

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HARVEST CONVENTION

By E. F. DOREF

For the purpose of effecting an organization among the migratory workers, the ninth annual convention issued a call to all locals in the Harvest Belt of America to have delegates to a conference to be held in Kansas City, April 17.

The day has come and gone. So that the workers may know the results of the preliminary work organizing them into the One Big Union, the proceedings of the convention are given here.

The convention was called to order by General Executive Board Member A. C. Christ, at 9:30 a. m. As soon as the delegates had taken their places, he read a communique from General Secretary-Treasurer, Wm. D. Haywood, wishing the conference success.

In a short opening talk Fellow Worker Christ referred to the conference as "an epoch making move on the part of the working class."

Fellow Worker Boone was elected temporary chairman and the gavel was turned over to him by Fellow Worker Christ. Fellow Worker Ford was elected temporary recording secretary.

Fellow Workers Gordon, Franklin and McGuckin were given the acclamation to serve as a credential committee.

At this point the convention adjourned for thirty minutes to give the credentials committee time to do their work.

When the meeting was called to order by Chairman Boone, the credentials committee reported that the following delegates were admitted to take part in the proceedings:

- Joe Gordon, Local 577, Des Moines.
- H. E. McGuckin, Local 66, Fresno.
- F. Franklin, Local 21, Portland.
- W. F. Welsh, Local 61, Kansas City.
- Austin Niedzielski, Local 69 Salt Lake.
- Jack Law, Local 173, San Francisco.
- Arthur Boone, Local 64, Minneapolis.
- Emil Schwandt, Local 92 Portland.
- W. J. Ford, Local 61 Kansas City.
- George Fenton, Credentials Delegation, reported by the L. B. W. A.

It was moved and seconded that permanent chairman of the Harvest Worker Law was elected. Christ was elected permanent recording secretary.

Welsh, Boone and Franklin were elected as a resolution committee. Gordon, Law and Niedzielski were elected on the ways and means committee.

On the organization committee were elected Boone, Schwandt and Franklin.

The resolutions from the different locals were then read and referred to the proper committee.

The conference adjourned at 11:30 p. m. to convene at 10 p. m. On April 22:30 the convention was called to order by Chairman Law. A roll call was taken, and an ab-

sent and Alternate Delegate Fredericks, of L. O. 61 took the place of Welsh, who was sick.

The resolutions committee reported as not concurring in the creating of a permanent Harvest Workers' Organization at this time, but invited a discussion of the matter by the delegates. The report was tabulated.

A motion was made and seconded that we create a Harvest Workers' Organization. The motion was amended to read that we create an Agricultural Workers' Organization.

After a lengthy discussion a roll call vote was taken and the amendment was unanimously carried.

It was moved and seconded that an initiation fee of one dollar per member be levied. The roll call vote read two dollars. The amendment carried. Fredericks and Ford voted in the negative. It was suggested at the time that all Local Unions in the Agricultural Districts increase their initiation fee to two dollars.

The matter was then taken up which called for the extensive use of appropriate stickers in the harvesting season.

A sticker was then designed as being appropriate and called for more about two dollars better food or sabotage.

The roll call was unanimous in favor of the stickers.

It was then moved and seconded that the increase of some eight hour buttons for use in the harvest.

Before a vote could be taken 5 o'clock having come, the conference was adjourned until 9 a. m., April 16.

The conference was called to order by Chairman Law at 9:30. All delegates present except McGuckin and Christ. The matter of having an eight hour button for the harvest was taken up and it was decided to amend to surrender to the strike and voted in favor except Boone and Schwandt. The following resolution was then adopted:

"The organization shall be known as the Agricultural Workers' Organization of the I. W. W. and shall be composed of all local unions whose members work in the agricultural districts of the United States and Canada." The resolution was adopted to create the office of a General Secretary-Treasurer, who shall receive \$200 per week and railroad fare. The resolution further provides that he shall receive one dollar per week until the harvest commences. It was then agreed to elect a recording secretary and to be employed to select field delegates. It was known that the following were elected:

Paragraph (a) The local unions shall nominate such members as they see fit to be delegates.

