

Official organ of the American Newspaper Guild, an affiliate of Committee for Industrial Organization.

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The GUILD REPORTER

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BROOKLYN STRIKE IS WON; PACT SIGNED BENEFITING ALL

U.S. Order Is Defied By Seattle Publisher

SEATTLE—With refusal of the struck Seattle Star management to reinstate 20 locked out Guild members in compliance with a Labor Board order, the Guild last week opened an intensive drive to compel obedience to the National Labor Relations Act and rulings of the board. The Star announced that it was "unable" to abide by the decision and that the controversy "must go to the courts."

The immediate result was formation of a Committee for Enforcement of the Wagner Labor Relations Act, with a group of public officials and other prominent citizens as its prime movers. They are planning to organize on a national basis. Already on the committee are Lieutenant Governor Victor A. Meyers of Washington, a candidate for Mayor of Seattle in the next election; Mrs. F. F. Powell and Hugh De Lacy, members of the city council; E. Raymond Atterbury, state chaplain of the American Legion, and more than a score of university professors, lawyers, and other professional men.

ITU May Aid

Another important factor in the fight was the action by E. J. Pelkey, international representative of the Typographical Union, who called upon Publisher Marshall to obey the Board order. Further, the ITU local was believed preparing to offer the Guild moral and financial assistance.

The Labor Unity Coordinating

(Continued on page 3)

IEB Reviews Guild Operation; Selects Organizers In New Shift

In a general review of ANG functioning and progress of the last three months and prospects for the immediate future, the quarterly meeting of the International Executive Board at headquarters on Dec. 18 and 19 made decisions on these main points:

1. Readjustment of the staff of international representatives to accord with the present allotment from the Committee for Industrial Organization.

2. A resolution on the growing menace of unemployment, urging local Guilds to oppose wage slashes and to join with other unions and

HANSON FORGETS FREE PRESS TO GET AT GUILD FACTS

ANPA Lawyer, Fresh From Aiding Steel Company, Forces Albany Members to Reveal Authorship of Articles

ALBANY, N. Y.—Elisha Hanson, counsel for the ANPA, and one of its apostles in preaching freedom of the press, forced Guild members at a National Labor Relations Board hearing here to reveal the authorship of two articles in Guild publications, one in the GUILD REPORTER and one in the Tri-City (Albany, Schenectady and Troy) bulletin. Hanson was fresh from his appearance in the Mill & Factory case, in which he advised Hartley-W. Barclay to ignore a Labor Board subpoena seeking to inquire into the sponsorship of published matter used to intimidate the Weirton steel workers.

Despite challenges Hanson persisted in asking Guild witnesses

one after the other whether he or she wrote the article published in the GUILD REPORTER in May, 1936, under the title, "Now We Have the Editorial Expert."

The article, undated and in general terms, described the practices of such experts when brought in by publishers to introduce "efficiency" into the editorial rooms. The Knickerbocker News, out-

BULLETIN

Walter Ross, representing, International News Service and International News Photos, agreed with Guild negotiators on Dec. 16 to continuance of the statement of policy expiring on Jan. 12, until such time as a contract is signed. It was also agreed that any contract signed would be retroactive to the expiration date of the policy statement.

growth of the recent merger of the Knickerbocker Press and the Evening News, has such an expert, B. J. Lewis.

Hanson was defending the Press Company and the Gannett Company against charges of discriminatory firings brought by the

(Continued on page 2)

'Vertical' Attack Beats the Eagle

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle came to terms with the New York Guild last Thursday, signing a contract benefiting all departments to end the 15-weeks-old strike.

The signing closed the Guild's largest struggle and first open conflict with a major New York paper, bringing job and pay security in written form after three previous years of stalling by the management.

Precipitated when the management began reneging on previous pledges after the publishers' June Convention—apparently in the belief it could break the Guild before the consolidation of the newly eligible departments took place—the strike definitely established the unity of these departments.

Instead of cracking apart, the various divisions came together in a more effective fighting unit than ever attained before, partly because of the more numerous personnel—totalling 206—but also because the various groups of workers were able quickly and effectively to tie up their phases of the paper's operations. The demonstration will almost certainly discourage other publishers from forcing strikes on well organized Guilds.

