a regulation of the hundreds of thousands of children and youth who are at work in its orphanages and in its homes for delinquent girls. Under present state laws which contain the term "employment," these youngsters are technically not at work and their compensation and hours of labor are beyond the power of regulation. Under present state laws, the Church has nothing to fear because in the principal centers of Catholic population, the Church controls the legislatures!

In addition, the Catholic Church hierarchy by its continued opposition to the Amendment is pursuing the aim of still further convincing the wolves of Wall Street, that it is not only the most reliable foe against Communism, but is a faithful ally of the bitter end in the oppression of the American working-class.

—S.H.

### ATTENTION!

Due to lack of space, we have been forced to omit an article by Bertram D. Wolfe in his series on "Present Day Mexico". This feature will be resumed in next week's *Workers Age*.

## Significance of Auto Strike

(Continued from Page 3)

a-b-c of elementary school working class politics. Regardless of how much these kow-towing labor leaders may have thus unlearned or how little they may have thus learned, it cannot be denied that thousands of workers became more politically conscious as a result of their experience in the auto strike. This enhancement of the trend toward independent working class political thought and action is an event of monumental import for the labor movement as a whole.

In fact the auto strike itself was a reflex of a certain mood of awakening among the workers. The workers in general, and the auto, steel, and rubber workers and miners in particular have had the feeling that they scored a big victory in the November elections. They feel that they want to march on and improve their conditions. This notion about having scored a victory may be only an illusion, but it is a powerful illusion and has certain vital objective consequences—stimulating the workers' will to fight and their determination to win. The auto workers especially were hell bent on avoiding a repetition of the disastrous double-cross they suffered in the 1934 Green-Roosevelt-Wolman pact selling them down the river. In no small measure did these moods explain the vigor and elan with which the auto workers flung themselves into the battle.

### Gathering the Fascist Gangs

Let no one for a moment think that the employing class was asleep in this history-making struggle. The titans of industry, the kings of finance were wide awake. They have also learned through this bitter experience. They have begun to work out a new strategy to fight labor. In its use of the "company mob," a mass weapon

for dividing labor and smashing strikes, General Motors has written more than one ugly page for the employing class. The union defeated the Flint Alliance. However, organizations of this type with roots among the workers are more dangerous than the packs of professional, imported scabs, strikebreaking "outsiders," specialized vigilantes and filthy mercenaries. In the Flint Alliance and organizations of this type we have an aggravated expression in the most menacing form, of nascent fascist outfits—far more dangerous than the Vigilante bands which have no broad base.

### Clean-Cut Victory For CIO

Finally, the outcome of the auto strike will go a long way toward determining the outcome of the conflict between the AFL and the CIO. The victory scored by the UAW in GM and other strikes paved the way for the beginning of a change of policy toward unionism on the part of the U. S. Steel and General Electric Companies. Within fifteen months the CIO was able to do a thousand times as much as the A. F. of L. tried and did do in the mass production industries in several decades. If one keeps in mind that the real issue between the AFL and the CIO was whether an earnest and sound effort should be made to unionize the mass production industries, he will readily see how rapidly the CIO is defeating the AFL backsliders. This fight is far from over. But the auto victory and the tremendous impetus it has lent to organization and union recognition in steel and other mass production industries will go a long way towards settling the struggle in favor of the CIO and, therefore, in favor of working class progress.

On the basis of the above it is clear that the auto strike and its

## STEEL PROFITS

Company	1936 Net Profits	Profit Per Employee	% Increase Over 1935
United States Steel	\$50,525,684	\$250	4500%
Bethlehem Steel	\$13,901,006	\$174	320%
Republic Steel	\$ 9,586,922	\$192	110%
Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company	\$10,564,501	\$621	500%
National Steel	\$12,541,842	\$597	12%
Inland Steel	\$12,888,647	\$347	36%
Blaw Knox Steel	\$ 1,500,000	\$600	166%
Gulf States Steel	\$ 660,112	\$330	367%
Pittsburgh Steel	\$ 571,114 (last six months)		
American Steel Foundries	\$ 2,953,426	\$821	2393%
Wheeling Steel	\$ 4,000,000	\$222	14%
Eight Leading Steel Firms	\$110,337,821		250%

From the S.W.O.C.

