

Richardson Says:

Industry Attempting A "Job" On Unions

By R. E. RICHARDSON
President Local 652

It is an old game of reaction to catch the workers unaware and do a job on them.

With corporation profits guaranteed for two years and industry having faced V-J Day without adequate reconversion plans — all of which is no accident — reaction now seeks to turn its super profits to pay for a drive against wages. Coupled with this is an inflationary drive for more profits through the premature elimination of rationing and ceiling prices.

WHAT SAVINGS?

The disciples of greed have been ballyhooing the "backlog" of savings which the workers have. They argue that to raise wages the workers would have too much spending power, more than there would be goods to buy.

The U. S. Treasury reveals that at the end of August, 20.17 percent of the total E bonds had been cashed in. These redemptions have not been broken down, but it would seem obvious that most of these were owned by people in the low income groups.

BACKLOG NONSENSE

The "backlog" is a myth. Further delay of reconversion and the failure to return to the wartime level of the take-home pay, and the failure to prevent inflation, is to invite disaster.

The industrialists seek to divert our attention from the necessity of the 30 percent wage increase. They charge that labor is interfering with reconversion plans. They provoke strikes to bolster their claims.

With the piling up of grievances from the "no-strike" pledge period of the war, and the failure on the part of unionists to formulate alternatives to strike action to settle their grievances, the workers fall for the provocations of management and upset the strategy of the Intl. UAW-CIO six-man board by striking first and negotiating afterwards.

WILDCAT STRIKES

Such procedure is the answer to managements prayers. It is part of their program to defeat the 30 percent wage increase, defeat Richard Frankenstein the labor candidate for mayor of Detroit, and re-elect the reactionary Mayor Jeffries who is endorsed by the Hitlerite G. L. K. Smith.

Our Congressmen are seizing upon this labor crisis to stall on President Truman's legislative program.

While we are battling industrialists for wage increases we are faced with the threat of inflation through

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Fisher Employes Vote For Strike, If Needed

Members of Fisher Local 602 last Monday voted 98 percent in favor of a strike at Fisher Body Company if necessary to compel consideration of 34 demands submitted to the company, including a 30 percent raise in wages.

Webb Ewing, who this week became president following the resignation of Chester Cowan, said the overwhelming results put the local in a strong position for

Chester Cowan Resigns

Chester Cowan, president of Fisher Local 602 since March 1944 and formerly financial secretary for three years, this week resigned as president.

The new president is Webb Ewing, who as vice president automatically succeeded him in office.

"Chet" Cowan left the employ of the Fisher Body Company, for whom he first started working in 1927, to follow his former trade of painting and decorating. He felt that since he would not be working at the plant he should not hold office in the local. Since 1930 he had been a body trimmer at Fisher until the war halted body manufacturing.

His resignation met with strong protests, for he is one of the city's better known labor leaders, having been active in labor circles for about 25 years. He had been a committeeman, steward or officer in the Fisher Local continuously since 1937.

His wife and 14-year-old daughter live at 2426 Forest

See CHET COWAN, Page 4

Timekeepers Will Vote October 12

The date upon which Oldsmobile men and women timekeepers will vote on whether to have union representation has been announced as Friday, Oct. 12.

Voting will be in Building 34, where the main time office was until last week, when it was moved to building 36.

Timekeepers will vote on whether to have UAW-CIO representation or no representation.

Balloting, arranged for the convenience of all shifts, will be from 8 to 8:30 a. m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p. m.

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98 PERCENT SAID "YES"

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AN OPENING IN CONGRESS

No Wonder Bilbo Puts His Foot In It!



"B" is for Bilbo, self-styled "The Man",
Whose attitude smells of the old Ku Klux Klan—
His redundant dull thunder from out of the south
Inclines us to wonder, Is this "Man" or "Mouth".

Sketch and verse about the rabble-rousing anti-labor senator are the work of a CIO worker, John D. Chaffin, of the Intl. Maritime Union. The opinions expressed are not entirely his own.



By TRAVIS K. HEDRICK
For Federated Press and Lansing Labor News

WASHINGTON (FP) — Like a rudderless ship, U. S. labor policy is veering with the winds. One of the indications is seen in the fact that up to Sept. 28, the federal government had not made up its mind whether it will continue to sponsor the labor-management committees set up by WPB.