Virtual Closed Shop

Here are the highlights of the contract:

1. Job security through a virtual closed shop created by a preferential hiring list.

2. Absolute prohibition against

(Continued on page 3)

BUILDING: Our Activity Will Stave Off Effects of Recession

BY JONATHAN EDDY

WHAT will be the effects of the present economic recession on the unions? What significance has the huge number of layoffs in basic industries, the curtailment of general business activity, for the Guild?

A theory has been widely promulgated that the labor movement has its ups and downs synchronously with the economic cycle. According to this theory, it is useless for labor to fight wage cuts, speed-up and layoffs because these calamities are inevitable. In some cases, such theories have been held sincerely by workers; in others, they have been advanced by a labor leadership that was willing to cooperate with the employers in placing upon the wage earners the burden of business depression.

Such theories have been widely discussed in recent weeks. John L. Lewis, speaking for the CIO, has rejected them emphatically, as the GUILD REPORTER and other labor publications have reported, and I think we should adopt his recommendation of militant opposition to such attacks.

News Can't Be Stored Up

THE Guild's International Executive Board has something to say about the recession elsewhere in this issue, but it may be permissible to stress certain special considerations in the newspaper industry.

As has been repeatedly pointed out, this industry is under necessity of maintaining production at a more constant rate than any other. It cannot meet orders out of a stored-up surplus; the presses must roll every day. Throughout the worst of the last depression, while there were terrific wage cuts and lengthening of working hours, there was not nearly the curtailment of newspaper production that we are likely to see—indeed, are already seeing—today. In other words, papers are rapidly being "folded" and merged, possibly at a greater rate than ever before. All employers, publishers included, have an economic motive for shifting the burden of depression, insofar as possible, onto the wage earners, through lengthened hours and decreased hourly rates. Preliminary to this, every possible attack is being made in the

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Pact Text In Next Issue

The full text of the Brooklyn Eagle contract will be published in next week's issue of the Guild Reporter. Publication was impossible in this issue because the Christmas holiday necessitated early printing and mailing of the paper.

Sigma Delta Chi Officer Explains Plan on Members

Executive Vice President Jonathan Eddy has just received a letter from James C. Kiper, executive secretary of Sigma Delta Chi, the national professional journalistic fraternity, defining some of the reports current that the body is embarking on a program of rivalry to the Guild.

These reports, widely circulated each year just before the fraternity's conventions, took on added weight this year by the submission of a program of reorganization described editorially by *Synopsis*, the official organ, as one that would "definitely stamp Sigma Delta Chi as a vital force in American journalism."

It appeared to open the door wider to membership—both by non-college men and to men not recruited while in college, the extent of such membership apparently to depend on the policy of the national executive council. Also, it would have created a "committee on journalistic personal problems" with this task: "Supervise activities of the personnel bureau and make such surveys as may be useful to the bureau and to the profession as a whole. These would include methods of recruitment, training, separation, morale, pay, promotion, etc., the facts so developed to be made available to the membership."

To Be Redrafted

The report was sent back for redrafting and ultimate referendum to the membership.

Eddy wrote on the basis of the *Synopsis* article, asking whether the inference that an extension of eligibility was taking place correct and expressing the hope that it was not. Kiper replied: "I am glad to hear from you again and to answer your question about the proposed revisions of Sigma Delta Chi's constitution."

"The proposed provisions for the election of 'Professional' members from the practical field by 'Undergraduate' and 'Professional' (now called Alumni) chapters is not intended to bring about wholesale admission of editorial workers and is nothing new."

"The 'Associate' group," as you will recall, the fraternity has always had a class of membership known as 'Associate.' 'Associate' members are those elected from the practical field because of their interest in Sigma Delta Chi, its aims and purposes, and in broad college training for journalism students. In practically every case, 'Associate' members are college graduates, but a degree is not a requirement."

"It is intended that the same care be taken in the election of men from the practical field under the proposed revision as in the past and at present. 'Undergraduate' and 'Professional' chapters will be required to make their nominations for 'Professional' membership to the Executive Council, which has the authority to approve or disapprove the nomination before admission to membership."

"You have noticed, perhaps, that in the proposal the term 'Associate' members is to be applied to those men who have left the active practice of journalism but who will not sacrifice membership by doing so."

LOCAL DONATES TO DEFENSE FUND

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Seeking to spread Christmas cheer along the Guild strike front, the Harrisburg Guild at its annual meeting voted to send \$25 from its treasury to the International Defense Fund. Sidney Barson, of the Evening News, and Fred U. Ross, of the Patriot, were elected president and secretary respectively of the local for third consecutive terms.

