

## The 150Yr. FIGHT For AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISM

### ARTICLE 6

(This is the last in a series of thumb-nail sketches on the struggle of the American workers to establish their organizations. We hope you have liked them.)

#### The Birth of Industrial Unionism

Only a few years after the foundation of the A. F. of L. the increasing trustification of industry made the necessity for industrial organization in the new mass production industries more apparent. The A. F. of L., however, formed to secure better working conditions for the skilled workers in the face of the onslaught of the trusts, would have no part in the new type of organization that some advanced workers were proposing. In the early 1900's an organization was formed to promote the idea of industrial unionism that was to have an important place in labor history—the Industrial Workers of the World, better known as the I.W.W.

#### Led Many Battles

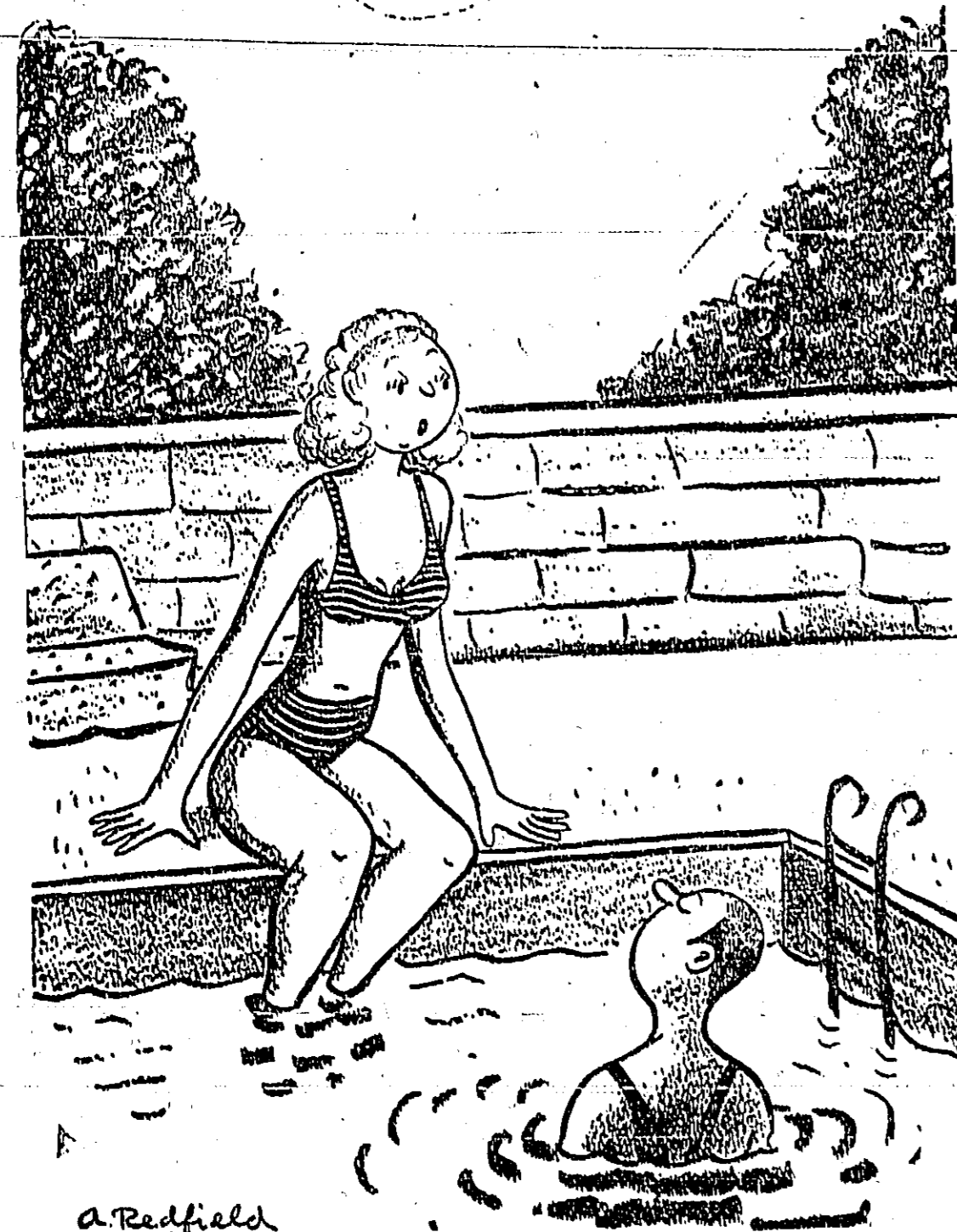
The I.W.W. organized and led many struggles of the Western miners, lumbermen, the Eastern textile workers, and made important advances among the steel workers. The "Wobblies" were rough and ready men for the most part but they were loyal to the labor movement and even died for their loyalty. During the World War they were finally broken up as an organization by means of frame-ups, lynchings, and other legal and extra-legal actions. But the I.W.W. proved that industrial unionism was a definite possibility. The I.W.W. had to their credit the great Lawrence, Mass., textile strike, in 1912, the miners' strike at Goldfield, Neb., in 1907, and a few other famous actions of the mass production workers that demonstrated conclusively their militancy and ability.