At the height of the war, there were some 5,000 labor-management committees operating in the country. Today there are something less than 3,800, although a survey made by WPB recently showed that 60% of them intend to continue operations into peace time production.

Should the committees continue operation, they will do so without the helpful hand of Uncle Sam. Government sponsorship officially ended at dusk Sept. 28, folding up a staff of 227 in Washington and some 50 field representatives.

Neither Sec. of Labor Lewis Schwellenbach nor Sec. of Commerce Henry A. Wallace has indicated whether they will absorb the service—and there are substantial reasons to believe the Labor Department won't do so.

Schwellenbach, a former judge, has an idea he is going to stream-line his department and wants to do so without "unnecessary frills." He will not object to the continuation of labor-management committees as long as government has no responsibility in their operation.

The majority of management is in favor of letting the labor-management committee idea die with the war, although a minority of major employers has found them really beneficial.

Both the AFL and CIO have gone on record favoring continuing the committees in general, but this support is not universal through all of their affiliates or in all local unions. Some unionists insist that the committees make it easier to set up company unions, but despite this the indorsement of the international organizations indicates a majority of all labor cottons to the plan.

Just how the committees could operate without the prestige of federal backing is difficult to say. Each one presents a different problem.

2 Officers Elected By Fisher Aux.

At the regular September meeting, Mrs. Ruth Strong was elected recording secre-

tary and Mrs. Jessie Pritchard as trustee.
Mrs. Dorothy McCurdy was very much surprised to see her brother, S-Sgt. Louis A. Gray, who has been stationed in Trinidad the past few months. After a week's furlough he will report at Fort Sheridan to receive his discharge.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION ON TRAILERS WOULD DUMP VETERANS INTO STREET

Since thoughtlessly poking its finger into a hot potato when it passed a resolution requesting action to remove government owned trailer camps from the city, the Lansing city council has been trying to figure out how to withdraw gracefully before heat permanently disfigures the digit. War veterans occupy the trailers.

Alderman Hungerford admitted to Labor News reporters that he probably hadn't looked sufficiently into the facts before introducing the resolution, nor apparently had any other alderman, for it passed unanimously a couple of Mondays ago.

The facts were easy to get. This paper had little difficulty in learning that:

TRAILERS SOLVE VETERANS' PROBLEMS

1—One of the government camps, located on Grand River across from the sugar beet factory, houses people who used to be war workers. When these leave, their trailers are re-rented only to married war veterans. Some are awaiting veterans now.

2—Another camp is located on South Lyons street near the Nash plant. This has been empty until the past few weeks, when it was taken over by Michigan State College for renting exclusively to war veterans taking college work.

3—Enough houses or apartments for these veterans apparently are not available anywhere in Lansing or East Lansing. In fact, individuals hunt for weeks to find anything at all for themselves. Rewards are offered every day for tips on rentals.

NO HOUSES— WHERE WOULD VETS GO?

4—The council's action, therefore, amounted to dumping these veterans into the streets, simply because there were some objections, it was claimed, to having those trailers, such as the ones on South Lyons street, in the vicinity of \$6,000 to \$10,000 homes.

Had it not been for our veterans bombs might have reduced the value of these homes to a point where trailers would really dress up the neighborhood.

The council has been learning during recent days—days that have become very hot for them despite the cold weather—that very few citizens actually care to dump veterans on the street—particularly veterans who are good enough citizens to want to attempt living with their families on

See TRAILERS, Page 4

Dance For Halloween Is Planned

It's time for everyone to begin looking for that old costume. The Fisher Auxiliary has completed plans for a Halloween dance to be held October 27 at the CIO Council Hall.

There will be modern and old time dancing from 9 to 1, with music by the new CIO Dance Band. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. All CIO members and their friends are invited.

Look at these people! Do they look objectionable?

The ambitious young veterans shown in these photos are typical of those living with their wives and families in the South Lyons street government trailer camp, which city aldermen considered a blight on the community and asked to have removed. No other housing is available.

TOP PHOTO

At the right is Werner Johnson, married and father of two children, and a veterinary student at MSC.

