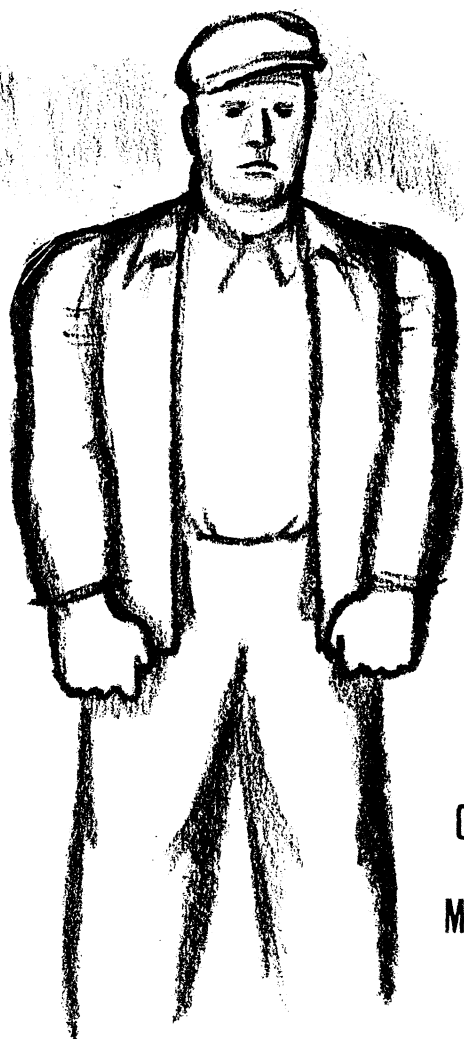


WORKERS ON TRIAL!



**Life Stories
Of the
28 Defendants
Now on Trial
By the
U.S. Government
In Minneapolis**

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE
1179 Market Street - Room 402
MEETINGS 1st & 3rd SUNDAYS 7 P.M.**

**11 Truckdrivers-3 Electricians-
4 Machinists-5 Factory Hands -
2 Educators-1 Lawyer-2 Newspapermen**

**Every One
A Militant Fighter For
Organized Labor And
The Working Class!**

The Facts!

In 1933, Local 544 of the Minneapolis Teamsters Union had less than 100 members. The average wage of thousands of Minneapolis truck-drivers was 18 cents an hour—about \$13 a week for a 70 hour week.

In 1934, a group of coal yard and transportation workers began a membership drive for the union. They organized the vast majority of Minneapolis truckers. The membership of the union jumped to more than 4000.

In 1934, Local 544 took its membership out on strike. They won a series of smashing victories. They raised the average wage to a minimum of 42½ cents an hour. Soon the Minneapolis drivers were earning about \$35 a week.

For seven years, 544 has stood in the forefront of every militant labor battle in the Northwest. This union has advanced the cause of labor in every industry in this area.

You can learn about the history of Local 544 from truckdrivers or warehousemen who have worked in Minnesota in recent years. These good union men will gladly tell you about the leaders and organizers of the union. You will learn that Vincent Dunne, Miles Dunne, Farrell Dobbs, Carl Skoglund, George Frosig, Ray Rainbolt, Kelly Postal and others are real workingmen who built a strong workers' union. You will hear a thrilling story of a union that has never retreated. From 1934 to 1941, Local 544 fought under a true labor leadership and served only one cause—the cause of the rank and file worker.

Today, 544's leaders are on trial by the United States government in Minneapolis Federal court . . . WHY?

Daniel J. Tobin, head of the AFL Teamsters International, wanted to seize control of the fighting Minneapolis truckmen by removing their chosen leaders and appointing his personal dictator-receiver over Local 544.

But the membership of 544 rejected Tobin. They voted overwhelmingly to leave the AFL and affiliate with the CIO. Tobin then complained to the government in Washington, asking President Roosevelt for help against 544's leaders. On the heels of Tobin's complaint came the government's indictment for this trial.

What is the Government's excuse?

In 1938, the treacherous American Fascist organization, the "Silver Shirts", came swarming into Minneapolis. Like all Fascists, the Silver Shirts seek to destroy labor unions. They threatened to attack the headquarters of Local 544. 544 replied by forming a Union Defense Guard of 200 members—and the Silver Shirts silently faded away.