#### Final Showdown

All attempts to organize industrially within the A. F. of L. failed because of the opposition of the leadership. In the 1920's many workers were expelled from the Federation for fighting for the new type of organization. The craft system of organization had failed miserably in the steel strike of 1919 and in many other instances. The progressive forces within the A. F. of L. fought on, however, until finally in 1935 they succeeded in getting a committee appointed to organize the unorganized—the Committee for Industrial Organization. The committee did such a good job that it was bounced out of the Federation. The Congress of Industrial Organizations was then formed in 1937 and stands today as the C.I.O., the Unions of all the mass production workers in America. We all know of the bitter battles of the C.I.O. and its victories over reaction.

The war has to some extent healed the rift in the labor movement and it is hoped that the end of the war will see all American labor united under one banner. The fight for real democracy, begun 150 years ago by labor, must continue until final victory.

#### THE UPPER CRUST



"I'm not going to join the WAC—they said I couldn't be a major."

**Have You Contributed  
Your 10% This Week?**

#### STEEL WORKERS DEMAND MORE WAR WORK



Members of the United Steelworkers (CIO) parade past the American Steel Foundry Co. in East St. Louis, Ill., in protest against management's refusal to work the plant at more than 50% capacity.



## SPORT - - SPARKS

#### Official Opener Rained Out

The official opening of the Union ball team scheduled for last Sunday was postponed on account of rain. The tickets bought for this game will be used on Sunday, June 21, also against the Thelens. It was tough to see the rain come down, just when we had fixed up some elaborate arrangements for the opening with the mayor throwing out the ball.

#### Oh, Yes! . . . About That Last Game

Without seeming too apologetic, we do want to say that while our three losses to date do not look so hot for a starter, two of those losses have been at the hands of the K.C.'s—the hottest team in town. The real answer is that Buck Ewing is still experimenting with combinations, trying to find the best one that clicks. We have a brand new team, but when Bucky gets set . . . well, watch out! Gee, don't we sound just like the Dodgers?

## Labor Proves Good Faith Even To Labor Haters

WASHINGTON (FP)—Attacks on labor-management committees, now functioning in 800 plants, as a means whereby labor would usurp management functions were entirely unjustified, an unsolicited survey submitted to the War Production Board here shows.

The survey, based on a study of 88 representative plants, shows that the production committees are speeding up output of war goods and are being used by labor in a "sincere effort to increase production."

#### Survey Made by Employers

The study was made by Mill & Factory, a publication edited by Hartley W. Barclay who has been a fierce opponent of the National Labor Relations Act and the source of many of the unfounded attacks directed at the National Labor Relations Board.

Asked whether labor has "to date used these meetings in a sincere effort to increase production," 74% of the firms surveyed answered "yes"; 81% said "no" while 18 percent were not able to tell.

#### Good Faith Demonstrated

Evidence of labor's good faith was contained in the 87% who said "no" when asked whether any attempt has been made by labor to use the committee as a means of encroaching on management functions while 95% said there had been no attempt to change the function of the committee into a bargaining unit.