Paragraph (b) The secretary of the local union shall send names of all nominees to the General Secretary-Treasurer.

Paragraph (c) The General Secretary-Treasurer of the A. W. O. shall send names of delegates to the convention.

mean business the bulls retreated. They opened their jaws and bit another cell and the thugs ordered them to come out, they refused to move and then the battle was on. This is how they were lined up—nine revolutionaries against ten thugs, and against 12 gunmen fully armed, and with some of the city officials urging them on. In the first ten minutes after being kicked in the stomach, was carried out; then an interval of two minutes. Next a attack started with one bull who testified for Chief Doreff, who was then clubbed by another bull, who testified against Pierce. Then Fellow Worker Horn was grabbed, badly beaten up and is now in the city hospital. During the mixup, as Horn was being dragged out, the bottles came into play and two more bulls were picked off. Capt. Doreff, your class needs you.

A few of the towns where we must have delegates are, Turlock, Fresno, Newman, Merced, Patterson, Okdale, Los Banos, Firebaugh, Modesto, Visalia, Selma, Lodi, Riverdale, Hanford, Tulare, Porterville, Corcoran, Geary, Lenore, McFarland, Wasco and Bakersfield. Get on the job and keep the One Big Union ball a rolling.

E. G. Flynn Meeting May 10.—Book for the Elizabeth Gurley Flynn meeting to be held in Fresno, May 10th. Send in your reservations for tickets Now. Let us make this the biggest and best meeting that has ever been pulled off by the One Big Union in Fresno.

Publicity Committee, Local 66

I. W. W.'S BATTLE BULLS IN SIOUX CITY JAIL

The free speech fighters at Sioux City, a short time before their case had a battle royal with the bulls at the city jail. Under date of April 17, we have a detailed account of the affair, from which we take the following extracts:

"We have now 82 men in jail, divided into groups. The much-talked-of rock pile is existing, but there is no one working on it. Last Wednesday two bulls came here and took twelve of our members down to the rock pile, but of course 'nobody' blows. The boys then went to the city jail and again the bulls came taking twelve more; they refused to work. Then under the supervision of Acting Chief Richards the thugs clubbed the fellow workers, punched them, and so on, until they worked. The second group were then taken to the city jail besides the others, where they are now standing solidly on a 'hunger strike.' This stunt brought the city fathers to their knees begging the boys to eat. Councilman Smith bought a big, substantial meal for each of the boys, but they refused it."

"The only thing of importance the next day was the burning of 20 loaves of bread in one of the cells here, where the fire company was putting out the fire the boys addressed the crowd of a few hundred through the bars."

"Next day, Friday, 12 big, burlap gunnys were taken to the jail, where we are forty strong and ordered 12 I. W. W. men to come out. We positively refused, and seeing that we

HOW IS HAVING HARD TIMES

Eastern Convention of Brotherhood Welfare Association Follows Frisco in Turning Down 'Millionaire Hobo.'

(Baltimore Sun, April 13)

Rampant, "direct-action" radical steam-rollered James Eads How out of his job as chief boss of the hoboes, for a time at least, and capped his chairmanship of the 12th Eastern Conference of the International Brotherhood Welfare Association at its afternoon session yesterday at the Holiday Street Theatre.

While the "Millionaire Hobo" was arranging for lunch and other matters and temporarily absent from the front of the theatre, a motion was made and carried to elect James Scott, of Philadelphia, as chairman. Against loud protests and amid much wrangling, the motion was carried.

Scott took the gavel and the chair in spite of the loud radical wing. He was flanked on the one side by the deeply dusky Ben Fletcher, of Philadelphia, and on the other by a partial expert for the chairman, a "Sixty" man, named C. D. Harvey, the secretary.

SMILES AND KEEPS ON

When How returned he took the matter good-naturedly, smiled amiably at the men who presented the matter of eminent and continued to talk at intervals and assumed dictatorial every now and then. He was flanked on the one side by the deeply dusky Ben Fletcher, of Philadelphia, and on the other by a partial expert for the chairman, a "Sixty" man, named C. D. Harvey, the secretary.