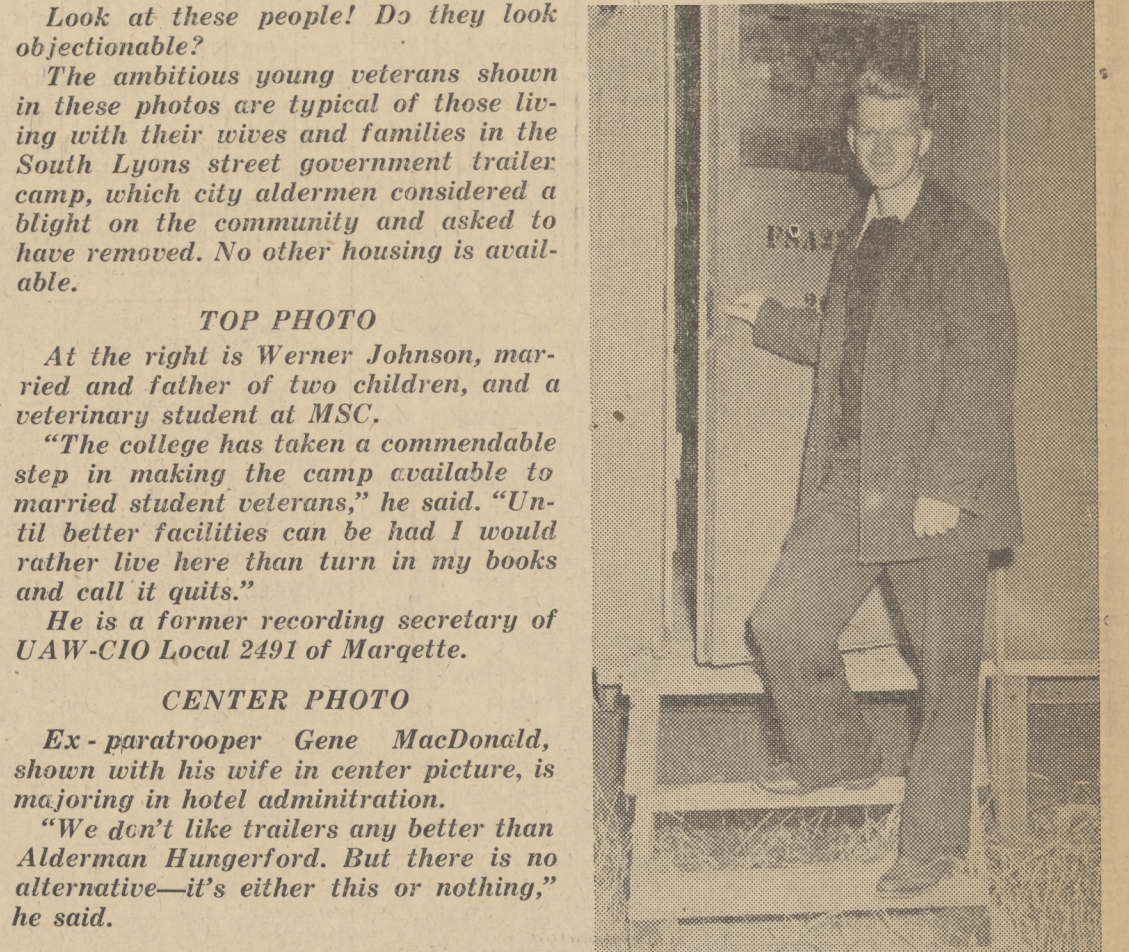
"The college has taken a commendable step in making the camp available to married student veterans," he said. "Until better facilities can be had I would rather live here than turn in my books and call it quits."

He is a former recording secretary of UAW-CIO Local 2491 of Marquette.

CENTER PHOTO

Ex-paratrooper Gene MacDonald, shown with his wife in center picture, is majoring in hotel administration.

"We don't like trailers any better than Alderman Hungerford. But there is no alternative—it's either this or nothing," he said.



BOTTOM PHOTO

In lower photo are shown Herman Johnson and his wife in their trailer home. He served in the signal corps of the famous Red Arrow Division four and a half years, leaving his division in New Guinea September 10. An ardent agriculturist, he is taking advantage of the G. I. Bill of Rights to specialize in farm machinery and sales at MSC.

"If it wasn't for this camp I couldn't go to school," he told the Labor News. "On \$75 a month one cannot live in hotels and eat in restaurants. My wife and I are grateful to have this trailer so we can be here together."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jay Allen are college students. They own their own trailer and

hope to move into the Lyons camp to avoid high rents and have better living facilities—if the city council doesn't close it.

