

WORKERS OF THE WORLD. UNITE

THE MILITANT



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA (OPPOSITION)

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10,000 IN MASS HOTEL PICKET LINE

Revolt At Local 16's Treachery

Members of A. F. of L. Refuse to Act as Scabs

The shabby fraud practised by Local 16 in its effort to get its own members to scab had proven a flop. Hundreds of workers are returning from jobs supplied through fake agencies. They are refusing to scab. They are demanding their money back.

Here is the story of the racket, as described by a former member of Local 16, who quit to join the Amalgamated.

Ten Dollars For Scab Job "I went over to the Local yesterday to look for a job. They sent me to an agency, where I had to pay \$10."

"I said: It ain't a strike breaking job, is it?" The man said no. "The job was O. K."

"And do you know where the blankety-blank-blank sent me? Over to the Hotel Roosevelt."

"I march back to Local headquarters. 'I don't want a strike job,' I tell the fellow there. 'It's all right,' he says. 'The union is in back of you.'"

"So I march straight out of his office, and come here. I ain't a scab, not even for the A. F. of L."

"I wasn't the only one to come back from a scab job. While I was at headquarters, more than a dozen guys came in to complain. The official answered them all the same way: 'The union is back of you. It's all right.'"

"But it wasn't all right. We're through with Local 16, and we're going to get our money back, by God. If it's the last thing we do."

In other words, Local 16 is a flop even as a strike-breaking organization. It has to stand by enviously and helplessly while the hotels pass on to hire scab labor from ships in port, and from the dregs of the unemployed.

And the members of Local 16 are plenty sore. They are grumbling, and more than grumbling. It's no fun for an honest worker to be sent out to scab by his own union. "The fellows want to quit," the former member of the Local reported. "All they need is a push, and not much of a push, either. They go around saying the way to quit is altogether."

Rebel Against High Dues Nor is the fact that they are asked to act as scabs the only complaint of members of Local 16. They are rebelling against the exorbitant dues, and the petty graft practised by their officials.

It costs them \$10 initiation fee to join the union if they are unemployed. Then they have to pay \$10 for a job, which is usually dished out to them through some fake labor agency.

Dues are \$2 a month. In addition the Local leaders squeeze \$1.05 a month out of employed workers on assignments, this worker charges.

Compare these figures with the cost of belonging to a legitimate union. Initiation fee to the Amalgamated is only \$2. Dues are 75 cents a month, plus an assessment of 25 cents. Members of other unions who join in on the general strike call pay no initiation fee. Nor does anyone have to pay for his button until after settlement of the strike.

Bosses Work with Racketeers Local 16 has gotten inside some of the more notorious night clubs and restaurants. Workers who wanted jobs at Hollywood or Paradise had to sign up with Local 16 before they could come to work. The bosses were in on the deal. Members of other A. F. of L. unions are beginning to chafe under the restraint of their leadership. Every day there are reports of new disaffections. Every day members flock into Amalgamated headquarters, even from Local 16, which is terrorizing its workers in an effort to keep them in tow.

Local 16 set out to crush a surging mass movement, and is being overwhelmed in the tide.

EDITORIAL

Every day brings heartening reports of new thousands added to the ranks of the hotel and restaurant workers on strike in New York. Days count in this imposing spectacle of workers pouring out in reply to the ringing call of the Amalgamated union. And in these days, the course followed by the union counts above everything else.

The history of the labor movement in this country and elsewhere has demonstrated over and over again that what is decisive in every working class battle is the question of policy. In this field, every individual, every group, every current in the labor movement is obliged to show its colors. It is in this field that it first receives its baptism. It is here that the tests are made. The policy pursued and the actions based upon it—that is where the eyes of every worker must be fixed.

We of the Militant, we International Communists whom the official Communist party calls "Trotskyists", have definite opinions. We welcome the occasion to state them openly to the workers on strike, because we have no reason to conceal them. Those who are linked with us in principle, fight for these views and endeavor by democratic means to make them the views of the other members of the union. These men will be found among those who are truest and most devoted to the union and the workers' interests. They do not seek to impose their ideas upon their fellow-members. Operating through the regular channels of the union and its leading bodies, they employ the method of persuasion, at the same time fighting side by side with every worker—regardless of his views—in the common cause and against the common enemy.

The Strike and the N.R.A.

The enemy is the association of hotel proprietors and the banks that stand behind them. Their assistants and allies are the police, the courts, and the vast machinery of the capitalist government. The specific form which the government has established to intervene in labor's struggle for unionism and better conditions, is the NRA and the so-called "Labor Boards".

From the very outset, we considered as the most dangerous illusion the idea that the NRA could or would help the workers in any movement to advance their interests. All the experiences of labor throughout the country, since the NRA was put into effect, have only served to confirm this view.

At one stage in the organizational campaign, the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union made concessions to unenlightened prejudices in this respect, failing to make it entirely clear that the NRA is, in fact, a factor to be dealt with by the union, but only as an insidious enemy of the workers. Such concessions would be ten times more dangerous if they were to be repeated at this time.

The NRA will not give anything to the workers, just as the hotel men will not give anything to them. If this strike is to be won, and it can be won, it will not be because of the NRA but in spite of it. We do not put an ounce of reliance in it. What must be relied upon exclusively is the organized strength of the workers, their spirit of solidarity, their uncompromising militancy. In a word, the policy of class struggle alone will prove effective and invincible. You will distinguish the true progressive and the Left winger in the strike's ranks by his iron opposition to any trend in the union which sows illusion about the NRA.