## New Jersey C. I. O. Council Not Bluffed by Hoffman

Newark, N. J.—(UNS)—The union organizing campaign of the New Jersey Council for Industrial Organization is flourishing under the verbal attacks of Gov. H. G. Hoffman and the attendant publicity.

"Gov. Hoffman has served as a volunteer organizer without credentials!" declared Julius Emspak, secretary of the United Electrical & Radio Workers and chairman of the state council.

"His statements announced our campaign to those very unorganized workers we want to help," he said. "As a result we have been flooded with calls for help."

The Steel Workers Organizing Committee is making outstanding headway among the employees of John A. Roebling's Sons Company, the American Steel & Wire Co., and the Crescent Insulated Wire & Cable Co. At the National Radiator Corporation in Trenton, 100 joined the union in one day and

voted to organize a local. Hundreds of other applications are pending, according to E. J. Lever, S.W.O.C. organizer.

### Rubber Plants Organized

The United Rubber Workers reports enrollment of 150 out of 165 employees at the Luzerne Rubber Co. and of 800 out of 1,200 employees at the Thermoid Corp.

The United Electrical & Radio Workers has chartered a new local in Newark, right under Gov. Hoffman's nose, and has won union recognition, a 10% wage increase, reduction of hours and payment for overtime work under an agreement signed by the Continental Electric Co.

The union is making particularly rapid strides since the C.I.O. auto strike victory, in organizing among the 50,000 electrical and radio workers in northern New Jersey.

### C.L.U. Aids C.I.O. Drive

Elizabeth, N. J.—(UNS)—Union County Central Labor Union is "100% behind the organizing campaign of the New Jersey Council for Industrial Organization," Pres. Geo. Cushing of the C.L.U. informed Mayor Brophy, following Gov. Hoffman's radio attack on the union campaign.

"We are going to help that drive in every possible fashion," Cushing said. "We shall provide our sound truck and all other necessary assistance."

victorious termination will have a marked effect on the political and economic developments in the country for the next few years. Governor Murphy's political star is rising. The auto strike of 1937 will have many echoes in the 1940 elections. The auto strike—its outcome the emergence of a mighty, stable, automobile workers union with several hundred thousands members—these are events and experiences for which working class militants live and fight for decades. These are milestones in the achievements of American labor. We value them as signposts on the road to working class victory.

### JUST OFF THE PRESS!

## TWO NEW PAMPHLETS

published by the Communist Party (Opposition)

"The People's Front Illusion"

by Jay Lovestone

An 88 page pamphlet for 20c

"The CIO: Labor's New Challenge"

by Will Herberg

A 24 page pamphlet for 5c

Special Discount on Bundle Orders

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!

with

WORKERS AGE

131 West 33rd Street, New York City

## BARBARA HUTTON



Woolworth Heiress Forced to Settle

## Woolworth Sit-In Strike Is Won

The sit-down strike of Woolworth employees, led by Myra Kamaroff of the Waitress and Waiters' Union, was settled with a definite and encouraging victory for the girls. The agreement, signed with the company, provides for a 48 hour week, and 33 cents per hour for present employees. A minimum wage of \$14.50 a week for all future employees was also won. It should be remembered that conditions under the NRA were a 48 hour week for only \$10. Male employees, working in the kitchen and bakery will get from \$22.50 to \$37 for a 54-hour week.

While the strikes occurred in two of the main stores of the Detroit Woolworth chain, the agreement was won for the entire area. This should enable the swift organization of all Woolworth girls not only locally but on a national scale.

## Knitgoods Union Wins Closed Shop

After a prolonged strike of five months conducted by the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union against the Supreme Braid & Trimming Co. of 126 West 26th Street, New York City, the Union has succeeded in bringing about a settlement with that shop. A closed shop, increases in wages and other conditions enjoyed by the rest of the organized Textile Trimmers have been won for the workers.

After four years of opposition to organized labor, the Buffalo Knitting Mills located at 100 White Street, Brooklyn, has finally settled with the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union on a 35 hour work week basis, closed shop and increases in wages for the workers.

Despite a very poor Spring season, the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union is continuing its organizational activities.