

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE

THE MILITANT



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA (OPPOSITION)

VOLUME VII, NO. 6 [WHOLE NO. 210]

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1934

PRICE 1 CENT

Call 30,000 Cab Drivers in General Strike

Brand Lies On Union Contracts

Show Complete List of Amalgamated Demands

In a renewed attempt to discredit the general strike of the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union...

Strike Committee Unanimous At the last meeting of the general strike committee...

1. All individual shop settlements made in the course of the strike are to be considered as temporary...

2. Any general settlement with the hotel bosses must be approved by the general strike committee...

3. All temporary shop settlements must be approved by a shop meeting of the workers involved...

WAGE-SCALE DEMANDS of the HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WORKERS UNION

Scabs a Flop at Casino de Patee

Strike-breakers are a pretty miserable lot. They take the job from a good union man—and they are unable to do the work themselves...

Big Companies Already Tied Up

The strike wave launched by the general strike of the hotel and restaurant workers in New York has spread to the taxicab industry...

The following are the demands of the striking drivers: 1. The entire "tax" to the drivers...

CWA Workers Rebel

With tens of thousands of hotel and restaurant workers, and taxi drivers out on strike against exploitation...

Grand Central Joins in Strike

Among the latest hotels and restaurants to join the big strike parade have been the Columbia University Club, the Blake and the Grand Central controlled by the Union News Company...

Strike Has Cut Menus To Bone

Stories by Diners Show Hotel Men Bluffing

Reports coming to The Militant from sympathizers of the striking hotel workers made it plain that the great hotels of the city continue in a crippled condition...

EDITORIAL

A week has passed since the call was issued for the general strike of the hotel and restaurant workers of New York...

The big demonstration around the leading hotels, following the imposing mass meeting at Madison Square Garden, revealed a militancy of spirit and a readiness to fight with unbroken ranks...

Now, however, the strike has entered a new stage of development. The problem that arises before the men is: To consolidate the forces that have been assembled, to spread the influence and power of the strike to houses which have not yet walked out...

How is this to be done? There is no miraculous recipe. There are only those policies and steps which have been tested over and over again in countless labor battles...

Every attempt to represent the union as an inoffensive body which means no harm to anybody, must be promptly repudiated. The union is organized as a fighting body...

The public opinion about which the leadership of the union must concern itself is the public opinion of the membership!

The class struggle policy is the only way to keep up the ranks of the strikers and to add to them. It is here, we repeat, that the leadership will be tested...

Every effort must be made, thirdly, to destroy the myth of the invincibility of the employers. The workers can win this strike and establish themselves as a power that must be dealt with...

The big objective of the union, it should be remembered, is to build up and consolidate a strong militant union. The fight for better conditions, higher wages and a shorter working day is inconceivable without union organization and direction...

EDITORIAL

The irresponsible and malicious story of the Daily Worker, charging the A. F. W. with selling out the general strike of the hotel workers...

Having failed to win a following in the industry on the basis of their program and "organization", the 18th St. "Union", the Daily Worker, and the Food Worker have fallen back on slander and misrepresentation...

The bosses' press, however, minimized, distorted and even suppressed the news of this demonstration. In the Herald-Tribune, the marchers were reduced to 2,000!

But not only did the press minimize the numbers in the picket line. They reported nothing about the splendid spirit of the marchers, their effective demonstration before each hotel...

This inconspicuous incident was played up by the boss press as a desperate act of violence. Although even the police who always try to break strikes, made no arrests...

There is no religious discrimination, no racial discrimination. Do you work in a hotel or a restaurant?

What the Amalgamated Stands For

The Amalgamated, first and foremost, is a workers' union. No bosses allowed. It is a democratic union. The membership elects or recalls officials as it sees fit...

«Daily Worker» Hits Hotel Strike With Slander and False Charges

The irresponsible and malicious story of the Daily Worker, charging the A. F. W. with selling out the general strike of the hotel workers...

The Daily attacked the A. F. W. for lack of militancy. For example, on Jan. 31, it said: "Strike pickets paced up and down in the bitter cold in front of the struck hotels..."

The Jan. 31 issue also characterized the union's telegram to Roosevelt, protesting birthday dinners at scab hotels, as "crawling and belly-crawling"...

The Daily has also accused A. F. W. leaders of rejecting demands of their own rank-and-file for unity with the Stalinist "union"...