How Will the Strike Be Won?

The emergence of the Amalgamated into battle as a forward-looking, independent, fighting union shows anew that the methods of routine conservatism are powerless to organize a fight against the bosses. These are the methods which rely for a solution of every problem upon dickerings behind the scenes with the employers, of begging hat in hand for favors from government representatives, upon all the impotent routine which has disemboweled one union after another.

What is indispensable in the strike is a firm reliance upon the mass movement of the workers alone, and not upon the good will and kind hearts of the bosses and the benevolence of the government. From the beginning of the organized drive, we emphasized that in dealing with such a powerful enterprise as the New York hotel industry, the general strike was the weapon imperatively dictated to the workers for the purpose of gaining union recognition, shorter hours, higher wages and improved conditions of work.

"The challenge to the NRA code and the hotel magnates in whose interest it was drawn up," wrote the Militant just a month ago, "leads with iron necessity to a strike. There is no other way but by a show of strength to convince these people who demand to hear or heed the bitter grievances of the workers. The demands gained and the organization established in this way will be all the more secure. There will be no ground for the illusion that anybody gave the workers any thing. It will be clear that everything gained is the result of organized struggle and it will not be easy to take the gains away again."

Essentially the same question rises before us now. What methods, what policy should be pursued to gain a favorable settlement in the strike, one which the workers can accept proudly and with satisfaction?

The kind of settlement the strikers want will not be achieved by a voluntary change of heart by the bosses or the NRA. The most solemn warning must be issued against such a fatal notion. The bosses will make only such a change of front as the workers force them to make!

What has made the hotel bosses tremble? What has emptied their stately dining rooms of patrons and their coffers of income? What has replaced their sleek smirking with a haggard look of worry?

Not some polite paper threat, written with wind and tongue in cheek, like the A. F. of L. officials' bluff for a New Year's Eve strike. Not the interminable wearing-down exchange of courteous communications between the union and the employers. Not the endless preliminary negotiations with the bosses, so dear to every self-contented and conservative labor skate, which allow the bosses to prepare for action and demoralize the workers.

No, what has been accomplished up to now and what will win

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F. W. I. U. «Fortress» Collapses

New Yorker Men-Vote Solid for 'Amalgamated'

The 18th St Food Workers' Industrial "Union" (Stalinists), has received a decisive setback in its efforts to sow discord in the strike and to make political capital at the expense of the strike. As a result of meetings held Monday by the striking workers of the Hotel New Yorker, the entire house joined the ranks of the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union, thus becoming an integral part of the general strike called by the only mass union in the industry.

Some time ago, the F. W. I. U., which had no following in the hotel industry of the city, set out to gain one in order to compete with the rapidly-growing A. H. & R. W. U. After a demagogic campaign and various tricks, they lined up a minority of the New Yorker workers. When the strike was called, the house, including A.H. & R.W.U. members, F. W. I. U. members and unorganized workers, came out. Although the general strike was called and led by the A. H. & R. W. U., and all other strikers were enrolled in its ranks or held its strike cards, the 18th St. New Yorker led their fellow-workers down to Stalinist headquarters.

Stalinists Create Confusion Many refused to sign up until they could find out more about both unions. As a result there was confusion which caused a neglect of the business of the strike while meeting after meeting was held, the Stalinists struggling to corral the New Yorker workers. While this went on, the Stalinist "union" tried to bargain for a phony united front. Representing in reality only a handful of New Yorker workers, they hoped to dictate terms to the tens of thousands of strikers.

As each day went by, the strikers became more and more restless, anxious to close ranks, end organizational disputes and take part in driving home blows against the boss. It became ever clearer to them that in the H. & R. W. U. they could find unity on a militant, industrial union basis, while the Stalinist "union" offered them only words and disunity. On Monday they held meetings at the headquarters of the Stalinist "union", and at the Hellenic Center.

At the last meeting, only four workers—the professional Stalinists who started the disharmony—rose to speak on behalf of the 18th Street "union". By this time even these four did not dare oppose joining out the Union of the general strike, and by unanimous vote the strikers decided to join the H. & R. W. U. The four Stalinists asked whether they could keep their books of the Stalinist "union", saying that 150 of the New Yorker strikers have such books. When a show of hands was asked, it was discovered that of the organized workers present 41 already had H. & R. W. U. books and only 19 had Stalinist books. Most of the latter signified their intention of turning in their books in exchange for H. & R. W. U. membership.

Flock to Amalgamated

At this point a worker arrived at the Hellenic Center from union headquarters with a pile of strikers' cards. The strikers sent up a loud cheer, grabbed the cards and filled them out. The Stalinists sank quietly into their seats. The meeting ended with the election from the floor of shop delegates. Then the strikers marched out for a mass picket line of the New Yorker, thus for the first time becoming an integral part of the general strike.

There may still be another peep or two from representatives of the F. W. I. U., but the action of the New Yorker rank-and-file, pushing into the way over all obstacles into the H. & R. W. U. because of their desire for militant, unified action, has cut the ground from under the Stalinist splitters' feet. Already several of the tiny handful of holders of F. W. I. U. books outside the New Yorker, have asked union officials whether they can exchange for H. & R. W. U. books. They have been accepted. The F. W. I. U. has collapsed, as far as the hotel industry is concerned.

