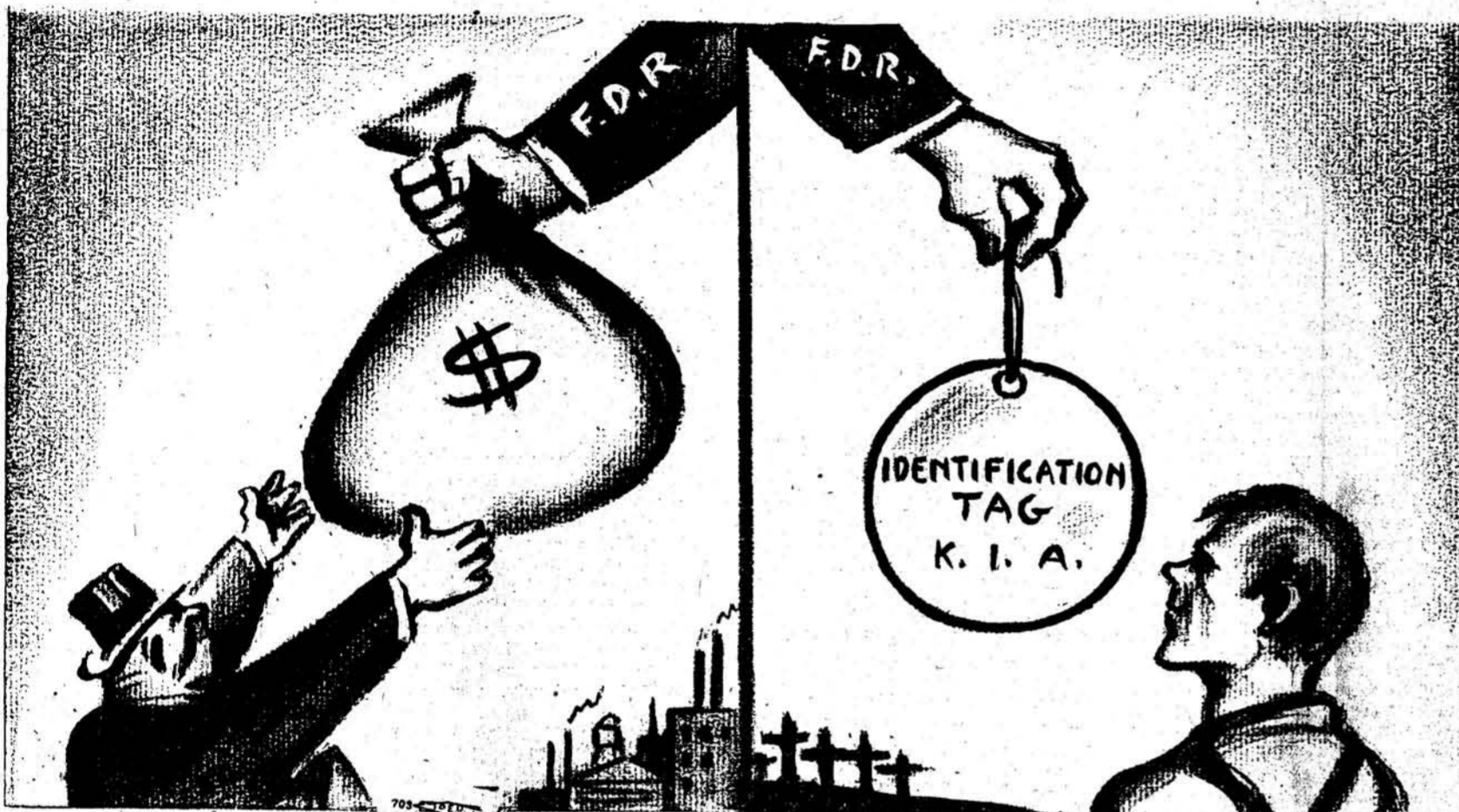


WAR: SHALL ONE MAN DECIDE, OR SHALL THE PEOPLE?

Not a Lease, Not a Loan—But a Gift for Each!



CIO Organization March Has Ford Company on the Run

This Is a Good Time for the Unions to Demand Workers' Control of the War Industries

By JACK WILSON

Henry Ford, once the undisputed czar of a billion dollar industrial empire, today faces a revolt of the men who slaved and toiled to create his wealth and power.

The flivver king was shaken on his open shop throne last week when the federal government finally withheld a war order from him because of his failure to obey labor laws.

The War department didn't suddenly go pro-labor when it gave a \$10,298,128 order for 11,781 trucks to another auto manufacturer. It was trying, under Roosevelt's command, to appease the revolt of the Ford workers.

For the CIO is on the march on the sacred grounds of the River Rouge plants. In union there is strength, Ford workers have learned, and the CIO is the union.

Resentment Flares

CIO pressure forced the government to place the war order elsewhere. And it wasn't the pressure of Sidney Hillman, but rather the pressure ON Sidney Hillman that caused even that worm to turn a little.

Ford was given \$150,000,000 in government contracts without the slightest attention being paid to his violations of the Wagner Act and the Wages and Hours law. Hillman made a formal beef, but actually consented to this procedure.