"Vets need this camp badly if the education promised them is not to become a mockery," said Aten, a business administration student and veteran. "These fellows have had a tough enough time already without having to meet unnecessary obstacles."

A faculty member, Duard Laging, tried to move here from the University of Minnesota, hunted for weeks for a home for his wife and two children. The college permitted him to occupy one of the trailers until he could locate a house.

He expressed satisfaction with the trailers camp as a temporary housing measure.

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Thousand PAC Workers Needed For Precincts

By DEAN REED

Lansing PAC Director

Last week I gave you an idea of the secret of political success and why so much attention is being paid today to an organization of district, ward and precinct political organizations. I have received letters and phone calls from people, most of them members of the CIO but some of them were not, who volunteered their services in building such an organization. When this organization is completed we should have at least a thousand or more active members.

A good foundation in an organization of this kind should start with the precinct captain. A good precinct captain is eager to help solve the problems of his neighbors. He is able to give advice as to what needs to be done, whether it is in regard to a landlord who over-charges his tenants, or a pavement that

needs repairing. A good precinct captain encourages others to take an interest in political action and take on responsibilities as neighborhood leaders. By such work the precinct captain and his assistants are able to mobilize the people of their neighborhood when a political campaign is launched.

In addition to stewards in the shop, every PAC depends upon precinct captains in the neighborhoods to carry on political activities. Selecting a capable precinct leader is just as important as selecting a capable shop steward. Housewives often make excellent captains. Sometimes husbands and their wives can become precinct co-captains.

The Precinct Committee

A precinct committee is an organization which helps the precinct captain mobilize the neighborhood for political ac-

tion. All people in the neighborhood who want to help build a decent post-war world, should become members of the precinct committee. Such people may or may not be union members. They may be housewives, shop workers, professional men or women, young or old.

Veteran political organizations have learned that nothing can replace a personal visit by a representative of the party organization, to the home of the voter. There is no substitute for plain door to door visiting, known as canvassing.