"Has any attempt been made by labor to suggest to employees that this plan is actually an adaptation of the Murray management labor (industry council) plan?" the editors asked.

"No," said 89% while only six per cent said "yes". The survey found that in 72% of the plants the chairman of the committee represented the management. Only in 14% were the chairmen from the labor group while in the other 14% there were co-chairmen or alternate chairmen for each meeting. The names of the firms participating were not revealed.

"All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other." — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—Local 301-CIO



Vol. 4

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. — JUNE 24, 1942

No. 7

## EXTRA! Sales Tax Killed

The sales tax proposal of the National Assn. of Manufacturers was killed in the House Ways and Means Committee. The action taken by the anti-labor Congressmen in the committee came only after terrific pressure from the American people who are determined to win the war without any sabotage from poll-tax or N. A. M. Congressmen.

The labor unions accounted for the greater part of the organized protest showered on Congress. Our Local 301 was right in the fight. Our Legislative Committee has been on the job constantly, organizing protest campaign among the workers in the plant. And if anybody has any doubt as to whether legislative activity is important, let him look at the victories we have won. First the defeat of the Smith Bill and now the sales tax. Not bad!

#### Crowther Says He Ain't Heard Nothin'

We have it on good authority that Crowther says that he received no protest against the sales tax from Schenectady; he just worked to have it killed all by himself. If Crowther didn't get any protests from us then he either can't read or the Post Office and the telegraph companies have stopped service. Or maybe the old boy's just trying to be funny.

## Union Requests Consumer Center

#### Asks Consumer Protection Committee For Action

Action on the setting up of a Consumer Center which was O.K'd by the Executive Board some time ago has been held off pending the forthcoming meeting of the Consumer Protection Committee which was organized by the Defense Council. A memorandum has been sent to the Consumer Protection Committee explaining our position on the matter and calling for the immediate formation of such a center. The letter in part follows:

"A Consumer's Center can serve as a prime instrument for carrying on the offensive against inflation. Through it, O.P.A. can reach the people directly with basic consumer information. In turn, the center can be the link directly connecting the people with the O.P.A.

"The Center should be the place where complaints against ceiling violations can be reported, and where neighborhood and city-wide price ceiling ranges can be posted.

"The campaign on nutrition and against wasteful buying can be organized and carried right to the people. Methods of accomplishing this would include such activities as arranging displays, demonstrations, distribution of literature, setting up training centers and training speakers for use in organizing neighborhood groups. Such a campaign would help people to save in the long run and leave a surplus for War Bonds, and other financial assistance to the War effort."

## Conference On Rents Called

In order to thresh out the important question of the rent freezing ruling now going into effect, the Union is calling a conference of landlords at the CIO Hall on Monday evening, June 29. The conference will take the form of an open hearing with the purpose in mind of working out some solution to the problem of the small landlords who have not been guilty of profiteering but who have made small increases to cover the increased taxes, etc.

The Education Committee of the Union intends to contact OPA Director Christie this week to check on the actual situation in the city. The Union has not been responsible for setting any deadline but it does support action against the profiteering that has occurred during the last year. The big real estate boys have been responsible for most of it, however.

## Dance for Service Men This Thursday

The Ladies' Auxiliary, in conjunction with the Union Victory Committee and with the cooperation of the girls of Industrial Control, Vacuum Tube and Weber, is giving a dance on Thursday at the Union Hall for the soldiers at the Schenectady and Albany depots.

The dance for the men in uniform run by the Weber girls two weeks ago was such a success that the Victory Committee, Pat Vottis, chairman, has started a series of such evenings for the army boys. The Arrangements Committee of the Weber affair is back on the job assisting their less experienced sisters. They are Paula Palucis, Bernice Kozak, Dorothy Wright, Helen Sokolowski. The rest of the committee for Thursday night's shindig is composed of Miss A. Gregory, Miss H. Morawski from I.C., and Theresa Basil and Emily Bowdlen from Vacuum Tube. The Ladies' Auxiliary is represented by Mrs. Leland Bellinger and Mrs. Pat Vottis.