Guild Stirs City Board To Act on Bayonne Scabs

BAYONNE, N. J. — The Bayonne Times found itself under attack on two different fronts last week because of its importation of strikebreakers to replace eight editorial department employees who have been on strike since Nov. 12.

City Commissioner Bert Daly, Hague leader in Bayonne, and Commissioner Michael J. Griffin, his colleague, both denounced the presence of strikebreakers in the Times plant at a meeting of the City Commission on Tuesday. Their criticism came after Ellis Shapiro, appearing for the strikers, addressed the board.

To Meet Again

The Board of Commissioners then voted unanimously to meet later in the week as the committee of the whole to discuss possible action against the Times.

The other three members of the board have also indicated their opposition to the presence of strikebreakers in the city.

In the last big oil workers' strike in Bayonne, in 1919, Daly, then director of public safety, threatened to arrest every strikebreaker who stepped ashore from a barge which had conveyed them from New York in charge of Pearl (I Break Strikes) Bergoff. The scabs didn't land.

The Times' second blow of the week was an attack by the powerful Employers' Association of the Tide Water Oil Company, an independent union, which voted

unanimously Tuesday night to protest against the strikebreakers and calling upon the City Commission "to forbid the presence of strikebreakers in our community at any time since their presence is an insult to every working man and woman."

Times embarrassment mounted when the Industrial Relations Committee of the city offered to arrange a meeting at which both sides could enter negotiations. The paper has so far refused to sit down with the Guild on an equal basis. The committee was informed that the strikers are prepared to meet with the publishers at any time.

Colleague Hits Publisher

Sydney A. Lazarus, associate publisher, is chairman of the Industrial Committee's sub-committee on advertising and is at odds while the strike discussion was under way. He submitted a letter to the committee in which he referred to the Guild as a "Communist combine."

Commissioner Griffin also attacked the Times at the Industrial Committee session. "It's a sad state of affairs when a member of this board brings strikebreakers into the city," he asserted.

Public sentiment in Bayonne has driven virtually all advertising out of the paper. Its Christmas advertising has been filling about two pages a day, compared with more than 20 pages a year ago.

HANSON DROPS FREE PRESS CLOAK

(Continued from page 1.)

Guild because of the large proportion of prominent Guild members dismissed in the consolidation of the Knickerbocker Press and the Evening News.

His determined questioning on the point continued until he was answered affirmatively by Jean Scott, secretary of the local Guild. Miss Scott is a reporter on the Knickerbocker News.

Bulletin Quoted Hanson

Hanson further violated his customary "freedom of the press" stand as well as the traditional refusal of papers to divulge their sources by questioning Zee B. Fales, Tri-City president, on the source of information of a Tri-City Bulletin. The bulletin quoted Hanson himself as saying, when he took the case for the Press Company, "We are going to decide once and for all whether the Guild or the publishers are running the newspapers."

Hanson based his questions on the plan that he was establishing the credibility of witnesses—a common dodge of lawyers to introduce material of doubtful relevancy.

Lester Levin, NLRB attorney, objected to the questioning on the authority of the GUILD REPORTER article on the grounds that no evidence was presented to link the article with Tri-City Guild. John T. De Graff, Guild attorney, objected on the grounds that Hanson himself had earlier raised the "freedom of the press" issue. Examiner George Bekat reserved decision.

Miss Scott denied that she had been the writer of a slurring note to Lewis which was laid on his desk with a copy of the article when it first appeared.

[The article was written by Janet Scott at the request of the editor of the GUILD REPORTER as part of the paper's campaign against the introduction of such experts in editorial rooms. The

idea of employing such experts to introduce the speed-up for editorial staffs was then being popularized. One such speaker had just appeared before the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association and been ap-
provingly mentioned in Editor & Publisher. His ideas were criticized in an editorial in the GUILD REPORTER in March, 1936, two months before Miss Scott's article.

Miss Scott's article was purposely general and aimed at the Guild rather than any individual. It came to Lewis' attention when someone laid a copy on his desk with the anonymous complimentary note.—Editor, GUILD REPORTER.

Reported on Guild

Testimony of Mrs. Alice Raymond, former secretary to Lewis, revealed that he wrote full accounts of Guild meetings to the Rochester central Gannett office, usually the morning after every meeting. In these letters he criticized several active Guild members and he once wrote that a new employee would not join the Guild, according to Mrs. Raymond.