Wilson's letter to waste basket

Almost continual clashes between the radicals and the milder wing represented by How occurred at both sessions. When How read President Wilson's courteous letter of regret to him, a motion was made to throw the letter into the waste basket, but as to whether the motion was carried or suspended upon the view of the delegates. How declared it lost, but that it was not a matter of record.

When Mr. How announced that he had received a letter from Governor Goldoburn saying that he could not present the matter, it was passed by with apparent indifference.

REVOLVERS ARE AFTER MR. HOW'S SCALP

The revolvers are after Mr. How's scalp as head of the organization and threats are being made against what they propose to do. Their expressions are being heard for the first time since they were first heard.

Mr. How's amiability and forgiving tolerance are remarkable.

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WANTED 200 CAMP DELEGATES

By Local 66, Fresno, California.

Stay in California and help organize the harvest workers, the time is ripe. Alfalfa hay will be in full blast by May 1st and will be immediately followed by the orange train harvest that the San Joaquin Valley has ever seen. Local 66 wants at least one camp delegate in every town, and on every hay baling and threshing outfit in this valley. Help us to be heard.

Have your own committee card application 'Get busy.' Put in your application for camp delegates. Don't delay your class needs you.

A few of the towns where we must have delegates are, Turlock, Fresno, Newman, Merced, Patterson, Okdale, Los Banos, Firebaugh, Modesto, Visalia, Selma, Lodi, Riverdale, Hanford, Tulare, Porterville, Corcoran, Geary, Lenore, McFarland, Wasco and Bakersfield. Get on the job and keep the One Big Union ball a rolling.

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Publicity Committee, Local 66

GREAT STRIDES OF OIL INDUSTRY

Rapidly Advancing to a Pre-eminent Position Over Coal Mining.

(Special to Solidarity)

Spokane, Wash., April 13.

It is certain that oil is pre-eminent developing over coal as a fuel for power purposes, and much faster than can be conceived by the average worker in the latter industry. Already its effects are being felt by the great coal mines of the Pacific coast especially, as can be noticed by an article in the Seattle Times of April 11, which says in part that they have already been forced to close down one of the oldest mines and in King county, Wash., on account of the extent that oil is being used as fuel for power, and gas for cooking purposes.

That oil is displacing coal there is a question as to how it has been doing so for a long time. When the oil was first used in the oil fields of California in 1912, there were two most important occurrences:

1. The large Standard Oil Co. caused to be shut down some of the largest wells of the world and shipped carload after carload of drillers and tool dressers to China and other countries for the purpose of exploring the foreign oil fields, or rather the foreigner how to do it himself.

2. A 50,000,000 barrel contract was made with the government to one of the large firms that furnish oil for the U. S. navy.

Already they are developing the science in Washington, and it means, which goes to show that oil will be used extensively on land as well as in the mines. The Forest and N. P. railroads are now using oil with the development of new drills and pumps the oil magnates will be the first to move it. The different companies will have to furnish this oil and this end will compete with one another, selling their oil as cheaply as possible to win the different contracts. And all this means the wages down to a mere pittance to do it.

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DETROIT BOSSES AFRAID OF I. W. W.

Their Stools Do Everything Possible to Interfere With Success of Flynn Meeting. Some Inside Dope on Ford's

(Special to Solidarity)

Detroit, Mich., April 18.

On March 17, G. A. R. hall was rented for the Gurley Flynn meeting, April 16, and a deposit of \$5 paid to the vice president and secretary-treasurer of the association. The meeting was advertised at no other meeting of the I. W. W. local had been. Result: advertising leaflets arrested by cops, and a letter received by the secretary of the local asking him to call for the deposit, as "under no circumstances could the hall be had to hold an I. W. W. meeting. Nothing could change their attitude, so we had to look for another hall. Arbelter Hall was negotiated for and the meeting was held there. When committee went there to make final arrangements, it was told that hall was engaged. Again the chase for a hall. Meiers' Hall, seating only 300 people, was the only one available."

