

14 Prominent Americans Endorse Union's Case For Raising GM Wages

Fourteen prominent American citizens not affiliated with General Motors or the union met in Detroit last week, requested the corporation and the UAW-CIO to furnish complete facts about the case, and after studying the material for two days issued a report commending the union and endorsing its case for a wage increase.

Said one part of the Citizens' Committee report:

"From the record it is clear that the union in its refusal to accept a wage increase that involves a price increase has lifted the whole matter of collective bargaining to a new high level by insisting that the advancement of labor's interest shall not be made at the expense of the public. The union has shown a sense of social responsibility that indicates its growing maturity and is certainly to be commended."

NAMES OF THOSE PARTICIPATING

DR. HENRY HITT CRANE, Central Methodist Church, Detroit, chairman;
DR. HARRY A. OVERSTREET, College of the City of New York, vice chairman;
MRS. J. BIRDSALL CALKINS, National President, Y. W. C. A., New York City, secretary;
PROFESSOR ERNEST W. BURGESS, Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago, Ill.;
RABBI LEON FRAM, Temple Israel, Detroit, Mich.;
ROBERT E. GARRIGAN, Assistant Director, New Council of American Business, Washington, D. C.;
JOHN B. HANNA, Church Counsellor of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches in the U. S. A., New York City;
LEON HENDERSON, Research Institute of America, Washington, D. C.;
MRS. DOROTHY S. McALLISTER, National Consumers League, Grand Rapids, Michigan;
FRANK W. McCULLOCH, Director, James Mullenbach Industrial Institute, Chicago, Ill.;
MRS. BONARO W. OVERSTREET, Author, Lecturer, New York City;
BISHOP WILLIAM SCARLETT, St. Louis, Mo.;
MRS. M. E. TILLY, Secretary, Christian Social Relations, Woman's Society of Christian Service, Southeastern Jurisdiction, the Methodist Church, Atlanta, Ga.;
WALTER WHITE, Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City.

THE CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE SAID:

Because of the importance to the whole country of the issues involved in the current work stoppages in the General Motors Corporation, we were glad to accept the invitation of the UAW-CIO to examine the transcript of its negotiations and to inquire into the problems raised thereby. We have also sought and received from the Corporation materials setting forth more fully its position.

GM Stays Away

C. E. Wilson, President of the General Motors Corporation, H. W. Anderson, Vice President, R. J. Thomas, President of the UAW-CIO and Walter P. Reuther, Vice President, were invited in person to present further information to the Committee. Mr. Thomas' office informed the Committee that he was out of the city. Mr. Reuther appeared and answered questions put to him by the Committee. The Corporation did not respond to the invitation.

The Committee has read the 739 page record of the negotiations between the Corporation and the Union and has sought all available information on both sides of the controversy.

The Public Should Know

Our review of this very complex and strategic industrial controversy leads us to believe that the public should be more fully apprised of certain facts. The members of this Committee have reached a number of conclusions which they hope may contribute to the public understanding of the controversy and to the measures necessary for effecting a just and prompt settlement of the issues. We have neither been asked, nor have we sought, to serve as conciliators or otherwise to usurp the functions of the active government agencies in this matter. But in view of the apparent stalemate in negotiations and mounting losses from the continuing stoppages, we deem it proper to express our opinion on the issues.

As background for consideration of the issues, we here present a summary of the contentions of each side of the controversy.

CONTENTIONS OF THE PARTIES

For the Union:

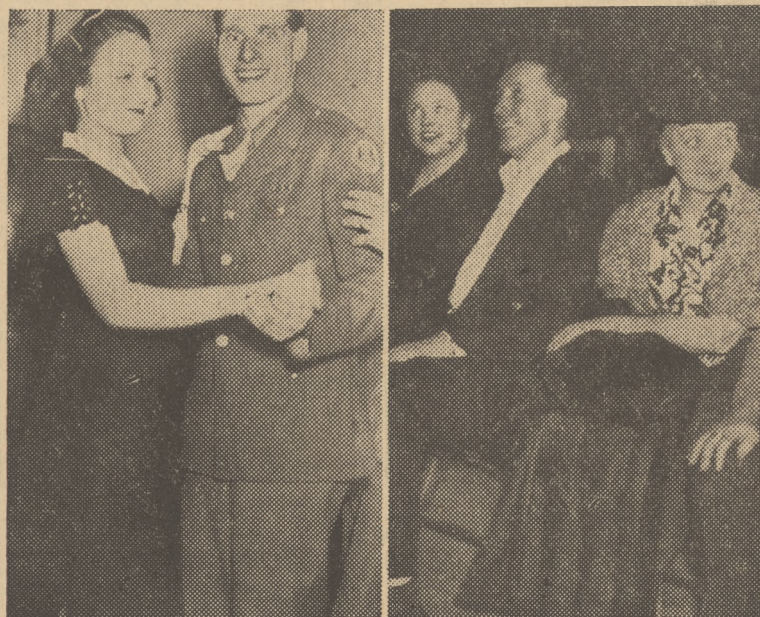
The controversy arose over the Union's proposal of a 30 percent wage increase under the terms of its existing contract with the Corporation. Part of this increase, it urged, should be allocated to an equalization fund to make wage rates more uniform throughout the Corporation, part to a social security fund and the balance to a blanket increase in all hourly wage rates. The Union asked this wage increase to make up for reductions in take-home pay resulting from shorter hours and downgrading of workers, and to advance the general purchasing power necessary to support full employment.