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Hitler: One Year After

With the whole of Germany oppressed under the iron heel of Fascism, Adolf Hitler celebrated the first anniversary of his appointment as Chancellor of the Reich on January 30th.

One year of bloody rule... the destruction of the Communist and Social Democratic parties, the wiping out of all trade unions and workers organizations, the persecution of the Jews, the suppression of all opposition in the camp of the master class: the Nationalist-Monarchists, the Catholic Center, elements in the Protestant church and the storm troops... tens of thousands in concentration camps, countless others in prisons and jails... bloody oppression and exploitation—that is the present set-up in the year one of German Fascism.

postpone the decisive struggle, it can make the road costlier and harder. The decisive problem is the re-assembly of the truly revolutionary forces for the construction of a new Communist party in Germany—a section of the new international Communist party. Towards this end all militant workers must bend their efforts. By this means the bloody barbarous regime of the German Nazis will be crushed and the way paved for a Soviet Germany.—J. C.

The Wrecking Crew at Work

Disruption and strikebreaking is the contribution of the Stalinist leaders to the hotel and restaurant workers' strike. A group of irresponsible bureaucrats playing with the workers' interests as lightly as a child plays with a toy, they are parading under the guise of the discredited Food Workers Industrial Union. This so-called union has been brought into the hotel strike, not to help and cooperate with the Amalgamated—accepted by the overwhelming majority of the strikers as their representative—but to split the ranks and sow confusion.

The Food Workers Industrial Union started out on its career by splitting the Amalgamated in 1929 without any just cause whatsoever. Despite the fact that freedom of expression, the absence of political discrimination and progressive tactics were part and parcel of the Amalgamated, hundreds of militant workers were maneuvered into a split by the high priests of the official Communist party (the Stalinists) whose main job is to discredit Communism.

For several years the I. W. I. U. succeeded only in demoralizing the union situation and by their tactics, caused workers to hold back from all organizations. Although they split the Amalgamated and weakened it temporarily, nobody expected that they would build anything in its place. And to be sure, this F. W. I. U., through its blundering tactics and its bureaucratic regime, has remained a shadow of a union, out to destroy not to build. What else could happen to a Stalinist union, whose policies are thoroughly destructive, where officials are appointed and not elected, where any worker with political opinions different from those of the leadership is persecuted, hounded or expelled out of the ranks?

No sooner had the Amalgamated recovered from the effects of the disruption in 1929, healed its wounds, solidified its ranks and embarked upon an organization campaign, than the professional splitters of the F. W. I. U. suddenly discovered that they stood for... unity.

In spite of the "18th Street Union's" malodorous record, the true Left wingers and progressives in the Amalgamated took a position in favor of genuine unity. At the height of the organization drive, the Amalgamated offered to open its doors wide to every worker affiliated with the Industrial Union, proposing to admit him without the slightest discrimination, whether he came in by himself or in the form of unity with his whole union. The Stalinist leaders replied to this proposal with an intensified campaign of oily maneuvers and underhanded sabotage.

From the time the walkout began in the Waldorf, the moves of the Industrial Union have had nothing but a strikebreaking effect.

For every handbill issued by the Amalgamated, it has issued counter-leaflets printed on the same kind of paper in the same type, calculated to deceive and confuse the workers.

For every meeting called by the Amalgamated, the F. W. I. U. leaders have called a counter-meeting using the same despicable trick with the leaflets in an attempt to mislead the workers as to the identity of the real leader of the strike.

Fortunately for the strike and the labor movement generally the F. W. I. U. has not succeeded in its game.

Where it has had any supporters in hotels, as in the New Yorker, the F. W. I. U. has done its all to sidetrack the workers from the masses striking under the banner of the Amalgamated.

On the day the Amalgamated issued its general strike call, decided by the unanimous vote of thousands of members, and distributed tens of thousands of leaflets to that effect, this F. W. I. U., without a single note organized, issued a separate call for the general strike. Again, it printed its "general strike" leaflet in the same kind of type. The only difference was that it gave its own address for strike headquarters!

Seeing through this new trick, the masses of the hotel and restaurant workers docked to the Amalgamated and enrolled under its banner. A few unorganized workers were caught in the confusion, mistaking the F. W. I. U. for the real union. But no sooner did these workers discover their error, than they turned their backs on the Stalinist "union" and joined the Amalgamated.