—HARRY STRANG.

Strikers 'Greet' Roosevelt Scab Birthday Dinners

The picket line of the hotel workers' general strike took over Park Avenue last night.

For more than an hour the highway which usually serves the plutocratic elite of the city as they roll in limousines to luncheon, tea, cocktails and banquets at sumptuous hotels, resounded to the tramp of marching feet and shouts as 10,000 strikers demonstrated their numbers, strength and solidarity.

In this way the strikers expressed their indignation at the action of President Roosevelt in permitting birthday dinners to be given in his honor at hotels which employ scab labor in an effort to break the workers' fight for union recognition and decent conditions. While the NRA takes no steps to make a reality out of the famous clause 7A which is supposed to guarantee collective bargaining, the workers themselves expressed their demands in shouts which made the over-fed birthday diners inside squirm in their seats.

Setting out after a meeting of 10,000 in Madison Square Garden Annex, with the intention of parading past the Waldorf, the line kept going despite the icy winds and paid its respects to a whole series of hotels. Among those saluted with the slogans of the march from 10,000 hearty throats were the New Yorker, the

McAlpin, the Commodore, the Pennsylvania, the Ambassador, the Savoy-Plaza, the Plaza, the New Weston, and others.

The greatest strike picket line New York City has seen in years was a smashing answer to the mendacious bosses' press which has persisted in spreading the lie that the strikers number only a thousand or two at most.

Inside the hotels the effect of the strike was astounding. Discipline among the workers in departments still unaffected by the strike broke down completely. Front doors were jammed with bellboys, porters and other workers watching and occasionally applauding, while straw-bosses frantically yelled at them to get back to their posts.

At the head of the picket line marched B. J. Field, Secretary of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union and other strike leaders. "This is not just a demonstration of strength or simply a protest against the President's attitude," said Field to the newspaper reporters. "It is a call to battle which will have its answer tomorrow when hundreds of additional workers join our ranks."

The pickets wound up their march with two rallies, at Union headquarters and Palm Garden.

Draw Guns On Pickets

Police Effort to Scare Workers Is Defied

Hitting the supply of strike-breakers at its source, a squadron of three hundred strikers marched up and down Sixth Ave., defied police guns, and picketed the scab employment agencies.

The picketers paraded from Fifth St. to Forty-Second St., yelling "Down with the scabs," every time they spied a misguided worker eye the placards announcing jobs in struck hotels. Hundreds of workers looked on as the picketers ripped these notices from the bulletin boards.

Cops Draw Guns At Fifty-Seventh St. and Ninth Ave., the cops drew their guns from the holsters, threatening to use them on the strikers if they did not cease their militant activities. James Gordon, captain of the picket committee, courageously called their bluff, stepping up into the menacing revolvers and challenging the brass-buttons to use them. The cops backed down making an attempt instead to club a rading Gordon who was saved from a slug by the workers who intervened.

Hardly was this scrimmage over when the cossacks came on the scene and dispersed the workers. But temporarily, for the workers re-formed their lines, marching through the hotel district calling on those still at work to join the strike, and then back to union headquarters.

That this demonstration struck terror into the hearts of the employment agency sharks is shown in a survey of the Sixth Avenue district.

Almost without exception the agencies display signs bearing the legend: 'No strike jobs supplied here.'

Another demonstration was held on the same avenue yesterday, during course of which several thugs armed with clubs were in evidence, especially at the Geneva on Forty-Ninth St., and Sixth Ave., giving the lie to those ostentatious statements "No strike jobs". At the conclusion of today's demonstration many agency proprietors could be seen hanging out such signs.

New Hotels Join Ranks of Strike

The following is the list of hotels and restaurants that have joined the strike in the last forty-eight hours:

Savarin, Commodore, Picadilly, Chatham, Marguery, Madison, Alamac, Prince George, Gotham, Ocot, Caylar, Longchamps 79th St., Downtown Athletic Club.

Face Thugs at Longchamps

Longchamps! All out for Longchamps!

The picket line formed outside of union headquarters, marched double file through Central Park. A laborer waved greetings. A woman with a "pooch" under her arm stopped and snuffed—out of cold or contempt; it was hard to say which.

Longchamps uptown was not prepared. A lone cop was stationed outside the door. The manager, pudgy, thick set, dashed out of the door, and back inside through a side entrance. When he came out again, his "yeggs" were with him. Five of them, pasty-faced, with itching fingers inside their coats.

The marchers jeered. They refused to be intimidated. "Strike! Strike!" they yelled. The guests inside stared up from their scuffles and silver service. The immaculate waiters stood frozen, platters poised as if ready to drop. They looked unhappy, and frightened.

One of the "mugs" outside tried to start trouble. He pushed one of the marchers. The lone cop, scared representative of law and order, pleaded with him. Pleaded with the "yegg".

The marchers refused to be provoked... or frightened. They marched by, close to the armed "mugs", close to the windows.

It was a test. They had matched their unarmed courage against the armed thugs of the management. They are going back in greater numbers, as long as a scab remains working in uptown Longchamps.

Bulletin! Longchamps' 79th St. branch is now out! This is the fourth branch to strike.