Prices Must Not Increase

A cardinal point in the Union's proposal was that this increase be granted without any increase in the prices of General Motors' products. It submitted much data in support of its contention that the Corporation can afford such raises.

See COMMITTEE OF CITIZENS, Page 4

SNAPPED AT THE PARTY



Someone is about to put the finger on this happy soldier—in fact, it's the laying on of a whole hand, as would-be partner cuts in for a chance with his pretty partner at the party for pickets in the CIO Council hall last Friday. The event was called a big success. A city wide union entertainment

committee is being organized this week to carry on these important functions for pickets. Everyone had a big time at the party, whether dancing, resting or just watching, judging by the expressions on their faces. Many dance novelties were introduced into the program.

Veterans Told To Sign For Compensation

Olds and Fisher war veterans out of work because of the strike are being told to go to Unemployment Compensation offices, 124 N. Larch street and sign up no matter what they are told when they get there, said H. C. Norton, chairman of the veterans committee at the Olds Local.

He tells veterans to disregard assertions that they have nothing coming and this week issued this statement:

This question of unemployment compensation has to be decided by all of you veterans. Your Veterans Committee, with others of your Union, believe that anyone going to work in any GM plant after September 24, 1945, who was not told that the plants were having labor trouble or a dispute should not be disqualified from their compensation.

All veterans not yet back to work should follow the Selective Service advice whereby a person may refuse to accept

work if (1) the position offered is vacant due to a labor dispute or (2) the wages, hours, or other conditions of the work offered are substantially less favorable than those prevailing for similar work in the locality.

If we, as your Local Veterans Committee, can assist you in any way we will be more than glad to do so. The Committee welcomes you at any time. Stop in at 1118 South Washington Avenue and have a talk with your Committee.

Higgins, Stay Away!

OMAHA, Nebr. (LPA) — Nebraska last week announced that it did not want to provide refuge for runaway shops — even Andrew J. Higgins. The labor-hating shipbuilder, who closed his three Louisiana shipyards rather than allow decent contracts to his organized workers there, had allegedly been "invited" by the Mayor of Omaha and the Governor of Nebraska to move north. In sharp rebuke, E. F. Noble of the AFL called their action "a direct slap in the face to Organized Labor in Omaha."

Bought Those Victory Bonds?

Free Dance Friday Nite For Pickets

Another big party for all General Motors pickets, their families and friends is being held at the CIO Council hall, 109 E. S. Street, this Friday, Dec. 14.

This will be a dance party and will start at 9:30 p.m. with music by the string orchestra that proved so popular last week. Featured with the music will be Frankie Parker, popular young baritone and Joyce Dixon, song stylist.

The music is donated by the Drake Refineries and the Norm English Hawaiian Studios.

The party is sponsored by the General Motors locals. Picket cards will admit the strikers and their wives or friends. There is no charge.

Thomas Hits GM Canceling Of Contract

Said R. J. Thomas, President of the UAW-CIO, this week:

"The action of the General Motors Corporation in cancelling the contract is another high-handed effort by management to evade the central issue in dispute—a 30 percent wage increase.

"Through 97 days of collective bargaining, until the company's refusal to bargain in good faith, to allow conciliation, or even to arbitrate the issue, the union sought to confine the differences between the corporation to wage matters and other points which properly could be reopened. Since the strike was forced upon us, we have continued to keep the field of differences as narrow as possible in order that a just and fair settlement may be arrived at as easily and as quickly as possible.

"With the same arrogance and contempt of the public in-

See THOMAS, Page 4

Silent About Wage Increases

Congress Rushes Bills Restricting the Unions But Not the Employers

Reports Claim

A Few Firms Refuse Jobs To Strikers

Reports that a few Lansing firms are discriminating against GM strikers seeking temporary part-time or full time jobs have reached the UAW-CIO International offices here, according to George Nader, Intl. Rep.

These same firms have hired other temporary people for the Christmas season but they rejected all CIO men from Olds and Fisher plants, the reports claimed.

He called it a cheap trick to help GM force lower living standards on the workers at the expense of the welfare of their families, the community and the nation.

Nader said the matter was being investigated and that labor would be informed who its friends were and who was against them in their fight to maintain wages.

Makes Toys

Henry Moss, member of Nash Local 13, has turned toy-maker.

Friends are keeping him busy making wooden toys, wheel-barrows, cradles, what-nots, etc. He states he will be glad to serve any union member and may be contacted at Route 1, East Lansing.