The Amalgamated is now the only genuine union and strike leader of the thousands of hotel and restaurant workers engaged in a bitter fight for better conditions. Fighting it are the racketeer controlled Local 16 of the A. F. of L. and the Stalinist-controlled sect on 18th Street.

The "Industrial Union" is not concerned with the issues of the strike, or with winning it. Its main aim is to break off from the Amalgamated a little chunk here and another there. To accomplish this it is prepared to carry out the most pernicious and disgraceful policy. Its officials have discredited the union in the eyes of the food workers, just as they have discredited and disgraced the name of Communism.

Let no striker be deceived: These are not Communists who sow division and confusion in the workers' ranks. They are agents and victims of the corrupt Stalinist bureaucracy, who put their sectarian interests above the interests of the working class.

The Militant, representing what is best and soundest in Communism, repudiates these pretenders who parade as the "Industrial Union", and its record of disruption and strike-breaking. We are confident that all that is healthy in the ranks of the Stalinist union, will respond in a loyal and fraternal spirit to the call for unity of the Amalgamated union.

Our strictures against the Stalinist union have nothing in common with those who conduct a fight against it from the reactionary point of view, and there are not a few of these. We do not, like the latter, have an attitude of antagonism to the workers misguided by the irresponsible Stalinists. Quite the contrary. We are not, like the reactionaries, availing ourselves of the blunders and crimes of the Stalinists for a covert attack upon Communism and everything else that is progressive and healthy in the trade union movement. Quite the contrary. Our fight to the death against the splitting and demoralizing moves of the leaders of the "18th Street Union", is animated by the unshakable conviction that the progress and victory of the Amalgamated is bound up inseparably with a progressive course, with a class struggle policy, with a democratic regime in the union, with a militant leadership.

Our efforts in this direction will continue unabated, regardless of the direction from which opposition may come. The true Left wingers and progressives, will fight under the same banner.

To rank and file members of the C. P., The Militant has this to say: See what the "union" your party controls is doing! Masses of Workers have joined an independent union. This union called a general strike which crippled a great industry. It brought workers on the streets in a mighty demonstration. And all through the days when it carried on a progressive, militant struggle, the "union" controlled by your party sabotaged, sowed confusion, slandered, and did its best to weaken the workers' front.

Why have your leaders refused to cooperate with Left wing elements in the union? Why have they behaved disruptively, disgracing the very name of Communism?

Members of the C. P.—ask yourselves these questions. All true revolutionists among you should raise them in your organization and demand that the bureaucrats of the F. W. I. U. be scotched before they do further damage to the hotel workers' strike.

«Daily Worker» Hits Hotel Strike

(Continued from page 1)

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The Daily of Jan. 31 contained a long editorial it charged the A. F. W. leaders with opportunism. In the very same column it condemns the leaders for trying to get the Board to negotiate with them, and also for not using militant tactics to get the Board to negotiate!

Would it be wrong to talk to the bosses? The Stalinists claim they made a settlement with the Hyde Park Hotel and the Maison Royale in the midst of the strike. Did they do it without talking to the bosses? Or is it wrong to talk to the Regional Labor Board? Then why use "militant tactics" to force the Board to act, as the Daily suggests? The truth is this: the A. F. W. said it would not refuse to talk with the bosses. It told this to the Regional Labor Board. It turned to the strike as it means of fighting for the workers' interests; not to the Regional Labor Board. The statement in the capitalist press that it had made such an appeal was just one of many boss lies. And the Daily accepted it at face value, reprinted it, and used it to attack the strike.

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Brand Union Contract Lies

(Continued from page 1)

Houses, Clubs, Cabarets, Catering Establishments.

Demands for Wage Scale of Kitchen

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. No split watch
2. Pay by week
3. No charge for meals
4. For all restaurants of the same class, the same pay
5. All departments to have the same price
6. The house to supply the cooks' uniforms
7. No charge for laundering