"Hanson opposed the introduction of this material, claiming that the letters were confidential, and moved that Mrs. Raymond's testimony be stricken. The examiner reserved decision. The Gannett Company and the Press Company have refused to produce the correspondence between Albany and Rochester demanded by Attorney Levin."

Witnesses took the stand to testify that Lewis had referred to Guild members as "Guild rats," had declared the "damned labor union would wreck the papers" in connection with overtime claims, had threatened to fire employees who would get increase under a Guild contract and had told men in the higher brackets that a minimum scale would cut off the possibility of raises for them.

Miss Fales testified earlier that discrimination and coercion on the part of the paper became evident when the Guild began its collective bargaining, there being no apparent management opposition prior to organization.

Austin Scamell, John Wanhook, Henry Christman and John Andrews, officers whose reinstatement is sought, testified, and a fifth officer, Richard Jackson, will take the stand when the hearing is resumed Jan. 17. Other Guild witnesses included Jo Leonard and Ray Mowers, who claim they were forced to resign because of discrimination against them for Guild activities.

Scripps-Howard Parley Jan. 8

Taking cognizance of desires expressed by Guild members in Akron, Columbus and Toledo for a general conference of Scripps-Howard chain units preparatory to negotiations for the renewal of contracts, the Board voted to arrange such a conference Jan. 8.

Vice President Eddy has written to the locals affected to inquire as to their representation and the choice of a suitable city.

"As you are well aware," he pointed out, "conditions have rapidly changed since the bulk of these agreements were negotiated. Collective bargaining provisions of the Constitution have been enrolled and the prestige of the Guild has grown."

"Last year negotiations on the chain were greatly strengthened by a series of delegate conferences, representatives of the units involved, for the discussion of collective bargaining objectives, exchange of experimental information and discussion of tactics."

CHICAGO FROLIC SET FOR JAN. 28

CHICAGO.—A "Front Page Frolic" including a grand ball and various other forms of entertainment is planned by the Chicago Guild Jan. 28. The December issue of the four-page printed Chicago Guild News was issued in an edition of 17,000, being mailed to members and to the Guild mailing lists of South Bend, Gary, Hammond, Peoria, Joliet and in bundles to the Rockford and Milwaukee Guilds.

Bill's Future Chances

Friends of the bill regarded as heartening the fact that the Congressional group which first attempted to emasculate the bill and then killed it, will have but one short session in which to continue its work. And in the meantime, supporters of the measure inside and outside of Congress will align their forces to continue the fight. Chances that it will be passed by the present Congress were said to be slim, but the progressive group pointed out that the new Congress can be compelled to tackle the job in earnest in 1938 if sufficient sentiment is expressed at the polls in the Congressional elections.

Defeat of the bill, said an editorial in the CIO Weekly News, official organ of the Committee for Industrial Organization, will serve "as a warning signal. Hereafter labor will trust less in political promises and party pledges, and more in the organization of its own independent voting power through Labor's Non-Partisan League, to see that those who break them, and to put forward its own constructive program to cope with unemployment and depression."

Cause of Defeat

Four groups were charged with the defeat of the measure by the CIO editorial. They were listed as (1) "chiseling sweatshop employers," (2) tory industrialists, (3) Republican Congressmen and alleged Democrats who voted against their own party pledges, and (4) "strange bedfellows of sweatshop employers and tory politicians, the leadership of the AF of L."

The contract was signed for the Guild by Carl Randau, president, and Milton Kaufman, executive secretary, of the New York Guild. Representing the management in the signing conference were Publisher Goodfellow, Ellen A. Dockery, secretary, and Arthur Windels, counsel. Abraham J. Isserman, counsel, assisted the Guild in the negotiations, and I. Kaufman, strike chairman, Nat. Ehren, Lyle Dowling, W. Edward Reiche, John Deegan, William Koske, Thomas Steutel, John Walsh and Irving Haberman were the Guild observers.

The group of 40 editorial strikers fired compares with the group

Wages and Hours Bill Forces Align For New Fight

WASHINGTON.—Post-mortem huddles over the wages and hours bill following its defeat in the House by a vote of 216 to 198, and analysis of the vote reveals that American Federation of Labor opposition had little to do with the result.

The roll call analysts pointed out that no representative with a strong labor constituency voted for recommitment, as requested in a telegram sent to each member by President William Green. Of all the representatives professing a friendliness to labor in the past, only Robison (R. Ky.) voted to recommit. The rest stood by to the bitter end.