Buy Victory Bonds

Lansing Church Leaders Encourage Strikers



Rev. E. E. Hoats (at far left, partially hidden by sign), Rabbi Abba M. Fineberg (fourth from left) and Father W. J. Flanagan (sixth from left) visited pickets at all gates of the Oldsmobile and Fisher Body plants in the bitter cold Monday morning and learned first-hand how the men feel about strike issues.

These prominent Lansing church leaders of three different faiths are talking with pickets in front of the Fisher plant in the photo above, where a woman told them her take-home pay had been about \$25. Among the pickets

there (and at nearly every gate) they met at least one or two men with six or seven children who had been taking home only thirty or forty dollars a week on which to support their families. After the visitors had asked many questions about strike issues and talked with many strikers, picking them at random, they expressed sympathy for their fight and urged the men to stick together. In foreground at right is "Rocky" Stone, Lansing Intl. Representative who piloted the visitors to the various gates.

More Pictures of This Event on Page 4

WASHINGTON (LPA) — The drive to put over anti-labor legislation in Congress has reached a new peak of virulence. Reactionaries are trying to out-do each other in the viciousness of the bills they are offering.

Foremost on the House calendar — and awaiting action at any moment — is the Smith-Connally "repealer" bill, with riders calculated to fulfill the wildest dreams of "union-busters." That measure is the joint product of Reps. Howard W. Smith (D., Va.), Andrew J. May (D., Ky.) and Leslie C. Arends (R., Ill.).

Bad as that bill is, Smith didn't even await House action before he introduced another one far more sweeping and containing enough shackles to paralyze operation of labor unions.

On top of that, Sen. Joseph H. Ball (R., Minn.) announced he would push for hearings on the notorious Ball-Burton-Hatch bill, which would cripple the Wagner Act, un-

Go Slowly, Congress Warned

Evidence that Congress is thinking twice before zooming through a flock of anti-labor legislation is appearing now. Early this week the House voted 200 to 182 to stall a measure that would penalize violations of no-strike contracts, regardless of whether the strike was promoted by anti-labor employers who were violating everything in sight.

WASHINGTON (FP) — Pres. Eric Johnston of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, testifying Dec. 10 before the House labor committee, advised Congress to go slowly in acting on labor legislation requested by Pres. Harry S. Truman.

Johnston told the committee it would not be proper to hurry the Norton bill through to passage before Christmas as requested by Truman.

determine the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction bill and impose compulsory arbitration.

Also, Congressman Sam Hobbs (D., Ala.) is trying to get immediate action on a bill which, in the guise of amending the Federal anti-racketeering act, would out-law some legitimate labor activities on pain of penalties running up to 20 years in jail and \$10,000 fine.

In addition, Sen. E. H. Moore (R., Okla.) has dropped into the hopper a collection of bills, placing all sorts of restrictions on labor in the name of "equalizing rights of labor and management." His bills embody the program which the Nat'l Ass'n of Manufacturers has been pushing for some time.

Finally, the Administration is pushing the measure advocated by President Truman for creation of fact-finding boards in major disputes, plus a compulsory "cooling-off" period of at least 30 days. Administration men are trying to speed up that proposition ahead of other anti-labor measures but the Smith-May-Arends bill appeared to have the inside track.

That bill would, on the other hand, practically outlaw all union activities in the political field, and on the other impose crushing penalties on unions when workers strike in alleged violation of no-strike provisions of contracts.

Leaders of organized labor received their first chance to air their views publicly on the Smith-May-Arends and on the Hobbs bills, at an unusual informal hearing arranged by a flock of friendly Congressmen, under the leadership of Adolph Sabath (D., Ill.), dean of the House. Over 100 solons attended.

Sabath and his associates called the hearing because the House Military Affairs and Judiciary committees had rushed the bills through without giving anyone — pro or anti — a chance to be heard.

Speakers who denounced the measures were President William Green of the AFL; President R. J. Thomas of

Hoffman Rides Again

WASHINGTON (FP) — Encouraged by expressions of Pres. Harry S. Truman and others, Rep. Clare Hoffman (R., Mich.) introduced four anti-labor bills in the House Dec. 10.

The first Hoffman bill would bar unions from the benefits of collective bargaining for from 6 months to a year for "unfair labor practices" while the second would maintain the open shop by prohibiting interference with the right of any employee to continue in his employment "or to join or refuse to join any labor organization."

Hoffman's third bill would permit employers to use the right "of freedom of speech and press," without being charged with unfair labor practices; to furnish meeting places for company unions, and to talk individually with workers about "problems of common interest." As a clincher, Hoffman offered a bill to amend the interstate commerce act to provide for the conviction of union officers and agents far removed from the scene of an alleged violation of the act, under a charge of conspiracy.

the United Auto Workers for the CIO; Executive Sec'y A. E. Lyon of the Railway Labor Executives' Ass'n for 19 Railroad Brotherhoods; Martin Miller, legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and John J. O'Leary, vice president of the United Mine Workers.