## THE MILLION DOLLAR CIGARS

A G.E. pensioner came to the union headquarters last week seeking advice for aid from the Relief and Loan. This pensioner now receives a disability pension of \$26.00 a month from the G.E. Company. This is the only source of income for the pensioner and his wife.

This pensioner lost much time from his job during the last 10 years of his service with the company . . . because of eye trouble which brought his pension down to \$26.00 a month.

An investigator from the E.E. Company's welfare department, investigating the earnings of \$26.00 a month, wrapped the old couple into a mess of red tape until the pensioner in despair came to the union headquarters.

A union representative took this matter

## State C.I.O. Unites for War

The convention of the N. Y. State Industrial Council, held over the week-end at Syracuse, was a victory for anti-Axis unity. Mending the break that occurred at the 1940 convention, the entire delegation rallied around a program of all-out war effort.

#### Lehman Asks Election for Victory

Governor Lehman received a thunderous applause when he called for the end of politics as usual to win the war. He asked the delegates to support only a candidate for governor whose record and program guarantees he will carry out President Roosevelt's domestic and foreign policies with no "ifs" and "buts". The convention immediately went on record against the candidacy of Dewey and Bennet and called upon the American Labor Party to enter an independent candidate if either of the major parties failed to put up a suitable person.

#### Farmer-Labor Unity Asked

The Schenectady delegation brought in a resolution calling for farmer-labor unity that was passed unanimously by the convention. The resolution would set up joint committees between CIO Councils and farm groups wherever possible in order to work out a program of organization and betterment for the dairy farmers of the state.

#### Western Front Endorsed

The immediate opening of the Western Front to win the war in 1942 was enthusiastically demanded. The delegate were treated to a pleasant surprise when Harry Bridges walked unexpectedly into the hall. The convention demonstrated its support for the famed West Coast labor leader by passing a resolution demanding that Bidle's deportation order be reversed.

up with the Relief and Loan Board and was able to get an outright donation for the pensioner.

The Union Headquarters sent the pensioner only two communications during these negotiations.

A few days ago he walked into the headquarters and handed one of the officers two cigars with the following remark:

"I know these are only five-cent cigars. . . I want you to accept them and when you smoke them, feel that you are smoking million dollar cigars because a million dollars worth of gratitude is going with them. Here I am an old man . . . scragged; I can never do the union any good and still you people are seeing me through."

It took a lot of self-control to keep the tears back . . . upon accepting the cigars.

# ORIGINAL TORN



## ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## The Rent Situation

A week ago the landlords of the city had a meeting on the rent freezing regulations. They claimed that the law was unfair and that the rents should be frozen as of this March instead of April, 1941. The only trouble with such an arrangement is that in Schenectady rents set an all-time high by March of this year, so it is quite clear that regulation as of that date would be no regulation at all but merely an endorsement of the present rates.

The situation in the city has become serious inasmuch as the real estate interests are massing their forces to put pressure on the OPA to have the ceiling date changed to this March. But the worst part of the business is the attempt of the big real estate boys to use the thousands of small landlords, most of whom work in the plant for a living, in order to protect their profiteering.

Now we realize that taxes have gone up in the last year or so. And we also know how much they have gone up. Certainly not enough to demand a 100% increase in rent, as many of the bigger landlords have seen fit to do. We understand the position of the small landlord who raised his tenants a couple of dollars to cover the tax increase now being forced to shove the rents back to last April despite the fact that taxes have not been shoved back accordingly. We are all working steadily and making out pretty well and a couple of dollars extra on the rent won't break us.

But we also understand only too well the position of the real estate boys who have taken advantage of the fact that there is steady work and good pay for the first time in years, to jack up the rents beyond all bounds of decency and fairness. These are the people we cannot support. The grubbers who have been asking \$50 a month for the \$30 apartment. The argument that the landlords have to get it to make up for bad years doesn't hold water. The workers weren't making beans in the bad years, either.

As for the small landlords who have not been taking advantage of the workers but who have just been trying to meet increased costs, we are with them 100%. But for the grafters and profiteers who are waxing fat on the emergency we demand that the law take care of them.

A fair solution to the problem of the small landlord must be worked out apart from the real estate boards.