Three years later, in this trial, the government claims that those 200 Union Defense Guards were conspirators who intended to overthrow the power of the United States by force and violence!

In addition, the government claims another excuse for the trial. Many leading figures of 544—CIO are also members of the Socialist Workers (Trotskyist) Party. The Socialist Workers Party is opposed to imperialist war. The party believes in a Workers and Farmers Government for the United States.

Against the 28 defendants, the government has brought a charge of "conspiracy". Most of the defendants are members of 544—CIO. With them are national officers of the Socialist Workers Party. If the charges against these 28 men and women are successful, the rights and liberties of every trade unionist and every liberal-minded American will fall under a dangerous shadow. The prosecutor has stated that part of their "crimes" was to ask for higher wages!

We ask you to read these sketches of the lives of the defendants.

We ask you to help save them from jail. They face 16 years in prison and \$10,000 fine each!

We believe this trial is a frame-up!

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

VINCENT R. DUNNE

One of the foremost union leaders in the Northwest. He was born in Kansas City in 1889 and entered the labor movement in 1906 with the Western Federation of Miners, I.W.W. He has been miner, farm laborer, lumberjack, and truck driver. He was a guiding spirit in the famous 1934 and 1936 strikes of Local 544. Minneapolis workers in all industries credit Vincent Dunne as a great leader who helped change Minneapolis from an open shop city to a stronghold of union labor. He is married, has two children.



CARL SKOGLUND

President and trustee of Local 544 for several years. Born in 1884; has been a railroad worker, auto mechanic and truck driver. A leader in the 1922 railroad strikes, as chairman of the Burlington R. R. Shopmen's Strike committee. Lost his railroad job because of strike activity. Became truck driver in Minneapolis and helped build 544. A veteran of great labor battles for twenty years.

GEORGE FROSIG

A Minneapolis truck driver, he began his union activity in 1916 with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Officer and trustee of 544 for the last twelve years. 544 has a policy of cooperating and helping to develop neighboring unions, especially small locals. In line with this policy, Frosig has helped organize the truckers of Fargo, Sioux City, and Sioux Falls, and the over-the-road drivers of the Northwest. Born in Denmark, 1894. U. S. war veteran, 18 months in the army. Married.

MILES DUNNE

One of the famous "Dunne Brothers" who have helped 544—CIO make labor history in the Northwest. Born at Little Falls, Minn., in 1896. A telegraph linesman until he went overseas with the AEF in 1918. Became a truck driver in 1924. Leader in the great membership drives of Local 544 in 1934. Arrested by National Guard in the 1934 strikes. Founded the Fargo, North Dakota, Drivers Union. Leader and negotiator of contracts in over a hundred victorious strikes, big and small, from 1934 to 1941. Married.

KELLY POSTAL

Born in Wapeton, North Dakota, 1896. He was a coal miner in Kentucky and Illinois and was in the Herrin County coal strikes, 1921-1923. As a driver in Minneapolis, he helped build 544. An outstanding figure in all the

campaigns and struggles of the last seven years, directing the spearheads that have won victories, improvements and progress for Minneapolis labor.

FARRELL DOBBS

Born 1907, Queen City, Missouri. A planning engineer for Western Electric, he quit a promising technical career when he saw how workers were fired wholesale during the depression. He became a laborer in Minneapolis coal yards, joined 544, was an organizer and strike-leader. As national representative for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, he was the central figure in the brilliant organization of the over-the-road truck drivers in 11 states in the Middlewest, one of the outstanding labor victories in the trucking industry. Thousands of truckmen throughout the country remember his dynamic tactics. Labor Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. Married, three children.



RAY RAINBOLT

When there's a picket line to be organized, Minneapolis workers call for Rainbolt, an energetic and tireless field general. He was born in Indiana in 1896. A driver for Wells Fargo and American Express; sergeant in the army during the war. In addition to 544, he has been a founder and elected officer of several other locals, leading them in a long series of successful struggles and negotiations. Married, 5 children.

ED PALMQUIST

15 years a machinist and shop foreman. Became convinced of the workers' need for strong rank-and-file unions. Known throughout Minneapolis for his work in behalf of the unemployed. Fought for higher relief budgets. Convicted in 1939 trial of Minneapolis WPA strikers and served 8 months at Sandstone Federal Penitentiary. Born in Minnesota, 1897.