Another N.R.A. Project Collapses

Another of the grandiose projects of the New Deal has turned out to be a dud. According to a U. P. report appearing in the World-Telegram for Jan. 8, "the use of federal funds for slum clearance and housing projects in general has been abandoned as a part of the Roosevelt recovery program."

It will be recalled that the newspapers were check full of big-time stories splashing the fact that amounts running into astronomical figures were being allocated to improve the housing situation. Says this report, which the United Press has on "authoritative information": "The Public Works Administration has allocated \$148,000,000 for low cost housing and slum clearance."

Now this whole proposition is thrown to the winds. Has the New Deal so improved conditions that there is enough money in the pockets of the workers so there is no reason for them to inhabit the

fire-traps, disease-infested slum sections of New York City? Hardly. Municipal Court Justice Jacob S. Strahl in advocating relief for the destitute states: "...in 1932, 305,516 dispossession notices were served in New York City, an increase of 105,245 over the preceding year, and that in 1933, up to Dec. 1, 314,567 such notices have been served despite all recovery efforts." The judge writes to Governor Lehman that "the quick action is vital". And the governor has promised "consideration."

Well, then why was the plan dropped? Never fear, the answer is provided in the "authoritative" U. P. dispatch. The dispute between Al Smith and the Administration is held to be the factor that caused the change.

The destitute and the slum residents will have to wait till this dispute is settled. But they may suffer in the meanwhile...

10,000 Fill Mass Rally

Madison Square Garden Jammed With Strikers

Ten thousand cheering, determined workers packed Madison Square Garden yesterday in one of the most imposing mass strike demonstrations ever seen in New York City.

Jammed to capacity and vibrating with enthusiasm, such as only workers in revolt can display, this monster rally marks a high point in a strike wave that is mounting higher every day.

The mass meeting was opened on schedule time by Paul Bourget, who acted as chairman. He set the tone to the meeting when he stated, amid cheers, to the hotel workers that "we are here to fight and will remain out till we win". The strikers seated according to hotels, a placard with the name of their places of slavery raised high above them, resembled a mighty convention of labor. Convinced that they would be invincible if they stood together as one man, the strikers listened with rapt attention as speaker after speaker urged them onward—to action and struggle.

Masses Shout Down Disrupters

First introduced on the speaker's list by chairman Bourget, was the secretary of the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, B. J. Field. The puny disruptive jeering of the few hundred of the "Food Workers Industrial Union" which had invaded the meeting under the banner of unity (!) was quickly drowned out by a storm of spontaneous applause from the thousands of Amalgamated members, loyal to their union and in full solidarity with the strike movement.

Secretary Fields elaborated the irrepressible growth of the strike and its militant actions from day to day. He denounced the standers of the capitalist press saying that "the great action of the general strike of the hotel workers has given the lie to the vicious press reports." Cheers and applause greeted Fields when he hit home: "The workers, not glass, steel and stone make the hotels", and further that "a triumph of the hotel workers will give inspiration to labor's ranks everywhere."

Next on the speaker's list was Heywood Brown, journalist, who gave words of encouragement to the assembled strikers. The hall rang with boos and cries of derision as Gund of the Amalgamated mentioned the name of Lucius Boomer. The storm of anger he had evoked by uttering the name of an enemy of the strikers was equalled only by the deluge of applause which the audience launched as he promised that "15,000 food handlers organized in the A. F. W. are being prepared to render direct assistance to the embattled hotel workers."

Call For Spreading Strike

"There is a great war taking place in America today between two giants—capital and labor. We are soldiers in this fight and we are here to carry it forth to victory... Here Boomer fired Fournigault started a fire he will never put out... The lying, hypocritical, pre-stituted capitalist press, the despotic Times, the filthy Tribune and the rest of the brass check artists have their answer here tonight

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Strike Gains Momentum

Moving forward with seven league boots the walk-out of the New York hotel and restaurant workers continue to tie-up hotels and restaurants every day, chalking up fourteen new establishments in the last forty eight hours.

Outstanding among these paralyzed fortresses of the open shop are the Commodore, Longchamps 79th St., the fourth of this chain to be struck, the Marguery, the Oloott and others. The complete list is published in another column.

The work of the picketing committees before the major hotels and restaurants goes on unabated and with remarkable militancy. Supplementing the activity of the individual picketers are the indomitable committees from whose action no scab hotel is immune. So effective is their work that the thugs in blue uniforms are beginning to interfere with the pickets. One picket was arrested at the Waldorf and another at the Great Northern on complaints of scab agents charging "intimidation". Both are out on bail.

Meanwhile the hotel bosses are becoming desperate at the crippling power of the strike. At the Longchamps, the management offered the strikers \$150 to return to work. Gus Felder and Louis Esposito, strikers, went to the management to protest. They were thrown out by gangsters and when they hit the sidewalk fifteen thugs assailed the two strikers, beating one of them so badly that he required medical attention. A couple of the bruisers were also hurt. On charges by the picketers, two of the plug-uglies were apprehended for assault.

Reports reach the union headquarters with increasing frequency that the scabs are unable to fill the bill although they are paid from seven to twelve dollars per day. Twenty three scabs were fired from the Warwick Hotel for incompetency and the chef threatened to quit if he does nothing—meaning strike-breakers—were the only help that could be obtained.

Dozens of telegrams of the following order have been sent to strikers in an attempt to stampede them back to work: "SORRY I WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN STRIKERS DELEGATION APPEARED STOP I AM SURE YOU ARE NOT IN SYMPATHY WITH THIS MOVEMENT."