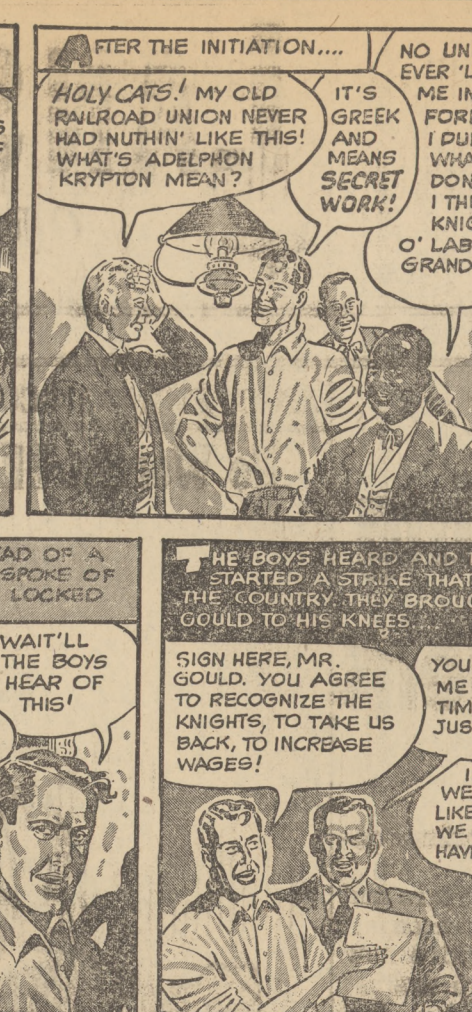
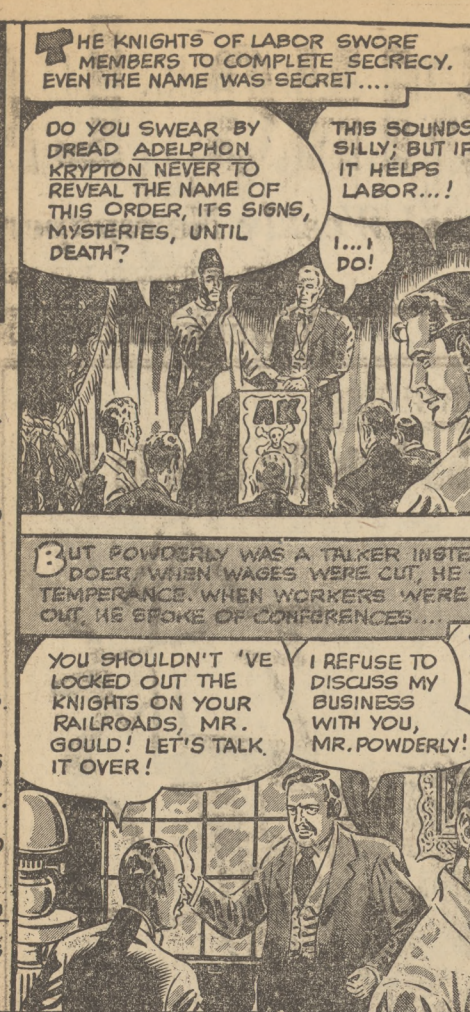
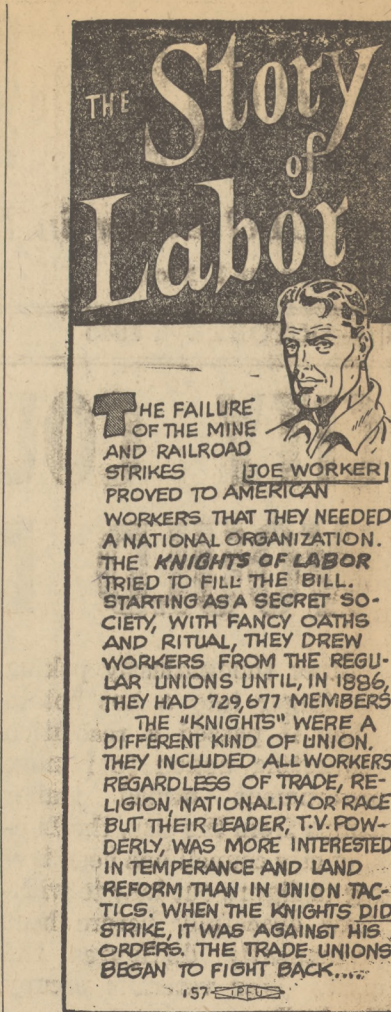
No PAC member or officer should consider canvassing a job for canvassing only. The best way, without exception, to learn the needs, thoughts and reactions of the people is to canvas your neighborhood. Canvassing is a must duty on the list of every person active in political work.

REEL NEWS

NEW YORK (FP) — The Wall Street post of the American Legion awarded Movie Producer Cecil B. DeMille a gold medal for Americanism and provided the new self-adopted leader of the DeMille Foundation for Political Freedom with a nation-wide radio audience, gratis, for his anti-union propaganda. The ceremony was protested by AFL Pres. William Green and labor legionnaires.

CHRYSLER TALKS

DETROIT (FP)—Chrysler Corp. was the first of the Big Three auto companies to begin negotiating with United Auto Workers (CIO) on its demand of a 30% wage increase. Workers at the Chrysler, Ford and General Motors plants backed the UAW in its petition for strike votes at the three plants.



City Council Grants Request

In response to an appeal by Clyde Perkins, CIO Council president, the City Council Monday voted to restore "Owl" bus service for late shift factory workers.

Alderman Harold Hungerford, chairman of the transportation committee, in introducing the resolution for restoration of the service, said: "The new schedule for 'Owl' service would be more comprehensive than previously and the City Council will have a report from the bus company in the near future on results of the new schedule.

In a statement to the Labor News, Perkins expressed his thanks to the city council and the transportation committee on behalf of Lansing "Owls".

LITTLE LUTHER

"Revolution is abroad in the land," announced Mr. Dilworth importantly. "Look at those headlines! The unions are out to rob the country!"

"Make up your mind, Pop," said Little Luther. "Is it a revolution or a crime wave?"

"They're one and the same thing, son. It's scandalous, I tell you, the way the unions are holding up the reconversion."

"That reminds me," said Little Luther, "of the criminal who got mad at the man he just murdered because on account of him he had to go to jail."

"Now don't try to shift the

blame to the manufacturers," warned Mr. Dilworth. "Anyone can see by just reading the papers that they're helpless victims of union greed."