## The Peace Pacts and Us

The signing of the pacts between the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union brought forth a feeling of hope for peace out of the ruins of the present conflict. For the first time the people have something definite besides vague promises to look forward to after the killing is all over.

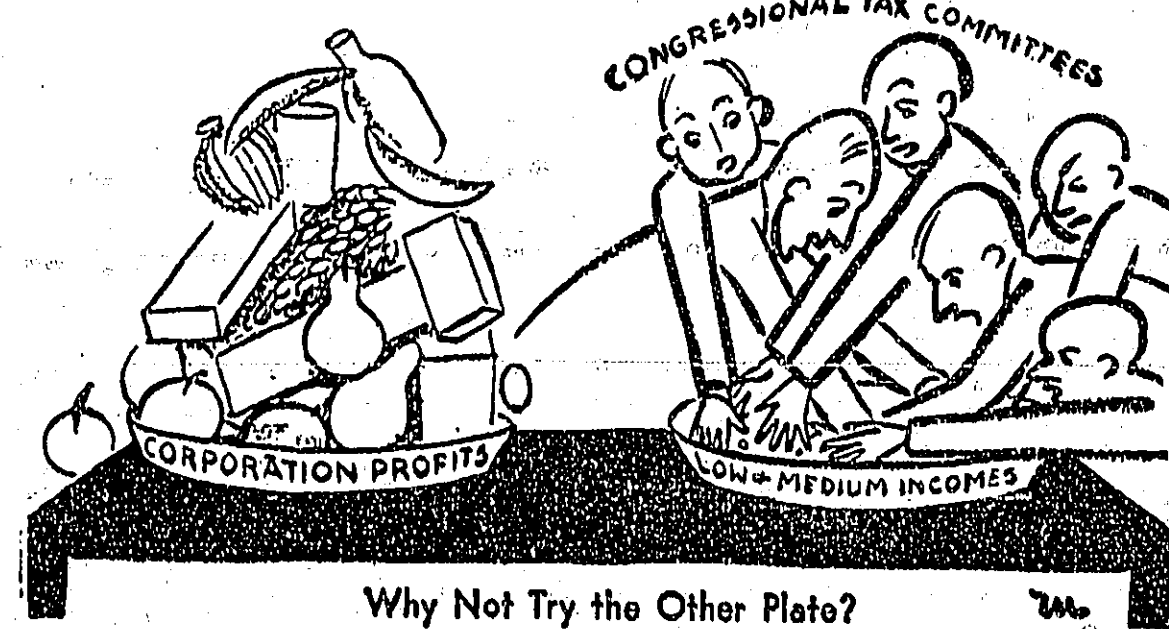
## RICH MAN — POOR MAN

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You will notice that the Congress goes along with the Treasury Dept. recommendations for the lower incomes but suddenly gets generous when it comes to the higher paid taxpayers. This is in line with the policy of certain forces that care more for profits and privileges than winning the war.  
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INCOME	TREASURY ASKED	COMMITTEE VOTED
\$1400	\$32	\$48
1500	\$48	\$45
1700	\$80	\$80

INCOME	TREASURY ASKED	COMMITTEE VOTED
\$5000	\$889	\$708
8000	\$1837	\$1464
10000	\$2549	\$2064



\*\*\*\*\*  
This picture suggests that our wealthy group of citizens be considered as a major source of taxes instead of depending on the workers to foot the whole cost of the war.  
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The workers at the machines who are producing the articles of death and who are making sacrifices for victory over the Axis can now begin to see where their labors are leading them. All the sweat will not have been in vain if the pacts are followed out. The mutual friendship between the three greatest countries in the world should have been a reality before this. The conspiracy or Munich cooked up by the Chamberlain crowd prevented such a happy turn of events.

The alliance has finally been established—born out of the blood, sweat and toil of millions of honest working men and women. Let us hope it is here to stay. And it will be if we, the workers, the people who make things live and breathe, see to it that the new friendship is a very real thing. We cannot permit any talk or action that will tend to weaken the trust of the peoples of the three countries in each other. The pact must become the greatest force for peace the world has ever seen.