JAMES P. CANNON

National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. Born in Rosedale, Kansas, 1890. Thirty years of active service in the working class political movement. Twice indicted on similar charges in Federal witch-hunts of First World War. Nationally known for his leadership in historic strikes and labor trials (Sacco-Vanzetti, etc.). One of labor's great orators.



Mrs. GRACE HOLMES CARLSON

Born in St. Paul, 1906. Graduate, St. Catherine's College. Doctor of Philosophy, University of Minnesota. Taught at the University of Minnesota and served in State Department of Education. Charter member, Minnesota State Employees Union, Local 10. Received over 8,000 votes as candidate for U. S. Senate in Minnesota in 1940. Married.

JAKE COOPER

Born St. Paul, 1916. Truck driver, member of 544—CIO. Long record of strike service. Beaten up by goons in Tobin's war on 544—CIO.

OSCAR COOVER

Railroad electrician. Born Republic, Missouri, 1887. Thirty five years a member of International Brotherhood Electrical Workers. In the historic 1922 railroad shopmen's strikes, he was secretary of the Minneapolis strike committee. Widely known in the Minnesota working class political movement. State organizer for the Socialist Workers Party. Married, three children.

HARRY DEBOER

Born 1905, Crookston, Minnesota. Truck driver and 544 Organizer. Chairman of negotiating committee in 52 day strike of over-the-road drivers in 5 states, 1938. Shot by police in 1934

Minneapolis strike, 5 months in hospital. Official and organizer of general drivers and bakery drivers. Married.

MAX GELDMAN

Another leader in work for the Minneapolis unemployed. Served 8 months sentence in Federal penitentiary for his activity in the 1939 WPA strike. Born in Poland, 1904. A former shipping clerk. Married, one child.

ALBERT GOLDMAN

Brilliant labor lawyer who has defended hundreds of workers and unemployed. Graduate of Chicago public schools and University of Cincinnati. Joined I.W.W. in 1919 at the age of 22. Tailor in clothing factories and member of Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Three years later began study of law at Northwestern University. Since 1927, specialist in labor defense. Attacked by vigilante mob in Danville, Ill., for defending unemployed in 1932. Outstanding writer on socialism and the working class political movement.

WALTER HAGSTROM

Machinist. Born 1897, Stillwater, Minnesota. From 1916 to 1922, he was member and officer, International Association of Machinists, Local 91. Participated in machine shop strikes 1917-1919. Cab driver in Minneapolis during depression. 544 organizer and strike leader. Shop steward in cab industry. Married, 2 children.

CLARENCE HAMEL

A stalwart of the 544 ranks since 1934. Born in Minnesota, 1909. Truck driver, union steward, 544 organizer. Figured in the great strikes of 1934 and 1936 that ended the open-shop regime in Minneapolis and made it a union town. Married.

EMIL HANSEN

Plasterer, bus driver, truckman. Born in Denmark, 1906. Joined drivers union in 1928. Remained faithful member during the years when Minneapolis unions were weak. With the rise of 544 from 1934 to 1941, he has been one of the most active fighters in the struggle. Union organizer and trustee. Married, 2 children.

CARLOS HUDSON

Born in Minneapolis, 1908. Graduate of the University of Minnesota. Paid his way through college working summers as a freight laborer. Editor of the Northwest Organizer and the Industrial Organizer, 544 official newspapers, and well-known contributor to the national labor press. Married, 2 children.

IN MEMORIAM: GRANT DUNNE

In 1917 the United States went to war. Grant Dunne went overseas, was wounded, gassed, spent months in the hospital close to death. In 1931, the United States plunged into the depression. This time, Grant Dunne went to fight for the working class. He left a good job as an estimating engineer to become a union organizer. In 1941, when the national administration again turned toward war, Grant Dunne was indicted for this trial. The frail physique of the wounded veteran has been exhausted by his heroic union struggles. The return of war and the ordeal of this trial preyed upon his thoughts. He committed suicide on October 4th. Thousands of Minneapolis workers will never forget Grant Dunne's great heart and unselfish spirit.