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EDITOR — V. E. VANDENBURG

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CONTRIBUTIONS—Should be typed double-spaced on one side of paper and signed with author's name, phone and address. Name will not be used if requested. Notes on news not written up but containing complete names and all the facts are acceptable too. Mail all contributions to Lansing Labor News, P. O. Box 657, Lansing 3, Mich.

GM Strikers Gaining Support

Outspoken sympathy for the cause of the General Motors strikers continues to increase among non-union citizens, groups and publications except newspapers that carried large GM advertisements.

Following are some excerpts from various national and Michigan Catholic publications.

WHO IS STRIKING?

We are more and more inclined to wonder who is on strike, General Motors or its employees. Technically, of course, the employees are on strike, i.e., they walked off the job and set up a picket line; but in reality this action may be considered as a counter-measure to the Corporation's refusal to meet the union halfway. We cannot see that GM has made anything like a serious effort, such as the collective bargaining process implies, to answer the union's arguments for a thirty-per-cent increase in wages with no hike in prices. — AMERICA, Dec. 8, p. 254.

EFFECT ON SOCIETY IGNORED

General Motors wants its profits, but perhaps more than anything else it is determined to conduct its vast operations protected from the public eye. . . . The men of the old school who have worked their way to the top of many of our large corporations still have a tendency to think of labor as an item in the accountant's ledger. . . . They think of a business as their own private business regardless of how many human destinies it affects. — THE COMMONWEAL, Dec. 7, p. 182.

GM OFFICIALS NOT KINGS

The whole attitude of industrial management reeks of threadbare and regal arrogance, as out of place in the modern world as the divine right of kings. It smells of moth-eaten ermine and musty prerogatives. This judgement is supported even by the choice of words used in corporation press handouts. A recent GM statement, for instance, said:

"Abdication of management . . . is in essence what the union demands."

In using the word 'abdication' the Corporation dug down into its subconscious mind and came up with its real feeling. 'Abdication' is a word which means, in common usage, the resignation of a king. Webster's dictionary says the word 'applies particularly to the relinquishment of authority which is inherent or sovereign; as to 'abdicate the crown'."

The managers of industry think they are sovereign powers: that is the real trouble! . . . They have flouted the sovereignty of the American People. They have precipitated costly strikes which have a ruinous effect upon the prosperity of the nation. — THE WAGE EARNER, Dec. 7, p. 8.

THE BOOKS MUST BE OPENED

What General Motors is most against is opening its books. It will not let unions know whether the company can pay . . . You cannot keep from coming to the conclusion that General Motors should open its books. The stakes are too big to allow secrecy. — THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC, Dec. 6, p. 10.

Hot Air

Rep. Hoffman of Michigan says he has no worries about the high cost of living; if something costs more, he just doesn't buy it. Not everyone can exist on hot air, however.

MEETING OF OPPOSITES



Sec. of Commerce Henry Wallace and retiring NAM Pres. Ira Mosher don't see exactly eye to eye even though they're photographed together at Natl. Assn. of Manufacturers "golden wedding" convention in New York. Wallace's warning to convention that selfish conduct by any group would bring depression was answered when Mosher, in typical NAM style, called for restrictive labor legislation and special benefits to industry. (FP photo).

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

With IRVING RICHTER

Intl. Legislative Representative, UAW-CIO

When Harry S. Truman left Independence, Mo., to come to the Senate, he came as near as any politician can, to following an independent and honest position. He showed no special favors to labor, but neither did he lean towards industry. As Chairman of the Defense Investigating Committee he showed courage and real patriotism by exposing the selfish, profiteering activities of some American industrialists.

In his seven months in the White House, Pres. Truman continued, up to recently, a middle-of-the-road course. He came out for legislation to meet the needs of the people. He told at least one visitor from Michigan that he would not let big business succeed in their plans to destroy organized labor. In foreign policy, he seemed to follow the independent, but co-operative policy of his predecessor.

BUT HARRY TRUMAN DIDN'T KEEP HIS INDEPENDENCE.

It's true he continued to talk as an independent. He asked for a Full Employment Bill, but privately the word went out that any bill would do—and the House Committee produced what Rep. George Bender called "an abortion and a fraud." He asked for unemployment compensation, but let the bill be smothered.

He talked cooperation with Soviet Russia, but pulled the props from under Cabinet officers and diplomats who wanted real friendship with Russia.

The Democrats who hated Roosevelt came to like "Harry." Senators George of Georgia and Tydings of Maryland, two men whom FDR tried to purge—and both of whom are outspoken opponents of all labor organization—gave Truman their blessing.

Following the anti-labor message of last week, the stock market went up one to five points, and Truman's stock went way up among anti-Roosevelt Democrats and Republicans. Rankin and Hoffman both approved.

But the greatest joy was felt in Washington and New York offices of the National Association of Manufacturers. Once again a President of the United States was on the side of big business.

The President of the National Association of Manufacturers, Ira Mosher, said the NAM "applauds the President's recognition of the responsibility of the Congress for . . . changes in the law." Mosher had good reason to applaud. The President had fallen for the trap laid by the NAM.