The Ford workers, however, did not consent. Nor did the autoworkers in general. A national scandal developed. And Ford workers flocked into the autoworkers union.

Such is the forward march of unionism among the Ford workers that a successful strike vote was taken at the Lincoln plant. And CIO members wore their buttons in the shop.

Unless you've ever lived in Detroit it is difficult to appreciate how changed things are when a union man can proclaim himself as one in the Ford factories.

Harry Bennett's goon squads, his spies, his thugs, his city police stooges, his Dearborn city council combined, couldn't create a reign of terror strong enough to hold back the Ford workers. And Mr. Bennett never missed a trick from sluggings to murder of unionists.

Each time that the federal government gave Ford another contract, resentment within the plant flared. And resentment among the entire labor movement flared.

Ford's anti-unionism was too flagrant, his "workers be damned" attitude too provoking, the unrest in Detroit too great for Roosevelt to let the situation get out of hand.

Out on a Limb

Even silver-tongued Roosevelt couldn't sell another "war for democ-

cracy" to the autoworkers if he openly pats Ford on the back and fills his pockets with war profits while Ford lashes the workers in a vicious speed-up system.

Nor could Hillman be taken seriously by anyone except his office boy if he didn't get some kind of a bread crumb to throw the hungry Detroit workers. The Ford scandal was spotlighted too well for old fashioned shenanigans to work.

Besides, Ford had climbed out on the limb too far. During Christmas season, other auto barons had given bonuses of one kind or another to their employees where the CIO was strong.

If Ford gave a bonus it would appear to be a victory for the CIO and it was already too strong among his employees. If Ford didn't give a bonus his employees would resent it,

and the CIO would have another powerful argument for organization. Ford didn't give the bonus.

Ford was on the run. He was forced to rehire many CIO men who had been discharged for wearing their union buttons in the shop. Another victory.

Ford's strategy committee blundered again when it was announced "unofficially" that Ford would never meet with Sidney Hillman to discuss labor policy. (Ford's anti-semitism came to the fore again with that statement).

Pulls a Boner

A friend of Ford's explained that Ford would rather shut down his plants and retire than give in to the "closed shop." Or Ford would

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Brewster Worker Writes on What the Men Want the Union to Do

Lists the Principal Demands of the Workers as Local 365, UAW, Prepares for New Union Election

Dear Brothers:

I have been reading LABOR ACTION'S articles on the Brewster plant in Long Island City regularly. I should therefore like to speak to my fellow workers in the shop and the union through your columns on the problems of our union, Brewster Local 365, UAW-CIO, which will hold its regular election of officers on or about February 20. My views, as I present them here, are shared, I know, by many of the workers in the shop.

The first thing that has to be established is that the union is out of its swaddling clothes. When the last election was held about 400 workers voted. In this election, about 6,000 are expected to vote. In short, the union is now full grown. What then are new problems that face the union? What are the issues in the election? What do the men want?

There are essentially two groups running for office; together they represent the old administration—with new adherents. The present President, Bob Pope, heads one ticket and Tommy DeLorenzo, aircraft organizer for the CIO and chief spokesman for the old administration, heads the other ticket.

The meeting at which the nominations were made was a cut and dried affair. No platform or program stating the aims of either group was or has yet been issued in either written or verbal form. The records of both the main nominees are very similar. They both tried to ram down the throats of the membership the original 60 cents contract. They both thwarted the will of the membership when the men by a majority vote tried to reorganize the Negotia-

tions Committee. DeLorenzo has on his slate the two most unpopular men in the union—Frank Fonte and A. Olerio.

Where They Failed

They share in common the following failures: they have shown a remarkable inability to achieve mild reforms for the men in regard to working conditions, such as ventilation, spraying, etc.; they have been unable or unwilling to draw the men into the activities of the union and they have failed to carry out the by-laws of the union in regard to educating the men in the spirit of industrial unionism and the traditions of the American labor movement.

In fact they represent two cliques with no clear cut policy or real differences. They are anxious to control the union for those eager to become officials and leadmen—as well as for the conservatives. DeLorenzo will try to pose as representing the interests of the new men, with new ideas, etc. But the new men know this to be the bunk—for DeLorenzo shares equal responsibility with President Pope for all the shortcomings of the present administration (and they are plenty).

The nominees are not carrying on a campaign and in general are keeping the men uninformed of the issues in the elections. Is it a wonder then that the men are disappointed in the slates and are indifferent to the elections and outcome? How could it be otherwise?

The method of carrying on the elections is indicative of the methods used to run the union all year round. Is it strange, therefore, that the

They: For "Lend-Lease" Bill We: For the Ludlow Bill

The Lease-Lend Bill is another big step towards plunging the United States into the Second World War.

That's what many of the bill's opponents have already pointed out in the press and at the hearings of the House and Senate Committees.

The Lease-Lend Bill is another big step towards conferring dictatorial powers upon the President in the name of the "defense of democracy."

Opponents of the bill have pointed out that fact, too.

The masses of the people in the United States undoubtedly want to see Hitlerism crushed to ground. They hate totalitarianism and all that it means for their living conditions and their freedom.