It was hired and advertising gotten out again. All this had to be done within one week.

On the night of the meeting we had some boys in the hall. A. R. and Arbelter Halls. Some of the boys got arrested and were kept until the meeting was shut over. Over the meeting hall four autos with many cops were in places. These are the facts, and comment is not necessary to show that free speech as interpreted by previous free speech fight, does not mean the liberty to say, To hell with wage slavery. Local 16 will not be forced into a fight, but we will use different tactics than have been used in previous free speech fight. No filling of jail with live wires; no presumption that the meeting will kick on the amount spent to give the men in jail the bread and water cure.

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A WONDERFUL LABOR LAW

This year a new law abolishing private employment agencies has been passed through the initiative and referendum, by direct vote of the people, of the state of Washington.

This law was hailed by the A. F. of L. and socialism as a great victory for labor at the polls. It was pointed out to all and sundry, that henceforth, no species of the genus "shark" through the initiative and referendum, would be able to follow his nefarious calling of preying upon the necessity of workmen. The state, they said, would now look after the needs of workers in search of employment and it (the state) would be the man's job. Roseate pictures were drawn of the benefits that would accrue to the workers from this law, which was held up to the admiring gaze of the workers as a shining example of what labor united at the polls could do.

How has this wonderful law worked? Has it done away with the employment agents? The truth must be told, though the heavens fall. It has done away with the employment "sharks" (a few of them). It has done away with the smaller fry and left in control a few of the bigger fellows who bring ruin of the competition of the small fry, are reaping more profits now than ever.

The law prohibits the existence of agents who charge fees for jobs. Hence there are no jobs sold. How then do they continue to make money? Very simple is the way they have extorting the "mazzuma" from the slaves. The heathen Chinese had nothing on these sharks. Here is their modus operandi. They get a permit from the city to run a "free" employment agency; then they open in connection with their agency a pool room, a restaurant, or a cigar stand, and in Seattle, I am told, some of them have a rooming house.

If a slave wants a job, he does not buy the job—that would be unlawful—and he does not buy it as ever, yet accused the slaves or even the employment shark of being anything but law-abiding citizens. No, he does not buy a job. But he plays a game of pool, which will ordinarily only cost him 5 cents; but such is the generosity of the slave and so great is his poverty that the poverty of the employment shark, that he voluntarily gives the shark all the way from a dollar to three dollars for a 6-cent game of pool. And so great is the gratitude of the shark at this unexampled generosity that he, with tears of love in his eyes, and many expressions of appreciation, voluntarily without a cent of cost, gives to the sucker a job or information whereby he can obtain a job.

Legally, there is no buying or selling of jobs. There are other ways by which the wonderful law is evaded. Here in Spokane the N. P. Employment Agency sells a patent shovel guard (a piece of iron bent in two to protect your shoes when tamping ties) for a dollar, that costs about one-fourth of a cent to make. With every shovel guard you get a job free, or you buy a cigar or some tobacco, or you go into a restaurant and for 15 or 10-cent meal they'll charge you with 22 worth of meals, or you'll get a room for \$1.50 or \$2.00 that generally costs 25 cents. With any of these you get a free job. Understand, you are not buying a job; you are buying shovel guards, cigars, tobacco, or a meal, or paying for a room, or for a game of pool.

And here is the rub: Under the old law, a workman who bought a job and found out there was no job, or that conditions were not as had been stated, had some little chance of getting his money back and a little for his time and labor. But now, after the wonderful law advocated and put through by the friends of labor, the worker has absolutely no legal redress at all, since now, if he goes out to a job given him (not sold) by the sharks, and said job does not exist, or the conditions are not as stated, the slave cannot recover, as he did not buy a job. He bought a shovel guard, a cigar, a meal, or a room, or he played a game of pool.