Let's go back to March, 1945. At that time Mosher rejected the Labor-Management Charter signed by the CIO, the AFL, and the Chamber of Commerce. "This is a job for the Congress," Mosher said.

The NAM then proceeded to do the job in Congress. Under the leadership of the auto manufacturers, industry lobbyists pounded away at the NLRB appropriations and came close to attaching a series of "riders" to the Wagner Act. They wrote the Ball-Burton-Hatch Bill and conducted a nation-wide lob-

bying campaign for it. Meanwhile, they arranged to have Senator Vandenberg of Michigan propose a labor-management conference.

Truman immediately accepted Vandenberg's proposal for the conference. So did the NAM, which had rejected the charter, grabbed the invitation to the conference?

The reason for the change of heart by the NAM was shown during the course of the Conference.

NAM delegates refused every proposal to discuss the real cause of industrial unrest, namely, wages. In other words, they wanted the Conference to fail. And yet Mr. Truman used this failure as justification for his cooling-off proposal.

Remember that Sen. Vandenberg, who proposed the Labor-Management Conference, had, ever since 1937, advocated a weakening of the Wagner Act along the lines See BEHIND HEADLINES, Page 3

PLAIN TALK

From Our Readers

Expressions herein will not always reflect the policies or views of this paper or any UAW-CIO local. Mail articles to P. O. Box 657.

SIGN YOUR NAME

This column is for the express purpose of publishing worthwhile comment, suggestions, and opinions of our readers. The board of directors of this publication may not sympathize with every viewpoint received but it will respect any person's right to be heard on any subject if he has anything of any importance at all to contribute to our readers.

There are two rules that must be observed:

1—This paper cannot be used for personal attacks or to promote union politics.

2—The writer must make himself known to the editor by signing his article. His name will not be published if requested.

The above statement of policy about contributed articles will be repeated from time to time. This week another article was received without the author's name on it. Not knowing who wrote it, the editor is not permitted

Babies' Chances

WASHINGTON (LPA) — A cut in infant mortality rates from 64 to 24 deaths per 10,000 live births, a decline of 61 percent, is reported over the past decade by the Children's Bureau of the Dep't of Labor. The great gains in infant and maternal safety were attributed by the Bureau to the improved care given to mothers who can afford hospitalization, improvement in economic status of many families since the worst depression years, and extension of maternal and child health services under the Social Security Act.

Bilbo Race

WASHINGTON (LPA) — Competition for Sen. Theodore (The Man) Bilbo in the next Senatorial primary may arise when Lt. Comdr. Nelson T. Levings of Gulfport, Miss. retires from the Navy. The veteran, who was acclaimed for his "tremendous state loyalty" in getting Admiral Halsey's permission to fly the Mississippi state flag under the Stars and Stripes when his ship, the "Mighty Missy" moved into Tokyo Bay, has recently been discussing the 1945 state campaign with Mississippians in Washington.

Mortgage Burned

MINNEAPOLIS (LPA) — The Floyd B. Olson Memorial Labor Temple here held burning-of-the-mortgage ceremonies last week. Thousands of AFL men and women celebrated the occasion with a grand ball.

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—Editor.

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Long Road Back

NEW YORK (LPA) — Youthful vets, seeking civilian employment at wage scales comparable to their wartime earnings, are learning the irony of it all. Some young pilots, for instance, Army-trained and promoted until they had reached the 400 a month pay level, are offered jobs at \$20 to \$27 a week, partly because they lack pre-war experience, partly because the field they have been trained for has no openings.

Ads for Vets

KENOSHA, Wis. (LPA) — First labor publication to use precious page space in free want-ads for job-seeking vets is Kenosha Labor, jointly published by AFL and CIO unions here. Announcement was made last week by Harold Newton, publisher, of the paper's action. "In appreciation of the splendid contributions made this country by the war veterans."

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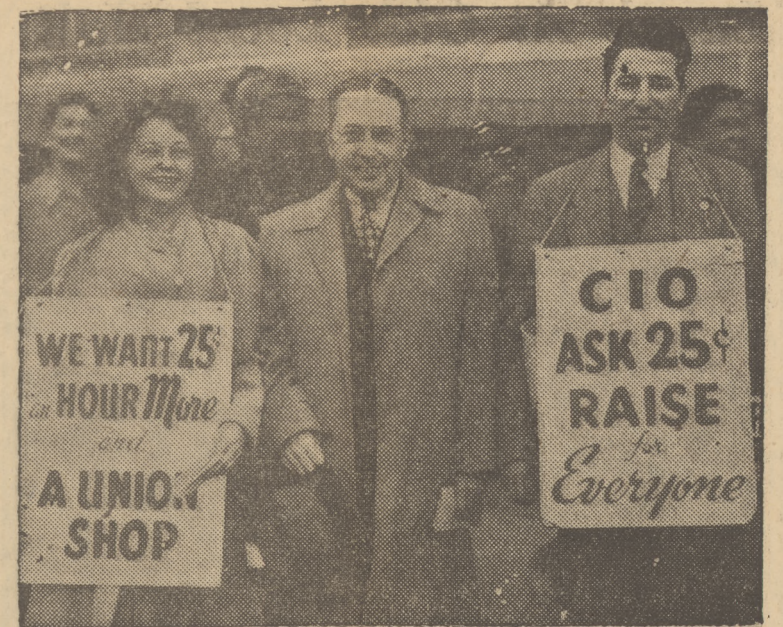
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Congressman Pickets; Won't Smoke Luckies