At the same time, the people of this country do not want to be tricked or driven into the war. Even the Gallup Poll says, "The latest institute survey on the question of going to war showed 85 per cent opposed, only 15 per cent in favor."

Yet, the Lease-Lend Bill is aimed in reality at accomplishing just what the American people don't want to see done.

On the pretext of promoting the fight against Hitlerism, the bill actually promotes the concentration of dictatorial powers such as no President ever enjoyed before.

On the pretext of keeping the United States out of the war, it gives the President even more power than he already has to put the country into the war without bothering about the will of the people, or even the will of Congress.

The bill is, therefore another proof of what we have been saying from the beginning. This is not a war for Democracy and against Fascism. Moreover, the deeper the "Democracies" get into the war the further they move in the direction of wiping out Democracy and instituting totalitarianism.

BOTH the Administration AND its opponents are FOR the war and for "aid" to the British Empire. Even the staunchest Republican and Democratic critics of the Lease-Lend Bill are nevertheless in favor of lending Britain billions of dollars.

Why? Because—so they say—Britain is fighting "our battle." It is fighting for "our way of life," for "Democracy," for the "rule of the people."

Well, if this is a people's war, a democratic war, why aren't the people given the right to decide democratically whether they are for the United States getting into the war or not?

The masses of the people do the suffering and the fighting and the dying in the war.

Instead of a bill that puts the decision of War-or-Peace into the hands of one man (even if he were the "best man" in the world), the majority of the American people want the right to make that life-and-death decision themselves.

On more than one occasion it has been demonstrated that the people of the United States want A NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON WAR.

Several times, the Ludlow Bill, providing at least in part for such a popular, democratic referendum, has been before Congress. It is also before this session of Congress.

DEMAND ITS ADOPTION IMMEDIATELY! THE PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE BY THEIR OWN VOTES ON THE VITAL QUESTION OF WAR! WHOEVER SEEKS TO DENY THE PEOPLE THIS RIGHT SHOWS HE IS NOT FIGHTING DICTATORSHIP AND IS NOT INTERESTED IN DEMOCRACY!

Not the War-Dictatorship Lease-Lend Bill—But the Ludlow Bill!

THE WORLD AT WAR

Sees Handwriting on Wall As Masses Show Signs of Revolt in Warring Nations

By MAX STERLING

From the small town of Rakek, on the Italian-Yugoslavian border, comes the report that Italian Fascist militia fired on demonstrating and striking workmen at the Lloyd Triestino workshops at Trieste and that there were casualties among the militia and workers. The demonstrations are reported to have started when the workmen arrived for work on the morning of January 27. One group of workers refused to enter the shops and congregated outside, exhorting their fellow workmen to strike, and shouting, "Down with Germany!" and "Down with the war!" One of the workers who ridiculed Mussolini and assumed a pose and a speech like his, was shot down by a soldier guardsman, who in turn was attacked by the workers. This story is reported to come from an Italian worker who left Trieste right after the clash.

Fascist censorship makes it impossible to know how true this story is. The same thing can be said of the reports by American correspondents about the rioting between the Italian people and the German troops and Italian Fascist militiamen in Turin and Milan. However, the hysterical wrath that these reports engendered in the Fascist authorities, and their haste in organizing mass "loyalty" demonstrations in these cities, looks suspiciously like a case of protesting too much.

What is absolutely undeniable, since there has been more than enough evidence of it, is that the morale of the long suffering Italian workers and peasants is way down. The defeats suffered by Mussolini's legions on all the war fronts, resulting in enormous casualties added to already unbearable sufferings of the people, is such that the fascist

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Cleveland Unions Block Street Barricades Law

Business Men Seek Anti-Picket Ordinance as Local Strikes Mount

Special to Labor Action

CLEVELAND, Jan. 31—The reactionary Republican city administration of Cleveland, under Mayor Blythin, recently proposed an ordinance which would provide for the fencing off of public streets around factories working on government orders. This measure is supposed to guard plants against "sabotage." But it was very clear that this legislation, if enacted, would prohibit the distribution of leaflets and picketing during an industrial dispute.

The originators of this ordinance are Cleveland's bankers and industrialists, trying to guard their profits against the increasing militancy of

Cleveland labor. Among the first corporations applying for this right was the Thompson Products Co., which pays lower wages than unionized plants in that industry, and where, incidentally, the UAW-CIO is conducting an organization drive.

Introduction of this strike-breaking ordinance brought immediate protest from both CIO and AFL unions, and only their pressure brought about a "deferral" of its enactment. The bosses want its passage in order to stave off strikes, which are growing in numbers.

The following strikes are now in progress: Approximately 700 members of the AFL machinists' union are entering

know whether the union leaders are going to fight for a general increase of at least five cents an hour, or will they have to go begging individually to each leadman. The union should get every man an automatic increase of 5 cents an hour in April.

Better conditions—fit for people to work in. Decent ventilation, lockers, etc. An end to the spraying that endangers workers' health. The men ask: Brother officials, please don't worry about how much it will cost the company.

Participation of more rank and file men in carrying out the activities of the union. At present, officials have three and four jobs apiece. The

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