CONTINUED
ON BACK

56-MINN-11

KARL KUEHN

Engineer and draftsman. Leader and organizer of Minneapolis unemployed. Officer of Federal Workers Section of 544. Delegate to national unemployment and relief conferences. Indicted in 1939 WPA strikes. Born St. Paul, 1894. Married, 7 children.

FELIX MORROW

Born New York, 1907. Graduate of Columbia University. Newspaperman, author, historian. Prominent in the working class political movement since 1928. Member of the defense committee for the Scottsboro boys. In Minneapolis labor activities since 1937. National committeeman, Socialist Workers Party. Married, 1 child.

ROY ORGON

Born 1905, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. Became factory worker at 15. At 18, he protested speedup in the factory. Women workers were dropping exhausted at the machines. Orgon picked up slave-driving superintendent by the heels and dragged him through the plant to the office, demanding improved conditions. Became a Minneapolis truck driver in 1933. A 544 militant since 1934. Married, 4 children.

ALFRED RUSSELL

Helped organize drivers union in Omaha, Nebraska, 1938. Served six months sentence for strike activity in Minneapolis 1939. Upholstery worker, truck driver, factory worker. Born Brooklyn, New York, 1911.

OSCAR SCHOENFELD

Born New York, 1916. College graduate. Machine shop worker. Active in Young People's Socialist League. Organizer Minneapolis unemployed. Convicted in trial of WPA strikers. Married.

Mrs. DOROTHY H. SCHULTZ

Born St. Paul, 1909. Graduate St. Joseph's Academy, St. Catherine's College and University of Minnesota. Member American Federation of Teachers. Secretary, Twin Cities Workers Defense League. Noted speaker and writer. Prominent in fight for improvement of relief to unemployed. Married, one child.

Mrs. ROSE SEILER

Born Duluth, 1906. One of six children in family of extreme poverty. Graduate of University of Minnesota, working her way through as cook and housemaid in private homes. Business Agent of the AFL Office Workers Union, she was expelled on orders of William Green for "CIO sympathies". Married, one child.

HAROLD SWANSON

Born 1911, Bradford, Pa. Graduate Dunwoody Technical Institute. Electrical worker, auto repair man. Like so many workers during the depression he has known what it is to be fired from jobs for putting on a union button. Married, 4 children.

NICK WAGNER

Raised on Chicago's north side. Worked in building trades for more than twenty years. Became organizer for Teamsters more than ten years ago. An active, militant unionist in Chicago, Rockford, Ill., and Minneapolis.

What a Government Witness Says About the Defendants:--

Thomas V. Smith is an ex-official of Dan Tobin's Teamsters Union. The government called him as a witness. They expected that his testimony would help send the defendants to jail. *But here is what Smith said about the defendants:--*

"I saw the good work of Local 544 in Minneapolis. The leaders were labor-minded, they helped out the smaller locals, and they were for the poor. So I figured that if the Socialist Workers Party produced those kind of people, it was good enough for me!"

That's what a TRUTHFUL opponent thinks of the defendants.

What Can You Do To Help?

Spread the word that workers and fighters for the working class are in danger of being railroaded to jail. Spread the word that the democratic rights of all Americans are threatened in this trial. If the defendants are found guilty, it opens the way to more sweeping attacks by the enemies of labor and civil liberties. You and your fellow workers may be next!

Send a Contribution Now!

The treasury of the Defense Committee is almost empty. Funds are needed badly for this crucial trial. Help us now!

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JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman

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Univ. of Minnesota

William Rose Benet

Warren K. Billings

Alice Stone Blackwell

Theodore Brameld

John Chamberlain

Kenneth G. Crawford

Ex-President American

Newspaper Guild-CIO

Elloues Day

Margaret DeSilver

Dr. John Dewey

Prof. Emmett E. Dorsey

Howard University

Zara DuPont

Charles D. Egly

Sec., Farmers Union

Duncan Ferguson

Waldo Frank

Jules Geller

Joseph Gilbert, Sec., Midland

Cooperative Wholesale

Caesar Guazzo

Organizer, Clock Workers

Union-CIO-No. 359

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Prof. E. W. Zabriskie

University of Newark

USE THIS BLANK

Civil Rights Defense Committee

160 Fifth Avenue

New York City

I enclose \$.....for the Defense Fund of the 28
Defendants in the Minneapolis "Conspiracy" Trial.

Name.....

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