Recommitment of the bill was a surprise and a severe blow to progressive labor. It gave new life to the hope of forces behind the current drive to hamstring the National Labor Relations Board which are lined up with the AF of L group, led by Vice President John P. Frey. Frey's aim is to amend the NLRA to require certification of bargaining agents along craft lines.

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CITY POST GOES TO GUILDSMAN

S. W. Gerson, member of the Daily Worker unit of the New York Guild, has been appointed confidential inspector and press relations man on the staff of Stanley M. Isaacs, president-elect of the Borough of Manhattan.

Gerson is a Communist and a member of his party's State executive committee. As candidate-at-large for Congress last year he polled 62,000 votes.

The appointment shocked the Hearst Journal-American into an 84-point hammerline on page one Dec. 22 and a hot editorial the next day. Other New York papers immediately made passing mention of it. Isaacs, a Republican, was refused to produce the correspondence between Albany and Rochester demanded by Attorney Levin.

Witnesses took the stand to testify that Lewis had referred to Guild members as "Guild rats," had declared the "damned labor union would wreck the papers" in connection with overtime claims, had threatened to fire employees who would get increase under a Guild contract and had told men in the higher brackets that a minimum scale would cut off the possibility of raises for them.

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Brooklyn Strike is Won; Pact Signed Benefiting All

(Continued from page 1)

firing except for cause beyond a specified list of 40—two less than the management planned before the strike—who now receive 20 weeks' pay, and who have first claim to job openings at their old salaries and substantially the same functions. All other strikers reinstated. The Guild must be consulted on future discharges.

5. Five-day, 40-hour week for all persons covered in the contract—although the management considered it "impractical" for commercial departments before.

14. Dismissal pay ranging up to 18½ weeks' pay after 10 years.

5. Overtime in equal time off.

6. Extension of the contract protection to employees who become members of the Guild after June 30, 1938.

7. Absolute prohibition against pay cuts for persons covered by the contract.

8. A collateral undertaking by the publisher which assures an immediate "economy wave" that will clean out the scabs.

Paper Severely Hit

In view of the economic recession, and also of severe punishment which the strikers were obliged to give the paper to bring it into any settlement at all, only stiff negotiating was able to wring as many gains from the management.

It was a management not only backed but virtually cornered by business interests as well as publishers that were making a determined stand against labor gains of any kind. The notoriously open-shop Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and kindred organizations like the Downtown Association had been glowingly successful in defeating strikes in this particular area up until about a year ago. The city-wide publishers came strongly to the paper's aid.

Despite all the aid the Eagle's advertising losses mounted month by month. In October the loss was \$39,000; in November \$32,000; in the first 20 days of December, \$30,000, indicating a loss of 450,000 lines for the month.

The settlement was arrived at through the good offices of State Mediator Arthur S. Meyer, who was appointed a special officer by State Industrial Commissioner Elmer F. Andrews on Nov. 23 to serve as chairman of a fact-finding board.

Meyer kept both sides dickering through his office. He was at length able on Dec. 19 to bring the management and Guild representatives together. Sessions continued and on Wednesday at 8 P. M. both sides convened in the City Club, New York, to draw up the proposed contract.

Parley on All Night

Through the night and until 7:30 A. M. Thursday the negotiators battled over phrasology of the contract clauses. The document was agreed to by the strikers that afternoon with 12 dissenting votes, and was signed the same day.

The contract was signed for the Guild by Carl Randau, president, and Milton Kaufman, executive secretary, of the New York Guild. Representing the management in the signing conference were Publisher Goodfellow, Ellen A. Dockery, secretary, and Arthur Windels, counsel. Abraham J. Isserman, counsel, assisted the Guild in the negotiations, and I. Kaufman, strike chairman, Nat. Ehren, Lyle Dowling, W. Edward Reiche, John Deegan, William Koske, Thomas Steutel, John Walsh and Irving Haberman were the Guild observers.

The group of 40 editorial strikers fired compares with the group

of 42 which the Eagle management had marked for a first burst of discharges not long before the strike began. The order for such a cut was revealed to the Guild in a letter from the former general manager, William M. Hines, who resigned rather than put it into effect in violation of a management promise to the Guild. Needless to say, that group had no assurances of preference in rehiring.

Though this closed shop feature of the contract was not recognized by New York publishers when they reported the settlement to their readers as a denial of the Guild shop, New York Guildsmen found the Guild shop protection to exist in fact in the editorial department of the Eagle where all hiring will have to be from the list of 40.