Congressman William T. Granahan of Philadelphia demonstrates his support for American Tobacco Co. strikers by walking on their picket line in front of the company plant. The striking members of Feed, Tobacco & Agricultural Workers (CIO) ask all unionists to boycott Lucky Strikes, Pall Malls and other American Tobacco products until their strike is won. Left to right: Chairman Peg Kendig of strike committee, Granahan and FTA International Organizer Emil Dean. —(FP Photo.)

Veterans Say General Motors Caused Strike

World War II veterans from GM plants in Flint recently packed the Fisher Local hall there in a special meeting to discuss the strike which put them out of work. Jack Holt, regional UAW-CIO director, said they adopted a report which included the following:

"We want decent wages, security for our families and fair working conditions."

"Knowing we had no responsibility in causing the General Motors corporation to cease negotiating with the UAW or in the refusal of General Motors to meet with Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach, we believe we are unemployed because of General Motors' refusal to engage in real collective bargaining and therefore are eligible for unemployment insurance either from the State or by the GI Bill of Rights provisions."

"We are opposed to the corporation's position because they propose a longer work week of 45 hours that can only result in more unemployment for our buddies who are still in service."

"The corporation's refusal to arbitrate the dispute certainly indicates that they cannot justify their position on the basis of fact."

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Behind The Headlines

(Continued from Page 2)

proposed by the NAM. Vandenberg is close to GM and the auto manufacturers.

ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE HE PRAISED GERALD L. K. SMITH, WHOM GENERAL MOTORS HAD BROUGHT TO DETROIT TO BUST THE UAW-CIO.

* * *

It was Vandenberg who brought the NAM foreign policy and the Truman foreign policy together. And it was Vandenberg, too, who called the turn on the Administration's policy toward labor when he suggested the Labor-Management Conference. This harmony, on the NAM's terms, was a preliminary to the reactionary steps taken in recent months all over the world by the United States — a policy of supporting monarchists and fascists as against genuine democratic governments. And now the "harmony" is producing, on the home front, also, the results which big business wanted.

* * *

The President's proposal is being pushed through. This legislation is not just talk. The President of the United States has put his power and influence behind the same project which the NAM failed to put across in Congress last spring and summer.

* * *

The thirty-day cooling-off period sounds very reasonable. But even Mosher of the NAM admitted it's a strait-jacket. "But for only thirty days," Mosher said.

* * *

The one-sided character of the proposal can be judged by the fact that the government has absolutely no legal power to compel General Motors or any other corporation to produce its books. Labor is given no voice in the selection of the fact-finding body. The corporations remain on a sit-down strike. Yet it is labor which is told to go back to work.

Citrus Prices Increase With Controls Off

WASHINGTON (LPA) — In its haste to throw price control overboard, OPA recently removed price ceilings on citrus fruits. The action was taken on Nov. 19, just in time to affect the holiday market.

Prices immediately zoomed into the stratosphere, and complaints began to pour in to OPA offices all over the country. Some areas reported that orange prices doubled within a few days after the removal of the ceilings.

In spite of pressure from labor and consumer groups, OPA decided to be more cautious about putting ceilings back on than it had been about taking them off. However, after watching the situation for some period of time, OPA decided that ceilings had to go back on.

At this stage of the operation, OPA ran into a coalition which has checked it before — the Dep't of Agriculture plus the big farm interests. The results is a decision by the Office of Stabilization Administration to watch citrus prices for one more week — by which time it will be too late to do anything, and the clean-up will be complete.

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Want a Book?

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Ask your local union officers.

Nothing in the message suggests that both the steel and auto industries have refused arbitration and conciliation. The Railway Labor Act, which was the President's model, is opposed by railway labor. It brought wage levels down as compared to other industries. But this Act is in an industry which long ago accepted collective bargaining. Auto, steel, and other manufacturing industries have not accepted collective bargaining.

* * *

The President's proposal has encouraged them to proceed with their union-busting plans.

Building Wages

WASHINGTON (LPA) — Wage ceilings will continue in the construction industry even after Dec. 31, by mutual agreement of building trades unions and employers who fear the dangers of inflation. Previous WLB controls will remain in effect under the administration of the Wage Adjustment Board despite the death of its parent body, the WLB.