(Signed THE "MANAGEMENT" Organizer Kaldis read these telegrams at meetings. The speakers shouted their indignation. Another obstacle they would clear out of the way.

Despite the lies of the kept press the bosses are searching high and low for skilled workers to scab on the thousands now in revolt against intolerable conditions. We have it on reliable information that the City Hotel's Men's Association were in session all Saturday, Sunday and Monday late into the night discussing the problem of the shortage of trained cooks and waiters and consulting with railroad men, obviously on plans for herding scabs into New York from other cities.

Protesting the hiring of strike-breakers as a menace to public health the Amalgamated has issued the following statement to the Commissioner of Health, dated January 28th:

"Dear Sir: "The public health of this city is endangered through the action of the hotels and restaurants on strike in hiring strike-breakers without health cards. The danger is that hotels in general have in their keeping the health cards of the strikers as, for example, the Waldorf-Astoria and the Savarin Restaurants. For the protection of the public health we take it upon ourselves to inform you of this dangerous situation.

"Very Respectfully yours, "Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union. "N. B. Health cards are being fraudulently passed to the strike-breakers.

"JULES CHASTONAY, "Kitchen Organizer." —G. C.

CORRECTIONS

To the Militant: Your last issue (January 29) refers to me as a "special strike organizer". This is incorrect. I am participating in the strike in an advisory capacity by invitation. The organizing work as well as the responsibility of the strike rests with the officials of the union. I would appreciate if you would make this correction.

—JAMES P. CANNON.

To the Militant: In reporting the Bryant Hall strike meeting you mention my name as a strike organizer. My acting as chairman of the meeting was not in that capacity. I am a rank and file member of the union, not an official.

—HUGO OEHLER.

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EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 1)

In the end, is extended and intensified mass struggle. Instead of allowing the bosses and their NRA to tie up the workers in their iron chains, let the strikers surround every hotel in the city with an impassable iron ring of mass picket lines which will drive the employers into a corner.

Remember the great strike wave of last summer, when tens of thousands of workers throughout the country rose spontaneously in magnificent struggles against starvation conditions. How brilliantly they illuminated the all-important fact that the working class, once started on the road of struggle, reveals that it has enormous reservoirs of strength, of militancy, of solidarity. It is necessary to put all our faith in those reservoirs. It is necessary to rely upon them exclusively, and upon nothing else!

What is needed to win this strike and to inspire workers elsewhere with the victory, is clear vision in the ranks and in the leadership, a bold strategy and militant tactics. The superb mass picketing at the Waldorf-Astoria on the first night of the strike, and the courageous march on the scab employment agencies in face of the police with drawn guns who met the marchers—these are examples of the line of action that must be developed and spread until it embraces every worker in the strike.

Extending the Strike Front

The extension of the strike brings to the fore the problem of the union as a whole. The Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union is only one section—and a powerful one—of the Amalgamated Food Workers Union. It is fortunate that the hotel workers are part of a union which has a firm base in other parts of the industry, notably among the bakers. The task here is to inspire in the workers the vision of a powerful industrial union, organized on a nation-wide foundation and covering all the trades and crafts. The Amalgamated Food Workers Union is admirably constructed for this purpose, by virtue of its industrial form of organization, its class struggle tendency, its constitution and its progressive traditions.

The Militant deems it highly important for the Executive Board of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union to draw other detachments of the mother organization into the work and support of the strike, and if necessary, into common fighting action.

The workers have an endless capacity to fight and to win. Let them but realize the fact and half the battle is won. Let them but realize that they have hardly begun to summon up all the forces and powers at their disposal. And let them make the bosses and their backers realize that obstinate resistance to the union's demands will not meet with capitulation, or retreat, but with stiffer blows by the workers!

The workers who have already closed down the largest and most powerful hotels in New York in less than a week, and closed them down tight, have the right and the duty to call for aid from the workers in other crafts and trades. The Amalgamated Food Workers Union has an extensive jurisdiction. And the men who struck the hotels of this city are capable of striking every branch of the food industry. Let the bosses beware!

The extension of the strike is, to our minds, of a piece with the establishment in the union of a broad, inclusive leadership which uses every progressive and constructive force. Least of all do we Trotskyists have anything in common with clique tendencies and factional monopoly in the leadership of mass organizations. The idea is repugnant to us. We regard the trade unions as the mass organizations of the workers, embracing them all without regard to their political, economic, racial or religious affiliations. They must allow free play for every tendency to express itself by democratic means. They must draw in every healthy force to bear its share of the responsibility for the organization in its struggles. A narrow policy in this field is fatal, and the International-Communists—who have fought such a course relentlessly in the A. F. of L. and the Stalinist unions—will oppose it just as pitilessly whenever and wherever and in whomsoever it manifests itself in the Amalgamated.

The workers who have had their bellies full of the Gompers-Green brand of bureaucratism and of the stifling of the workers' voice in the Stalinist unions, will not permit the infiltration of any similar poison into the Amalgamated. The first sign of it must be crushed without mercy. Every conscious worker will join hands in a concerted effort to make the Amalgamated a model union in this respect, a union where the members feel at home, where they can talk and criticize freely, where they can elect their officials or recall them, where their initiative may be unfolded instead of restricted, and above all where the clear and honest voice of progressivism may be heard above the deadening growls of reactionary conservatism.