"I notice the papers have more correspondents in Detroit than they had covering the Battle of the Bulge," Little Luther said.

"Well, in its way, son, this battle is just as important. In fact, you might call it..."

"I know, the Battle of the Bulge. And with all these typewriter generals weeping over how the unions are forcing Ford and General Motors and the rest of them into bankruptcy, I wonder why they don't start taking up a collection for them."

"Fortunately, Mr. Ford isn't exactly destitute yet," said Dilworth. "But it's base ingratitude of the union to want to bite the hand that's

fed it all during the war."

"I sort of had the impression that Ford was eating pretty well at government expense himself," Little Luther remarked. "And all the unions want is to make sure that their members get as much to eat now — and I really mean eat — as they did when the war was on."

"Nonsense, Luther," his father protested. "Nobody starves in America. It says so in the papers."

"O.K., Pop, and I bet your solution is that instead of a 30 percent increase in wages, the workers should get a 30 percent increase in newspaper print, and let 'em eat that."

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ON WEST COAST

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (FP) — The filing of jobless insurance claims, which reached an early peak two weeks after the end of the war, has dropped more than 50 percent in California. Chairman James G. Bryant of the state employment stabilization commission announced that 15,293 claims were filed the first week of September compared with 33,845 claims the previous week.

UNIONISTS BARRED

WICHITA, Kans. (FP) — Last meeting of the Ku Klux Klan here passed a resolution demanding that all KKK employers "refuse to hire anyone who possesses a union card."

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Unemployment Compensation Commission Charged With Not Keeping Promises

The Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission is accused by Roy MacKillican, Director of the UAW's Unemployment Compensation Department, of failing to keep promises made to union representatives in August.

"E. T. Dörmer, Executive Director of the Commission, told us in front of three reporters that they would pay 98% of the people on time. To date, the fact is that they have not paid 98% of the people at all, much less on time," charged MacKillican. "We were not convinced then that they could make good on the promise and we certainly resent the making of impossible commitments as a means of temporarily evading justified criticism."

CHECKS DELAYED

"Our phones are constantly ringing because of complaints from individuals and local unions that checks are delayed. In local union meetings we are told by 50% of those present that while they were unemployed immediately after V-J day, they have not received checks as yet."

"Much of the delay apparently results from failure to issue determinations. Local offices then tell the workers they are unable to issue checks pending receipt of a determination notice from the state office."

RECORDS LOST

"Hundreds of workers are being told that their records have been lost. In one instance, a claimant filed on August 18. About September 6 he was told by the local office there was no record and he had to file a new application."

"Yesterday, the state office told us that they had no record at all under his Social Security number. On checking with the local office, we were told that they also have no record. The best the Commission can do for this claimant is to suggest that he goes in today and files a new claim. On the basis of their past performance, it would ordinarily be another six or seven weeks before he gets a check, making at least 11 weeks in all."

WAITING IN RAIN

MacKillican also charged that the Commission had failed to make good their promises to eliminate waiting at the local offices.

"Hundreds of individuals are complaining about long waits. The Commission's alibi has been that while they were swamped with an avalanche of claims immediately following V-J day, waiting would be eliminated by proper scheduling of future appointments."

Admitting there has been some improvement, the union claimed that many individuals are still waiting for hours.

"This week the Commission's luck ran out, and having lost control of the Weather Bureau, they must now ac-

SO SORRY



"I feel terrible. I don't even enjoy making anti-union speeches any more."

An Exciting G.I. Book In Library

Typical G. I. is "KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN", Walter Bernstein's new best seller.

What your husband or sweetheart tells you about sore feet, guard house, and gin mills near camp is all in

cept the responsibility of people standing in the rain as well as in fair weather," claimed the UAW spokesman.

OTHER COMPLAINTS

Other complaints of the union related to continued inaction by the Commission on the matter of simplifying claims procedure, failure of local offices to follow instructions on dating of claims, failure to give complete and proper advice to claimants, and similar matters.

"In spite of our repeated protests," charged MacKillican, "the Commission has still done nothing about the vocational retraining program. This is of vital importance and in view of the refusal to budge, our organization will probably be forced to seek other means of compelling the Commission to discharge its responsibilities under the law."