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For ages 8 to 12 89c
Size 7 1/2 to 8 1 up

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over styles. Sizes 4 to 16 1 up

GIRLS' COTTON DRESSES—
Good materials. \$1.55
Sizes 3 to 10 1 up

MEN'S WOOL SHIRTS—All
wool red & black plaids. \$5.98
Sizes 15 to 17 5 up

50% WOOL BLANKETS—
Single. Bright colors. \$6.98
Size 72x84 6 up

**MEN'S SUEDE LEATHER
JACKETS**—Zipper \$12.98
front. Sizes 38 to 46 12 up

BOYS' MACKINAWs—Sheep-
skin lined. Sizes 10 to 16 \$13.98
10 to 16 13 up

SKI PANTS—Part wool pants
for snow suits. Dark col- \$9.98
ors. Sizes 3 to 8 4 up

BOYS' TROUSERS—Good
weight cotton school \$1.65
trousers. Sizes 6 to 12 1 up

MEN'S WORK GLOVES—
Leather \$9.75
faced 97c

SNOW SUITS
We still have a good assort-
ment of Snow Suits of all
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Boys' and Girls' Legging Sets,
sizes 3 to 10.

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warmth. Sizes 10 to 22 4 up

MEN'S TIES—Good selection.
Plain and fancy 55c
patterns 55c

LADIES' HEAD SCARFS—
Large selection rayons 89c
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HUNTING SOCKS—Long and
short lengths. 69c
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Fine Mercerized Yarns. Tan col-
or. sizes 6 to 10 1/2 39c
6 to 10 1/2 39c

CHILDREN'S MITTENS—Good
assortment of wool and rayon
mittens. 69c
Ages 3 to 10 69c

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ium weight cotton union suits.
Short and long sleeves. \$1.48
Sizes 38 to 46 1 up

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Committee of Citizens Endorses Wage Fight

(Continued from Page 1)

while keeping present prices, and still earn high profits. In-
creased volume of output, tax reductions, new equipment and
higher labor productivity were analyzed in detail. Union esti-
mates suggested that price REDUCTIONS might even be
possible if volume is as high as recently predicted by the
President of General Motors.

Fair Profits Guaranteed

The Union constantly reiterated its willingness to recon-
sider its 30 percent proposal if the "arithmetic" of the Cor-
poration's financial condition showed such a wage boost would
necessitate price relief or undue profit cuts. It refused to
eliminate from the negotiations the consideration of the ef-
fects of its wage demands on prices and profits and requested
Corporation data to show what these effects would be. It
elaborated an argument for stable prices and rising purchas-
ing power as necessary to the health of the highly productive
American economy.

In the final stages, the Union offered to refer the issues
to arbitration for a binding decision, after rejecting the Cor-
poration's counter proposals (noted hereafter) on the ground:
1—That the first proposal (that the work week be in-
creased from 40 to 45 hours) would contravene federal legal
standards for hours of work and would increase unemploy-
ment, and

2—That the second (an offer of a wage increase of 10
percent) was predicated on the Corporation's plan to seek
higher prices to meet the added wage cost. It asked for the
Corporation's answer within 24 hours to the proposal of the
arbitration principle.

For the Corporation:

The Corporation rejected the proposal of the Union for a
30 percent increase in wages, stating that this would bring a
general increase that would necessitate a 30 percent rise in
prices and lead to inflation. It derided the Union's computa-
tion of Corporation profits, expected costs, volume of produc-
tion and labor productivity. It emphasized the value of low
prices and the key role of high production levels in achieving
them and argued that the possibility of high levels of profit
is an essential element in the American economic system.

The Corporation submitted general figures to contradict
the Union's estimates, but declined to furnish the detailed
components on which these general figures were based on
the ground that this was not a proper subject of inquiry for
the Union.

Won't Talk About Profits

The Corporation's representatives constantly urged the
Union to eliminate questions of prices and profits and confine
the collective bargaining to the wage issue. It denied that the
effects of wage increases on profitability was a proper sub-
ject for negotiations with the Union and refused to make any
wage increase offer tied to an agreement not to raise prices.
Prices, like profits, it urged, are the Corporation's, not the
Union's business. It characterized the Union's effort to bar-
gain on these matters as unwarranted invasions of manage-
ment's province. It also introduced material which suggested
that unionism in America should be reduced in the scope of
its bargaining power.

The Corporation also offered counter-proposals of (1)
Six percent wage increases along with a change in the wage
and hours law to make 45 hours the standard work week in
place of the present 40 hour provision; (2) wage increases
sufficient to make up for the cost of living increases since
1941 of about 10 percent.

Both proposals were to be free of any stipulation as to
prices.

The Corporation rejected the Union's proposal for ar-
bitration on the ground that the terms of the proposal would
represent an "abdication" by management.

No. 1

After reading the transcript of the negotiations between
General Motors and the UAW-CIO, we believe it would be a
contribution to public understanding of the dispute if the
transcript were published.