Wages

Class A	Class B
Sous-chef..... \$55.00	\$50.00
Saucier sous-chef .. 50.00	45.00
Chef de Nuit .. 40.00	35.00
Chef Garde Manger .. 40.00	35.00
Chef Boucher .. 40.00	35.00
Chef Entremetier .. 35.00	30.00
Chef Rotisseur .. 35.00	30.00
Chef Potager, if independent .. 35.00	30.00
otherwise .. 32.00	27.00
Chef Poissonnier, if independent .. 35.00	30.00
otherwise .. 35.00	30.00
1st Commis Saucier .. 35.00	32.00
1st Commis Manger .. 35.00	32.00
Hors d'Oeuvrier .. 35.00	32.00
1st Grillardin .. 30.00	27.00
1st Commis Entremetier .. 28.00	25.00
2nd Commis Saucier .. 28.00	27.00
Other Commis .. 25.00	24.00
Breakfast Cook .. 28.00	22.00
Chef Tournant .. 38.00	35.00
Commis Tournant, all depts. .. 28.00	25.00

Establishments Employing

1 Breakfast chef in charge .. 40.00	35.00
1 Banquet chef in charge .. 40.00	35.00
Bouillardin .. 25.00	22.00
Kitchen Man .. 20.00	20.00
Chef Legumier .. 25.00	22.00
Casserolier .. 20.00	20.00
1st Commis .. 22.00	20.00
1st Commis .. 28.00	25.00
2nd Commis .. 25.00	22.00
1st Commis Butcher .. 30.00	27.00
Volantiste .. 28.00	25.00
Oyster Man .. 25.00	22.00
Chef Patissier .. 55.00	50.00
Sous-chef Patissier .. 42.00	37.00
1st Commis Patissier .. 32.00	29.00
Fournier .. 30.00	27.00
Tourier .. 30.00	27.00
Chef Glacier .. 40.00	35.00
Commis .. 25.00	25.00

Coffee Shops, Cafeterias, Grills

Attached to Hotels	
Commis Saucier .. 30.00	
Commis Banquet .. 32.00	
Busboys .. .75	
per hour, Minimum 3 hrs.	

MASS MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE HOTEL STRIKE

Monday, February 5th, 1934

SPARTACUS HALL—313-53rd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Questions Adm. 15c Discussion

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 1)

The union has a right to demand, fourthly, that every member display a one hundred percent loyalty to the Amalgamated. The "18th Street Union" of the Stalinists is carrying out one of its typically shabby maneuvers in this respect. On the surface, the Stalinists have capitulated to the Amalgamated. Under the pressure of the sweep to the Amalgamated, they have had to call upon the men "following" them to enter that union and carry on under its leadership. But this capitulation, we repeat, is only a maneuver by which these discredited splitters hope to transfer their disruption to the inside of the union.

A relentless fight against this wrecking crew is indispensable for the preservation of the fighting unity of the Amalgamated, who constitute the most sinister threat to the unity and success of the strike. Further from our minds is any idea of identifying the Industrial Union members with their leadership. Quite the contrary. A comradely and intelligent approach to these workers by the Amalgamated is absolutely essential.

The Stalinists cannot be disposed of by ignoring them. An offensive must be launched against them, their attacks answered, and their tricks exposed before the workers. This is an offensive which can be organized and conducted primarily by the consolidation of the class conscious forces in the union.

A sharp and urgent warning must be issued, fifthly, against the growing reactionary tendency in the union. The reactionary tendency is the bosses' tendency. The morale of the union cannot be built up by Red-baiting, and every black voice that is raised by the reaction must be answered in a manner it will not quickly forget.

This strike cannot be won by "respectability" The attempts to make the Amalgamated "respectable" in the eyes of the bosses and the government is an admission on the part of those who make them that they have no belief that the workers can win by fighting. The attempts are reactionary and defeatist through and through, and that is the basis on which they must be met before they have assumed more dangerous proportions.

A tightening up in the functioning of the union is essential to the morale of the strikers. The committees must be properly coordinated; the shop committees must become living bodies drawing the workers closer and closer to the union as a whole.

Organizational efficiency, on the one side, and a morale-building leadership on the other, can make the Amalgamated a force that will smash through all the barriers standing on the road to victory!

MASS MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE HOTEL STRIKE

on Sunday, February 4th, 1934

Speakers: Max Shachtman and Hotel Strikers

at MILITANT HALL—164 Watkins St. (Near Belmont Ave.) Brooklyn

Questions Adm. 15c Discussion

Aspices: Brooklyn Branch, Communist League of America

THE MILITANT

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Brand Union Contract Lies

(Continued from page 1)

Extra Chef de Partie for 8 hours work, minimum 4 hours 8.00

Commis for 8 hours work, minimum 4 hours 6.00

Kitchenman, Vegetable man, Pantrygirl, Dishwasher for 8 hours work on minimum 4 hours 4.00

Extra Hours for regular men: 4 hours maximum per week, each extra hour to be paid at 1 1/2 times regular hourly pay.