Red Baiting and Reaction

In the same spirit, we are adamant in our opposition to any Red-baiting in the union, regardless of the forms it takes, even if they are of the most "polite" and covert nature. Bitter experience teaches the workers the reactionary character of Red-baiting. Everywhere it has gone and always will go hand in hand with a contemptible groveling before capitalist "public opinion", hand in hand with treachery to the workers and their fights. Isn't this clear from the clamor of the hotel men who denounce the Amalgamated as a "red union"; from the affidavits submitted by the attorney for Waiters Local 16 of the A. F. of L. in applying for an injunction in the Supreme Court against the Amalgamated, to "prove" that it "is in the pay of Moscow?"

Red-baiting is the weapon of reaction. It plays into the hands of the bosses, of the labor skate and traitor, of the dark forces. "Respectability" bought by a union at the price of an anti-Red campaign is bought dearly. Such "respectability" means the end of its existence as a fighting organization and the beginning of its enslavement to the bosses. Every time the employers or their agents have demanded of a union a repudiation or renunciation of "Reddism" or "Communism", they have demanded that the union give up its backbone and independence!

In this connection, the attempt to impute any relationship to such ideas to the secretary of the union in an interview which appeared in the World-Telegram, will not meet with success. We feel sure that the spokesman for the union was misquoted and that a true militant cannot have voiced such views at any time.

No concession to such a trend can be allowed, without the A. F. W. degenerating into a replica of the conservative A. F. L. The fact that a union is independent of the A. F. L. is no guarantee against such a degeneration. The Progressive Miners of America is a sad example. It started out with magnificent prospects. It gave the devil of Red-baiting a finger, in the hope of gaining respectability in the eyes of the coal operators. Then it gave its whole hand. Today it is indistinguishable from the reactionary Lewis union, and the members of the union are as badly off today, if not worse off than they were before the P. M. A. was launched. Let the members of the A. F. W. be on guard against any attempt to play this dangerous game!

Far from tolerating such trends in the union, they must be fought. In its place, the A. F. W. must continue to stand for the broadest possible united front with all forces—not even excluding the Stalinists. We are not unmindful of the fact that a good deal of the criticism of the "18th Street Union" emanates from dubious sources and strikes a reactionary note. We oppose the Industrial Union not because there

Labor Greeted Amalgamated

Headquarters of the striking Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union are beginning to receive expressions of sympathy and concrete assistance from labor groups of the industry outside New York, as well as from organizations outside the hotel industry.

In addition to the backing of the Amalgamated Food Workers, the federated industrial union of which the Hotel Workers' Union is a department, the strikers have received greetings from Leonidas Augustas, President, on behalf of the Restaurant and Lunch Room Workers Association of Massachusetts (4,000 members) and from Chapter 2 of the Restaurant and Lunch Room Workers Association of America. Laryas Pantas, President of the latter, wrote in part as follows:

"If everyone in the United States had the nerve and the courage to fight for their rights. I am sure the workers would be getting satisfactory wages today."

John Rojas, a leader of food workers in New Haven, Conn., wired his congratulations on the strike and stated that thousands of workers "await only courageous leadership to carry on."

Greetings were also received from Leon Lostal, former organizer of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union. Writing from Miami, Fla., he expressed the joy of workers in Miami by reading the news of the strike in the morning papers. He wrote:

"Year after year, I have asked myself: how long will we continue to submit to this merciless exploitation by our cruel bosses? Comrades, you are at last answering that question... The downtrodden workers in the hotels and restaurants throughout the country are watching you with reawakening hopes, realizing that success in your struggle means the dawn of a new and happier day for them. Comrades, you owe it to them and to your families and to yourselves to spare no effort, and to fight like heroes to at last establish the Union as a force and power to aid you and protect you against the greed of your bosses."

Among the organizations outside the industry which are assisting the strike, in addition to the Communist League of America whose organ, The Militant, has singlehandedly battled against the flood of lies in the boss-owned daily papers of New York, are the following: League for Industrial Democracy; Conference for Progressive Labor Action; Emergency Strikers' Welfare Committee; American Civil Liberties Union; Young Peoples' Socialist League; Greater New York Federation; Spartacus Youth Clubs.

A more complete list is being prepared and will be published in the next issue of The Militant.

10,000 At Mass Rally Pack Garden

(Continued from page 1)

...Extend the hotel strike to all food workers... Our motto is class solidarity. Our goal is: those who do not work shall not eat! The sturdy halls of the Garden rang to the echo as James P. Cannon roared these remarks of class solidarity and class struggle to the assembled multitudes.

The Militant goes to press before we have the opportunity to report the speeches of Mary Fox, A. J. Muste, Arturo Giovannitti and Ben Gitlow. They will be recorded in a subsequent issue.

This huge mass meeting, broadcast over station W. E. V. D., stood out as a symbol that the hotel strikers were ready to go through hell's fire for the victory of their stirring cause.

Finances are needed to publish the MILITANT three times a week during the strike. Send contributions to 126 E. 16th St., N. Y. C.

THE MILITANT Entered as a second class mail matter November 28, 1928, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. Under the act of March 3, 1879. Published Three Times a Week by the Communist League of America (Opposition) 126 East 16th Street, New York, N.Y. EDITORIAL BOARD

Martin Abern James P. Cannon Max Shachtman Maurice Spector Arne Swabeck Vol. VII, No. 5 (Whole No. 209) WEDNESDAY, January 31, 1934 Subscription rate: \$1.00 per year Foreign \$1.50 1 cent per copy

are Communists in its ranks or leadership, but only because of its disruptive and indefensible policies.