No. 2

*The Committee was impressed by the serious and
statesmanlike approach of the representatives of the
Union as shown in the transcript of the negotiations.*

If President Truman and his advisors had had access to
this record, we believe they would have been in a position to
insist more firmly on the full use of the collective bargaining
process before suggesting intervention of the government.
We believe that the full possibilities of collective bargaining
have not yet been exhausted, and that it is not too late to re-
new the efforts toward a voluntary settlement. We urge that
the two parties immediately resume negotiations.

No. 3

*The Union's request to participate in a determina-
tion of the wage issue on the basis of full knowledge
of the basic wage-price-profit relations is not a "taking
over" of management.*

This request is based on a principle widely approved by
responsible leaders of business, labor and government. Al-
though the setting of actual prices remains a managerial
function, at a time when there is a threat of inflation, the
level of prices becomes a matter of legitimate public concern.

No. 4

If collective bargaining fails to result in a settlement, we
recommend that any fact-finding commission appointed by
the President be authorized and directed to determine what
increase in wages can be given on the basis of the Corpora-
tion's ability to pay without increase in prices. The Corpora-
tion's ability to meet a wage increase is a sound factor in the
determination of wages, both in good times and bad.

No. 5

*From the record it is clear that the Union in its re-
fusal to accept a wage increase that involves price in-
crease has lifted the whole matter of collective bar-
gaining to a new high level by insisting that the ad-
vancement of Labor's interest shall not be made at the
expense of the public.*

*Because of confusion in the public mind, the Com-
mittee wishes to emphasize that the record of the pro-*

Churchmen Visit All Gates, Lunch At Olds Local Hall



The clergy are shown here at the Logan street gate of Oldsmobile,
where another man with seven children told them of difficulties in
supporting his family on the slashed take-home pay. In center fore-
ground is R. E. Richardson, wearing sweater and "Strike Committee"
armband, president of Lansing's largest union group, Olds Local 652.



After the chilly trip, hot soup and sandwiches were served the
group in the Olds Local hall at 1118 S. Washington, where they saw
pickets fed and entertained with a small orchestra. On far side of
table are Rabbi Fineberg, Father Flanagan and Reverend Hoats, flank-
ed by Olds Local President Richardson at far end and Archie Perry,
chairman of compensation committee, Fisher Local 602, at near end.
On near side of table are Senator Pritchard, chairman of Fisher strike
committee, and Russell White, chairman of Olds strike committee.

*ceedings clearly shows that the Union's proposition
was not "30% or else."*

The Union has shown a sense of social responsibility that
indicates its growing maturity and is certainly to be com-
mended. The public has a vital interest in holding the line
of present prices against inflation.

No. 6

The transcript repeatedly shows that the Union's 30 per-
cent demand was subject to reconsideration if and when man-
agement proved the 30 percent wage increase was impossible
without a raise in prices.

No. 7

Considerable data from the General Motors Corporation
and U. S. Government reports were submitted by the Union
in support of its contention that the Corporation can afford
a substantial wage increase without raising prices. Outside
of a flat denial supported by figures based upon sources not
open to the Union, to this Committee or to the public,

*no convincing evidence has been submitted by the Corpora-
tion to show that the Union's wage proposal cannot be
met.*

No. 8

While future profits cannot be computed with absolute
certainty, it is common practice to base the prospects of
them upon experience and estimated volume and costs. The
Union is asking that wages be projected in such a forecast
as other cost factors and profits are projected. It is the
census of the Committee that the Union is making a legiti-
mate claim in asking that wages be negotiated in terms of
future expectations.

No. 9

*With regard to the Union's 24 hour ultimatum on the
acceptance of arbitration, the public should be remind-
ed that the ultimatum was on the question of the will-
ingness of the corporation to arbitrate and not on the
basic wage demands, which would have required long-
er consideration.*

No. 10

The Committee reviewed carefully the Union's support-
ing argument for the maintenance of take-home pay. It
was based on the thesis that purchasing power must be com-
mensurate with production. The Committee agrees with this
principle of wages since without adequate purchasing
power to buy the products of industry there can be neither
full employment nor general prosperity.

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Housing Board

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man Passaic Housing Authority
has been created here, as a result
of the campaign undertaken by the
Textile Workers Union of Ameri-
ca-CIO to get action on a slum
clearance, low cost housing pro-
gram. AFL and CIO members have
been appointed to work with a
Jewish Rabbi and two liberal busi-
ness men to correct the local hous-
ing situation.

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THOMAS

(Continued from Page 1)

terest which it has shown
throughout the controversy,
the corporation now seeks to
broaden the area of differ-
ences and make settlement
more difficult.

"In the meantime the cor-
poration will have to answer,
not only to their employees
but to the general public as
well, if their ill-considered ac-
tion results in a lengthening
of the strike."

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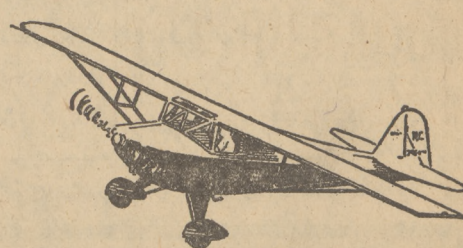
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