The result of such a law is the concentration of the employment business into the hands of a few. The halcyon days of the employment agents, when all a man needed to set up in that business was a piece of chalk and a blackboard, and enough money to rent a hole in the wall have passed. Now you take a large amount of capital is necessary to set up in the shark business. For such a slave cannot recover the useful paraphernalia (pool tables, restaurants, rooming houses, etc.) to evade the law. And, finally, after passing this law, no appropriation was granted to open and maintain state employment offices, nor was any provision made to prosecute violators of said law, which is why it is so believed that the big fellows among the employment agents must have had a well organized gang lobbying for this same law.

RICHARD BRAZIER

Chicago's Big Lockout-- Other News And Views

Chicago's army of building trade workers, 135,000 strong, is now engaged in the class war...

Did you notice how high Bethlehem steel stock went a soaring? And did you notice how high wages taking any similar aeroplane flights into the heavens...

Ye gods, what a sight Meyer London, Herman Schleuter and other New York socialists present, urging a general strike to end the war...

The United Hebrew Trades, claimed to represent 250,000 organized Jewish workmen and women, have been suspended from the United Federation of New York City...

Some queer tactics are employed to meet the present situation. The Lithuanian press is busy circulating the patent falsehood that the I. W. W. has issued a resolution...

A Switzerland correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune writes from Basle, under date of March 30, declares: "The German government makes continual appeals for national unity and the solidarity of the German people..."

The fancy tissue paper industry is practically monopolized by the Dennison Mfg. Co. of Boston, Mass. This corporation has announced an expansion plan with radical departures from all its predecessors...

How is it that no workmen have ever been heard in public in praise of the profit sharing plans of the United Fruit Corporation and the Ford Automobile Co.?

How is it that men like Geo. Ferris, a steel trader, should come into the public limelight and attempt to prove that he is a good one, while Mr. Ford tells a U. S. commissioner that there can't possibly be anything but a strike in this testimony so disinterested as to be of any value?

We'd like to hear what the organized steel workers have to say about this subject, those 200,000 men and women who are watched by 8,000 corporation police and spies. And we'd like to hear what Mr. Ford's tens of thousands of efficient, paternalized workers. Surely they could give some light on this topic--if they dared to stand ready to lose their jobs.

In the meanwhile, Frank Tammenbaum and the other I. W. W. members are being kept busy...

after the latter's address on profit sharing before the Church of the Messiah open forum...

We do not know of any articles in current literature which impressed us so much recently as those on private property, by Scott Nearing, published in the University of Pennsylvania, in the March and April issues of the Socialist Review.

We hope that Solidarity will be able at some future time to reprint both of these articles in full. They deserve the widest circulation possible, because they show the automatic absorption of wealth and power in this country by the owners of property.

The passage of the Bowley Cannery bill by both houses at Albany, N. Y., permitting owners of canneries to work more than a seventy-two-hour-a-week instead of making them comply with the fifty-hour standard...

The resolution next taken up provided that the duties of the organizing committee shall be to investigate the records of all candidates for the office of Mayor of New York City...

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The crimes of capital are many. Capitalists misappropriate the funds of railroad in their own use. They depreciate stocks and swindle minority stockholders. They defraud the government out of income, property and customs taxes.

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(Continued From Page 1)

the names of all nominees to among the migratory workers." A communication from the General Headquarters regarding financial support of a nominating committee...

The credentials committee reported that it had received a letter from the I. W. W. of San Francisco, California, as fraternal delegate from the I. W. W. of San Francisco...

The next resolution was, "There shall be elected by the delegates to the convention, a General Executive Committee, consisting of five members, who shall be elected from the membership of the I. W. W."

Paragraphs (d) and (e) of resolution No. 6 were taken up and carried. It was then moved and seconded that the organizing committee shall be to investigate the records of all candidates for the office of Mayor of New York City...

Resolution No. 12, that will become famous, was then adopted after the delegates had agreed to pick out the best locations in the harvest belt where delegates could do the most effective work.

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Resolution No. 24 read: "That an extensive agitation be carried on by the working class and such action by the unemployed workers to force a mobilization of the public..."

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Moved and seconded that the secretary of the I. W. W. have his weekly financial report sent to the General Headquarters of the I. W. W. and have it run on the mimeograph and have sufficient copies furnished to all delegates and local union secretaries in the harvest belt...