The Amalgamated can live and grow and inspire workers with confidence and enthusiasm only if it holds to a truly militant course and checks every deviation from it at its inception. The principal guarantee for such progress is an organized Left wing which is the banner-bearer of the ideas outlined above.

The workers cannot depend for this upon the ideas alone, hanging in the air, or upon individuals alone carrying out these ideas. What is needed is a group of conscientious fighters, devoted first of all to the Amalgamated—not to the corrupt Local 16 gang, or to the 18th Street sect—who are interested above all in the strengthening of the union, in improving its fighting ability, in making it the pride of the labor movement. A group in short which stands four-square and unequivocally on the basis of a class struggle program and a class struggle fight. Such a group has not yet been formed as it should be. Its formation is an urgent need, and we for our part will do all in our power to assist it, and thereby assist the union as a whole.

The Amalgamated stands before great tasks, but even greater opportunities. It has the power to measure up to both. If it does, it will have written a golden page in the record of the regenerated labor movement of America.

—THE MILITANT.

THE STRIKERS SPEAK

Emil Smith Dining Room Delegate, Waldorf-Astoria:

"The capitalist press is the dirtiest in the world—if all those lies about our strike can be written up for it. The firing of Fournigault, the chef de Manger, forced us to strike. He was hired two and half years ago by the Chef and proved to be an excellent worker... Firing him was an attack on the strength of the cooks. Only three weeks before the general walk out, the solidarity of the waiters was tested. For three minutes the waiters stood working. The fired man was quickly reinstated. But now the dining room waiters and room service waiters have joined with the kitchen force demanding that they be treated as workers and not slaves. They have struck for the recognition of the A. F. W.—Boom—because we are with our brothers for the right of our union. But we have our own battle with the Astor. The food is just plain lousy and the hours are worse. They dock us for being late but pay us very little for overtime. It's been a standing order at the Astor to ask a newly hired cook or waiter: 'What society do you belong to?' And the Vatel Club has been suggested usually as the right society to belong to. Now we don't want any discrimination in favor of the clubs or societies or a company union. What we want is the right to belong to our own union, the A. F. W. The wages at the Astor have been fair for five years, but last year, when the NRA went into effect, the Astor began to cut wages like the rest of the hotels. The boss has been unwilling to meet union delegates. Only two months ago when a waiter was discharged I and another delegate, Chris Minihane, went to Muschenheim to find out why. He refused to meet us as union delegates but would talk to us only as shop men. He said he would deal with individuals—but not the union. Well, that's not what we want. We'll stick by the union.

Marcel Gauduchon Kitchen Delegate, Hotel Astor. "We walked out first of all because we are with our brothers for the right of our union. But we have our own battle with the Astor. The food is just plain lousy and the hours are worse. They dock us for being late but pay us very little for overtime. It's been a standing order at the Astor to ask a newly hired cook or waiter: 'What society do you belong to?' And the Vatel Club has been suggested usually as the right society to belong to. Now we don't want any discrimination in favor of the clubs or societies or a company union. What we want is the right to belong to our own union, the A. F. W. The wages at the Astor have been fair for five years, but last year, when the NRA went into effect, the Astor began to cut wages like the rest of the hotels. The boss has been unwilling to meet union delegates. Only two months ago when a waiter was discharged I and another delegate, Chris Minihane, went to Muschenheim to find out why. He refused to meet us as union delegates but would talk to us only as shop men. He said he would deal with individuals—but not the union. Well, that's not what we want. We'll stick by the union.

Gustave Barth Kitchen Delegate, Pennsylvania Hotel: "We have been fed up too long on last minute promises and rotten food. At the Pennsylvania they didn't give us the chance to organize a union of our choice, as they should have according to the conditions of the NRA. But even good wages and all those promises could not keep us working when the rest of the hotels struck. We are fighting now for the recognition of the A. F. W. as our union. And we mean it. One hundred percent of the kitchen force stopped work at eleven o'clock Saturday morning.

Herbert Schneider Waiter Delegate, Longchamps, 57th Street. "The conditions at the Longchamps restaurant, are the same as at the New Weston Hotel, only worse. The boss, Allen Lustig, and all his rotten treatment can be blamed for our walkout. Three cuts in our wages—ten percent cuts. Working for twelve hours, fourteen hours. Violation of NRA? And how! The ten percent service charge on all Longchamps checks is another joke. That ten percent was split four ways before we got what was left. The bus boy and the butter boy, the coatroom boy and the waiters had to share it. And the same plan was used to chisel the bar service check. The waiter got only two and a half percent of that. Lustig claims that he'll never deal with union men. He says he means it. O. K. We mean it too. We didn't have to be called to the strike. It would take a long time to tell you what's been going on. But we are through with such lousy conditions, and all the hardships, with the privilege of working for starvation wages. The boys never eat at Longchamps. What's served in the dining room may be very tasty and appetizing. But what they give us is week-old tripe and rotten hash. That's the truth. The Militant will write it up that way. The other papers haven't.