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One thing which is of great interest to Lansing workers and workers everywhere, is the compensation cases which have been in process. It's important because it will encourage those who have cases to know that the majority have been won. Here are a few.

George Anderson: case won. In hearing before Department of Labor commissioner, company appealed and lost, offered to make cheap settlement, failed, appealed to supreme court. Their only hope was to get employees to accept cheap settlement because they knew that after being out of work for nearly two years he needed money badly.

Baker: case won. Dahar: case won.

The record has been good, which goes to prove that if an employee who has such a case will get the right start and make no commitments which can be misconstrued against him, he can win. Beware of sugar coated desires by management representatives.

A certain management, where very little work is done at present, had better change their plans (they read this, so here's advice to them) if they intend to lay off or discharge former employees, because now they can choose. I promise them a hell of a fight, if they try, a fight they can't win. The contract is still in effect.

The employment picture isn't too bright — they talk about reconversion and full employment, but very little is being done to put that talk in action. I'm sure you will agree that we can't eat talk, or buy necessities with it. Government must assume its responsibility to put programs into being. The part they played in making jobs in war

must be carried in peace, until industry is able to fulfill their obligations.

G. I.'s aren't too happy about the G. I. Bill of Rights on schooling. The opportunity is swell, but \$75 a month, from which you pay out rent, etc., with perhaps 2 or 3 children doesn't make things very smooth. How about those government trailers? Why can't they be rent free? What is behind the Council's attempt to move them? Certainly they, who gave so much, are entitled to a better deal. It's up to us, who appreciate what they have done to help them get it.

You and I as members of a labor organization are facing our greatest test. How we fight for our rights will not only determine our future, but the course of generations to come.

It's our fight—are you in it?

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SAN FRANCISCO (FP) — Pres. Harry Bridges of Intl. Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (CIO) became a citizen here Sept. 17, writing finis to the long campaign to have him deported to Australia as an undesirable alien.

Federal Examiner Lloyd Garner approved Bridges' petition for citizenship when the labor leader appeared with a class of 25 applicants. The way was cleared for Bridges' citizenship after the U. S. supreme court ruled in June that the government had no grounds for deporting him.

CHET COWAN

(Continued from Page 1) avenue, where "Chet" will now have more opportunity for some well deserved living himself, it is hoped by his many friends. He has a son in the Army Air Corps.

Cowan gave the Labor News the following statement:

"Actually, for the past several months I have been thinking seriously of returning to my old trade of painting and decorating. I felt that staying in office and not working in the plant would not be conducive to good leadership.

"The local is fortunate in having a very capable leader in Webb Ewing. I sincerely hope that the same confidence and cooperation will be given Brother Ewing as was accorded me."

RICHARDSON

(Continued from Page 1) the relaxation or ignoring of price ceilings on the things we buy over the counter. It will do us little good to get a 30 percent wage increase and find that we have a 50 percent increase in the cost of living.

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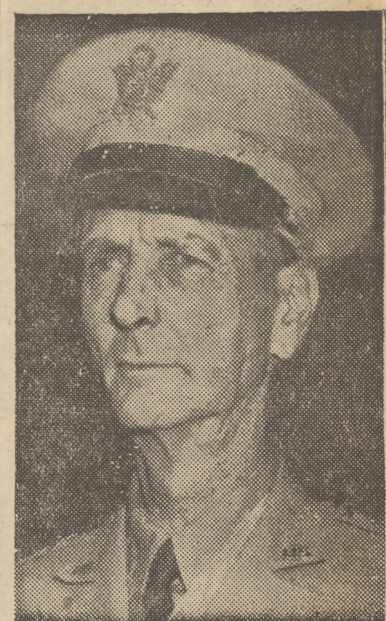
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Gen. Wainwright

A soft peace for the Japanese would be an invitation to new aggression, says Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, who experienced the brutality of Jap war makers after spending over three years in their prison camps. General MacArthur has been favoring a kid-glove policy toward political and industrial leaders who helped make the war.

to be cut further by inflation. We have no assurance as to how long the struggle for the 30 percent increase will be strung out by the industrialists.

We are relatively sure of one thing, and that is that the reactionaries will come across only when public opinion is being turned against them. They would not have started this fight if they did not have some hopes of winning. They have the press and the radio with them pouring out their poison.