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Moved and seconded, "There shall be elected, by the delegates to act in case Nef declined. Nef was elected. Boose was elected to act in case Nef declined. Moved and seconded, "There shall be elected, by the delegates to act in case Nef declined."

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Industrial Union Literature

The following is a list of the literature we have in stock at this time in quantities sufficiently large enough to insure immediate delivery.

The Trial of A New Society

By Justus Ebert. In this book Fellow Worker Ebert gives the best exposition of the constructive and social philosophy of the I. W. W. as it has yet appeared in print. It is not a work of fiction nor of speculation, but a matter-of-fact practical treatment of recent phases of the industrial, social and political life...

The New Unionism

A CLEAR statement of the philosophy and practice of Syndicalism, its history and present status all over the world. Every member of the I. W. W. should have a copy of this book for their own information and to meet the assertions of others as to the status of Industrial Unionism in the different foreign countries. Endorsed and recommended by Tom Mann and other authorities of their respective countries as being historically correct. 200 Pages. Cloth \$1.10, Postage Prepaid. Paper. . . . 30c

Eleven Blind Leaders

By B. H. Williams. DEALS with "Legislators", "Bureaucrats" and "Bureaucrats". 32 page pamphlet; 10c a copy; per hundred, \$3.50

The Advancing Proletariat

By Abner E. Woodruff. A STUDY of the movement of the working class from Wage Slavery to freedom. Price 10c a copy; per hundred, \$3.50

Mr. Block Cartoons

By Ernest Ribbe. 84 page pamphlet of the famous Block cartoons as appeared in the Industrial Worker. Per hundred \$8.00; per copy . . . 15c

One Big Union In The Textile Industry

By Ewald Koestgen. ATTRACTIVELY printed in two colors, with illustrations. Price 5c; per hundred, \$3.50

The Farm Laborer And The City Worker

By Edward McDonald. GOOD propaganda for harvest "striffs" and city slaves. Price 5c; per hundred, \$2.50

Complete Stenographic Report

OF THE Eighth Annual Convention of the Industrial Workers of the World. Large volume, 164 pages, 10 x 13, Price \$1.00 a copy.

Bound Files Of Solidarity

THE first four years of Solidarity, 205 issues in all, street and hall meetings, one volume. A very few left at \$10.00, carriage prepaid.

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NOW Enlarged to 64 pages with all of the good old songs and many new ones. Eighth--Special Joe Hill Edition. 50c for a dozen; \$5.00 a dozen; \$36.00 a thousand

One Big Union Banner

A large I. W. W. Pennant, fine quality of red felt with the working "One Big Union" and emblem done in three beautiful and durable colors. Price 25c each

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THE designs are lithographed at great expense in many beautiful and durable colors. The pictures or posters are 16x22 inches. Price of the post cards is 2c each, 15c per dozen; 70c per hundred. Either one design or four assorted.

Industrial Unionism And The I. W. W.

A 16-page booklet full of convincing facts; price 2c; per hundred \$1.00. How To Overcome The High Cost of Living--By T. F. Dougherty. BY means of the "One Big Union" 16 pages; price 2c; per hundred \$1.00

Quantity Price of Leaflets 15c per 100; \$1.25 per 1,000

Is The I. W. W. Anti-Political? Union Scabs And Others By Justus Ebert. Political Parties And The I. W. W. By Vincent St. John

War And The Workers By Walker C. Smith. Getting Recognition By A. M. Burton. Lake Marine Workers Appeal To Wage Workers By E. S. Nelson. Why The A. F. of L. Cannot Become An Industrial Union By Vincent St. John

Why The A. F. of L. Cannot Become An Industrial Union By Vincent St. John. Why The A. F. of L. Cannot Become An Industrial Union By Vincent St. John

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HOW IS HAVING HARD TIMES

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"Oh, they are fine fellows," he says, "they are only a little excited. A resolution was then adopted by the delegates and secretaries of local unions at all times. Resolution No. 24 read: "That an extensive agitation be carried on by the working class and such action by the unemployed workers to force a mobilization of the public..."

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