V. Mastro Picket Captain, Waiter, Hotel New Weston. "What's been going on at the New Weston makes us ready to stick it out until we win. For instance—our hours! We were al-

ways sure of the time we had to check in, but we could never know what time we'd be going out. From 7 to 2:30 or 3 o'clock we'd have to work and then come back at 5:30 to last out until 10 or later. We were supposed to go off at 8, but that never happened. We got all the abuses, but none of the considerations. From 1929 to 1933 our wages were \$30 a month. With the NRA they raised us 20 percent and then charged us three dollars a month for our uniforms. That stopped three weeks ago, when a strike threatened the bosses. They stopped all right on that uniform business but they still kept feeding us food not fit for the dogs. The NRA? Yeah, they heard of it. But they didn't know what it means. The boss newspapers don't know either. They've been giving this strike a raw deal too. The Militant knows that we're fighting for the recognition of the union. We'll get it. We're all sticking together."

Protest Chen Du Siu's Imprisonment (The following appeal is made by prominent leaders of the British labor movement. It is reprinted herewith from the Red Flag, official organ of the Internationalist Communists of Great Britain):

SAVE THE LIFE OF CHEN DU SIU! We, the undersigned, draw the attention of all working-class organizations to the arrest and imprisonment of Chen Du Siu, an outstanding and courageous leader of the Chinese workers' movement, now undergoing a sentence of 13 years imprisonment by the Chinese Nationalist Government.

Chen Du Siu has a long record of service in the struggle of the Chinese people for their freedom. Born in 1875, in his early years he worked mainly in the sphere of editing radical and literary papers and in educating the youth of China, founding for this purpose the monthly "The Youth", a paper which played an important role in the development of the Chinese social and cultural movement. During the years 1916-1919 he played a prominent part in preparing the ground for the development of the mass National movement, which began with the students' anti-Japanese Demonstration of May 4th, 1919. At the height of this agitation Chen was imprisoned by the pro-Japanese Peking Government as the author of a seditious leaflet.

After his release he went to Shanghai where he founded the Chinese Communist Party. Twice arrested during 1921-1922 by the French authorities, his release was secured by the protests of the Chinese workers. From that time until 1929 Chen was General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party,

playing a prominent part in the National movement of that period. Following upon his break with the leaders of the Communist International, and his expulsion from the Chinese Communist Party, he assisted in the founding of the Chinese Section of the International Left Opposition. The Chinese National Government, under the influence of the notorious Chiang Kai-Shek, long sought his arrest, but they were not successful until October 1932, when he was put on trial for working to overthrow the Chinese capitalist Government.

Obviously, this sentence of 13 years upon a man of 58 is a death sentence, especially under the conditions existing in Chinese prisons. We urge all working-class bodies to join in the demand for the release of our fellow fighter in the cause of the emancipation of the working-class. All protests should

be sent to the Chinese Embassy, 49 Portland Place, W. 1, and to the Socialist and Communist press.

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(A copy of this appeal was sent to Harry Pollitt of the Communist Party and to A. F. Walkden of the T. U. C. General Council. No reply has been received.)

While the bosses' press loads its columns with statements from Boomer, Muschenheim, Oscar and the rest of the strike-breaking crew, the Militant presents the views of the striking workers. These interviews with strike leaders and rank-and-filers will appear in all future strike issues. They are verbatim reports of the strikers' views on subjects which they choose to discuss. Ed.

Ninety-nine and 3-4 percent of the waiters struck. Until yesterday our picket line was weak. But the scabs are not getting in now. Sure we can hold out until we have won the right of our own union. And now that we are sticking together—we've got to win."

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Subs Double

Two days ago, in the first issue of the tri-weekly we reported that the sub drive opened with 115 new subs. Now we are happy to announce that in the brief period between that issue and this, which includes Sunday, we have received as many subs again—114. This total now is 229.

The New York Local made a magnificent start toward realizing its quota of four hundred new subs. The City Committee bought 84 of the Club Plan half-year subs cards at twenty-five cents apiece. Pittsburgh bought twelve.

Comrade Leesser of Brooklyn shot in 8; and comrade Goodman of Philadelphia sent in four. Six comrades sent in one sub apiece at the regular rates. The list of leaders now stands as follows: comrade Leesser—8; comrade Goodman—7; O. Coover—5; R. Sharron—5; J. Ruby—5; A. Konikow—3; J. Ruby—3. These comrades have sent in two apiece, and twenty five have sent in one each.

The drive is just beginning but it is clear that it will be a success. The whole Club Plan scheme is the simplest, easiest thing ever devised to distribute a paper to workers. A single half-year subscription to the Militant is fifty cents. That is cheap enough. But on the Club Plan basis it is twice as cheap that is, it is only twenty-five cents, provided they are bought in blocks of at least four at one time. There is no maximum; you can buy as many more than four as you can afford.

You invest one dollar in four Club Plan sub cards. Then you either resell them, one at a time, two at a time, however you can. If you resell them you have your money back. You can stop there if you want to. But you can do better than that. You can reinvest the dollar in four more cards and resell them. In this way you will have a small revolving fund at work increasing the circulation of the Militant. And when you wind it up you will have spent nothing yourself.

Build the Militant! Help circulate a Marxian paper for workers! Order for Club Plan half year sub cards for one dollar! Use the blank below!

THE MILITANT 126 East 16th Street, New York City, N. Y.

Enclosed please find \$.....for.....(four is the minimum) Club Plan half year sub cards.

Name Address City State