Demand for Wage Scale of Dining Room

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Stations to be rotated
2. Uniforms to be supplied by employers and also to be kept in a clean and sanitary condition by employers

A—Tipping Establishments

B—Non-Tipping and Non-Commission Establishments

Wages

Class A	Class B
Assistant head-waiters .. 35.00	30.00
Captains .. 30.00	35.00
Waiters and Waitresses .. 30.00	30.00
Commis .. 25.00	20.00
Busboys .. 20.00	20.00
One Meal—Lunch .. 1.50	
Captains .. 1.50	
per hour, Minimum 2 1/2 hrs.	
Waiters and Waitresses .. 1.00	
per hour, Minimum 2 1/2 hrs.	
Busboys .. .75	
per hour, Minimum 3 hrs.	
One Meal—Dinner .. 1.50	
Captains .. 1.50	
Waiters and Waitresses .. 1.00	
per hour, Minimum 3 hrs.	

Wage-Scale Demands of Cafeterias and Coffee Pots

Wages

Class A	Class B
Chef .. \$45.00	
Cook .. 35.00	
Saladman .. 35.00	
Counterman .. 30.00	
Busboy .. 20.00	
Potwasher .. 20.00	
Kitchenman .. 20.00	
Dishwasher .. 20.00	
COFFEE POT	
Cook .. 35.00	
Counterman .. 30.00	
Potwasher .. 20.00	
Dishwasher .. 20.00	

The Railroad Brotherhoods

Official Censorship of Union Press

In previous articles on the railroad unions we have pointed out and discussed the aim and purpose behind the "secret work" in the meetings; the long and silly "obligations" administered to newly admitted members, and the constitutional provisions which prohibit lodges and members from printing and circulating their ideas and opinions on organization matters without the permission of the President. In this article we will briefly discuss the complete censorship of the Brotherhood magazines by these "labor chiefs". Within this full circle of gag-laws the official bureaucrats in these 21 railroad unions keep themselves entrenched against their membership. The present brotherhood leadership is fully conscious of the life and death necessity for complete strangulation of all rank and file expression to keep themselves in office. They know that as soon as their gag-laws fall their rule is over.

Censorship Laws Cited.

Below we will just cite provisions in two of the Brotherhood constitutions to show how the President in each one has full control of all membership expression in the Magazine:

In section 12-1-2 (a) on page 7 and 8 of the B. of R. T. constitution, we find the following as part of that section, to wit:

"It shall be the duty of the Editor and Manager.... to have full charge of the editorial and business management of the Railroad Trainmen, subject only to the supervision of the President of the Brotherhood."

"He shall conduct the Official Publication in harmony with the general policies of the Brotherhood as such are outlined by the President."

In the same section it provides that the editor may hire the help needed in the magazine office, "all of whom shall be subject to the approval of the President." Note how carefully the magazine is guarded against any criticism of the Administration.

In the Locomotive Firemen's constitution we find the following on page 50, section 1. (a).

"It shall be the duty of the Editor and Manager to take full charge of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's Magazine, under the general supervision of the President."

Practically all of the Brotherhood constitutions have similar provisions. Under this set-up it is not an easy matter to reach the membership in any one of the railroad unions with any criticism on the administration's present bankrupt policy, program and leadership. And when our officials cannot be criticized to the rank and file they do not have to defend themselves no matter how or what they do in office. A good leadership will depend on, and defend, full and free expression of its membership. A leadership like we have in the Railroad Brotherhoods who want to remain in office at all cost and keep us divided and ignorant, lives in deadly fear of free expression.

Subs Rise

In the two days since the last issue our sub campaign took another big jump upward. Almost all of them were Club Plan subs. The total now since the drive opened is 252.

The New York Local heads the list of sub getters. It now has 204 of its self-set goal of 400 new subs.

The list stands as follows:

New York Local	204
Pittsburgh Branch	12
Youngstown Branch	12
D. Leaser	8
M. Steinbach	4
G. Papcun	4
M. McLeod	4
L. Goodman	4
Total	252

Other subs are coming in too at the regular rates but we list and will continue to list only those on the Club Plan basis.

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.