STOP INFLATION

One way to bring the industrialist in line with labor's just demands is to prevent inflation. That can be done by mobilizing auxiliaries, business, fraternal, religious and parent teachers organizations to prevent a sneak attack on the pantry. This must not be allowed to divert our attention from the struggle for a wage increase. It must be a part of a move to stress that the wage increase being asked for is justifiable and will not result in a price boost.

Such a move could be started by organizations inviting a speaker from the OPA to explain the threat of inflation and the necessity for holding retailers to ceiling prices.

By working together on the problem of living costs as workers, farmers and consumers we can stop the all-out drive to beat down our standard of living

HALF A STEP

WASHINGTON (FP) — Recent changes in the Labor Dept. were branded as "half a step in the right direction and no more" by AFL Intl. Rep. Robert J. Watt.

Support our advertisers.

TRAILERS

(Continued from Page 1) \$75 a month from the government while going to Michigan State College to school themselves for valuable jobs.

"BLIGHT ON
COMMUNITY"

Alderman Hungerford told our reporter that the Lyons street camp was a "blight on the community" and expressed the opinion that its occupancy would place an additional burden on the neighborhood school facilities, which he said "are already overcrowded in the some cases as much as 60%."

Investigation revealed, however, that very few veterans at the camp have children of school age. Also, the camp appears to be quite modern, with eight shower stalls, twelve toilets, sixteen lavatories, adequate garbage disposal, sanitation janitor service and a fine pebble gravel drive and parking lot, which the Labor News representatives found to be in better condition than the bumpy street which the city provided in front.

Inspection revealed very neat cabin interiors and housewives who take as much pride in their little homes as any woman in the city.

Just why this camp stood empty for a long period while Lansing suffered an acute housing shortage is possible material for another story.

MSC MADE HOUSING
POSSIBLE FOR VETS

Meanwhile, however, Michigan State College is to be commended for renting the whole camp outright a few weeks ago and providing housing for married veterans who want to attend MSC.

But more than providing housing, it helps veterans ease the financial strain of trying to get along on the meager \$75 a month they get. When all the fifty trailers are occupied, cost of renting and maintenance, divided among the occupants, will drop to about \$15 a month.

"One-third of the veteran students at MSC are married," Dean S. E. Crowe at

MSC told the Labor News. "Thus, of the 600 student veterans which the college anticipates in its enrollment, 200 family dwellings of at least apartment size will be required in the College housing program. The rapid influx of veterans at MSC has been occasioned by the speedy and unforeseen ending of the war in the Pacific. Even our original estimates for 108 dwelling units are now inadequate but we are making a truly 'Spartan' effort to help solve the housing problem. It would be gratifying to the College administration to know that the communities of Lansing and East Lansing will bear with us during this emergency period."

Dean Crowe said that transportation for students between the camp and the College was being planned as an additional service.

COUNCIL REALIZES
IT MADE MISTAKE

When the city council met last Monday it was apparent it wanted to do something about its mistake—without admitting it had made one. But there was no action of importance taken.

Alderman Hungerford expressed his concern for the welfare of student veterans at the Lyons streets camp and told the body that in view of the fact that the camp is occupied by students and one or two faculty members he did not consider the situation too objectionable.

He succeeded in getting a resolution passed instructing the Mayor to open negotiations for removal of the camp to college property. He said the students in it would be better off financially.

WIEGANT REVEALS HIS
IGNORANCE OF FACTS

Third Ward Alderman Ralph Wiegant entertained the chamber with a bit of sophistry by exclaiming that the College has lots of money for pig pens, fancy horse barns and cow stables, but no money for housing of veterans.

His ignorance of the College's efforts on a housing

program is perhaps explained by his apparent lack of interest and failure to avail himself of the easily accessible facts.

Without a doubt more will be heard of this matter at council meetings until it is definitely established that

veterans, students or non-students, are not going to be dumped into the street.

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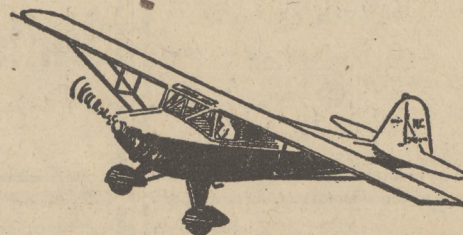
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