## Labor and The Election

There has been much discussion for years as to whether labor should take part in election campaigns. There have been many arguments back and forth with no united position on the question. The CIO has more and more taken the stand that in order for labor to win a complete victory in its struggle for greater industrial democracy, labor must take a hand in checking those who would knife us in the political field. Today with the absolute necessity of winning the war; with the tremendous stake labor has in the outcome of the war; and with the life or death of American democracy in the balance, organized labor has to see that true representatives of democracy are elected to our legislative bodies.

The importance of this fact was recognized by last week's convention of the State CIO when it definitely refused to accept either Dewey or Bennett as candidates

for Governor. All of us should follow this lead. Only a man trusted to carry out President Roosevelt's victory program should be allowed to take office, regardless of party. All of us, Republicans, Democrats, American-Laborites, or what have you, should unite on the right man for Governor without consideration of what party he represents. No more business as usual! No more politics as usual!

## LITTLE LUTHER

"They sound mighty happy about that," remarked Little Luther as he turned off the short-wave radio.

"Who's happy about what?" asked his father.

"The Berlin radio about Attorney General Biddle's decision to deport Harry Bridges."

"I don't care. Harry Bridges is a foreign agitator and ought to be deported to protect our government."

"Why, father, you sound just like the Berlin announcer."

"Don't try to provoke me, Luther. Harry Bridges is subversive."

"Because he has been credited by the U.S. navy with speeding up the war effort on the Pacific Coast?"

"Bridges is dangerous."

"To whom, daddy, the U.S. or the Axis?"

"Bridges foments trouble."

"By not having a single CIO defense strike in California since Pearl Harbor?"

"He is a menace to American institutions."

"Because he has united the California AFL, CIO and railroad brotherhoods to fight a war for the protection of those institutions?"

"He has no respect for authority."

"Because for years he has fought fascism?"

"Let's stop this quiz contest, Luther. We are not getting any place."

"Okay, Dad, I'll tune in Berlin and hear what Hearst's editorial on the Bridges case is going to be tomorrow."

## Talking Shop

By LEO JANDREAU

## Sex Differentials Must End

With increasing numbers of women coming into industry because of the war, a problem has arisen that we cannot run away from or ignore. That is the pay differential between men and women. The company has classified certain jobs as women's work based supposedly on the strength and skill required to operate them. These jobs have been marked off for girls with a correspondingly low rate of pay. It so happens that there are jobs which may not involve the swinging of a sledge hammer but which nevertheless require an amount of skill. There has been a definite refusal to classify this work as anything but "women's work" with the usual women's pay.

## Dividing Line Narrowing Down

But more important is the turn in events which has taken place with large numbers of women all over the country actually replacing men on men's work. The division between men's work and women's work is already very narrow in some cases. We have a situation right in our own back yard where women tapers and winders are doing virtually the same work as men right next to them but are being paid much less because the job is slightly smaller in size. The effort and skill required are exactly the same. The size doesn't mean a thing. But we are faced with a more serious problem when and if women actually take over the very jobs vacated by men. Will the company still insist on the job's being classified as "women's work" along with women's pay?

## Differentials Serious Threat

Any differential in pay for whatever reason must be considered as a threat to the standards of the workers in general. As long as there is one group of workers in industry that can be paid lower than any other group for like work and while there are artificial standards set up for one group, the rest of the workers are in constant danger. We certainly do not want to do anything to injure the war effort and we are perfectly willing to admit women into industry to take their rightful place in the common struggle, but we also want to protect the standards of all the workers after the war is over. That is why we have to crack down now before the damage is done.

## State Law Needed

Only a couple of weeks ago a group of women workers in Michigan were awarded back wages totalling \$55,690 under Michigan law which requires equal pay for equal work without discrimination "on the basis of sex only". It's about time we got something like this through the New York legislature. It would clear up a lot of problems. It is interesting to note that the state law prohibiting women from working nights was very quickly waived for the duration. If women can so quickly be granted equality with men on a basis, how about some equality on pay? We must see the fight on sex discrimination through to victory.

## Union Protests Biddle's Attack on Bridges

The Executive Board at its last meeting voted to send a telegram of protest to Attorney-General Biddle for his order deporting the West Coast labor leader. The message follows:

"We, the Executive Board of Local 301, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers, representing 22,000 organized workers in the General Electric Plant at Schenectady, N. Y., have gone on record as being opposed to your order asking for the deportation of Harry Bridges. We feel that Dean Landis' decision in ACQUITTING Mr. Bridges of the charges brought against him in view of the fact that the testimony procured was given by liars and criminals was



## DOING THEIR PART

Women workers, carrying their own tools, on their way to work at a U. S. arsenal where they are rebuilding, and re-equipping tanks and trucks for the army.

## High Voltage

At the rate John L. Lewis is going he must think he's the head of the United Under-Miners of America.

From what we hear recently about Lewis' attempt to organize the farmers, even the cows are tired of John L.'s bull.

The flight of Foreign Minister Molotov of the Soviet Union to the U.S. was not revealed until his safe return to Moscow in order to keep it a secret from the Nazis. . . . And undoubtedly from Attorney General Francis Biddle.

Lindbergh probably refuses to believe Molotov was even here. Didn't he say four years ago that Russian planes couldn't leave the ground?

Lindy might as well help us win the war because if Hitler ever gets his hands on him it'll be too bad.

Buy, buy, bonds . . . bye, bye, Axis!

Poor Adolph has an exposed front in the West and a bear behind in the East. Now's the time to catch him with his pants down.

The biggest mistake the Japanese made in attacking Midway was an idea that America had fallen for the "what's-the-use-of-fighting" editorials of the appeaser press.

Either Attorney-General Biddle doesn't know the score or he's playing for the wrong team.

At any rate let's put over three strikes on him and send him to the showers before he tries to hit any more home runs for the Axis.

a real example of American justice. We feel also that the Labor Department's acquittal of Mr. Bridges should be taken as final. Mr. Bridges' handling of the West Coast situation in stimulating the war output and fighting against fascism has been a glowing example of labor's role in the war effort.

"We believe your action is a blow to organized labor and a threat to the unity of the American people which has taken so long and so much to achieve. We demand that you rescind your order at once."

A telegram was sent also to President Roosevelt asking him to reverse Biddle's order.

## Bulletins From The Labor Front

## Production Passes Goal of F.D.R. and the Unions

COLUMBIA, Mo. (FP)—The U.S. in 1942 will produce 60,000 war planes, 10,000 more than President Roosevelt's demand of two years ago, which was called fantastic by all the production experts except union officials who said mass production methods, subsequently accepted by management, would do the trick. This was revealed by Donald Nelson here, June 9, before the graduates of Missouri University.

## Standard Oil Comes Into Line

TEXAS CITY, Tex. (FP)—The Standard Oil open shop empire has received its first major jolt from a CIO victory in an NLRB election at Standard's huge Pan-American refinery here.

## District 6, U.E., Goes to Washington

PITTSBURGH (FP)—Thirty-five delegates are being sent by District 6, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers (CIO) to Washington to demand an end to congressional sabotage of President Roosevelt's seven-point program.

## New York C.I.O. Opens Drive Against Five Congressmen

NEW YORK (FP)—The Greater New York Industrial Council opened a campaign June 10 to defeat five New York congressmen in keeping with the national CIO policy of electing only representatives whose records guarantee support of President Roosevelt's foreign and domestic policies.

## National War Labor Conference Proposed

WASHINGTON (FP)—A great national convention of all national and international unions in the U.S. for the purpose of obtaining joint labor action on the war effort was proposed by the CIO executive board on June 5.

## Retailers Refuse to Back Sales Tax

CHICAGO (FP)—Fear of what the customers back home would have to say caused the delegates to the annual convention of the National Association of Retail Grocers here June 9 to vote, 144 to 5, against a motion supporting a general federal sales tax.

## Radio Workers to Study Our Rates

A delegation of crystal grinders from the U.E. local of the R.C.A. Victor Company at Camden, New Jersey, under the leadership of Jos. Milton, is coming to Schenectady to check on the conditions for comparable work.

ORIGINAL TORN