On Industrial Lines

Non-strikers joining the Guild may after June 30 still be discharged on grounds of economy, but if so they must be placed on a second preferred list for re-employment.

The second preferred list would not be confined to the editorial department and would be along industrial organizational lines including the commercial departments. This possible second list thus also provides the characteristics of a closed shop.

Particular attention is paid to the classified advertising and circulation departments which were extensively represented among the strikers. The severance and vacation pay which are given to the classified ad department are to be calculated on the basis of average weekly compensation, pay plus commissions, over a period of one year. A supplementary agreement calls for the "adjustment on a monthly basis of percentage earnings of striking classified advertising solicitors so as to bring salaries into line with those of last year." This is to offset possible pay losses due to confinement of work within the five-day, 40-hour week.

In the provision for the grievance committee, it is agreed that immediate negotiations shall be undertaken with the publisher, M. Preston Goodfellow, for the adjustment of the financial accounting of the striking circulation branch managers.

7-Day Weeks Out

The extension of the five-day, 40-hour week to the commercial departments ends practices of requiring as long as seven-day and 60-hour weeks in those departments.

The Guild's demand for the reinstatement of Gladys Bentley, classified advertising solicitor and member of the Eagle unit's executive committee, on the claim of discharge for union activity is reversed in the supplementary agreement to Mediator Meyer for determination. As arbitrator Meyer may order her reinstatement and award her back pay on the basis of her average weekly earnings.

Replacements from the preferred list, the contract stipulates, need not be on an employee-for-employee basis (but such replacements shall receive not less in salaries than the aggregate of the salaries of those discharged.)

The strikers were to return today "to substantially similar employment and at salaries not less than those paid prior to the strike."

MAYBE YOU GUESSED

The Reporter has moved to a new printing plant. It is the "Up-town Press."

SEATTLE 'LAW AND ORDER'

Wearing a Santa Claus costume, James Gordon, 18-year-old news vendor, was jailed for distributing handbills telling the Seattle Star strike story.



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Seattle Star Publisher Defies NLRB Ruling

(Continued from page 1)

Committee, composed of both AF of L and CIO unions joined the fight on Dec. 18. Resolutions were adopted and a committee appointed to call on local and state officials to insist that the Wagner Act be obeyed. Plans were made to set a Tag Day during which "enforce-

"Tag" days will be held to raise strike funds for the Guild.

Guild supporters expressed the feeling that the NLRB is not understood by people of Seattle, and that a campaign of education and enforcement would do much to eliminate the current industrial strife in the city.

The supporting groups have

joined also in protesting the arrest of "Santa Claus" James Gordon, an 18-year-old news vendor whose distribution of handbills telling the story of the Star's floating of law was held in violation of a leaflet ordinance. The boy, dressed in his Santa costume, was placed behind bars, and later released in \$25 bail pending trial, despite the fact that the ordinance has been declared unconstitutional in Superior Courts.

"PAY YOUR DUES! THEY BUILD THE GUILD"

BUILDING: Our Activity Will Stave Off Effects of Recession

BY JONATHAN EDDY

(Continued from page 1)

hope of weakening the power of the unions to resist. In the depression period following the World War, the leadership of the American Federation of Labor joined with the employers in advocating longer hours and lower pay, and maintained their own jobs by joining in the frenzied violence and Red-baiting which was visited upon resisters. Today we have a somewhat different general labor situation, also we have a very much different leadership of the main body of the American labor movement.

Guild Will Keep Growing

UNQUESTIONABLY, the present recession is being aggravated in an organized way by the biggest employers in order to discredit the Roosevelt Administration and all liberalism. The unions can and will resist, striving to maintain purchasing power through maintaining American standards of income and living.

In such circumstances, it is unlikely that the unions will wither away. Rather, right in our own organization, we will continue to grow at a steady, businesslike pace, maintaining and spreading the gains we have already made, doing our part to preserve standards of living and family security. In this way, we will contribute to the prosperity of the country as a whole. In the Guild, as in other unions, there will be less evangelism and more solid, routine organization. More than ever, during this period, the Guild, locally and nationally, will be on its toes, functioning smoothly, an indestructible barrier against attacks on living standards and security.

FLASHES

Action Demanded Of United Press

Negotiations with the United Press adjourned last week until next Wednesday with the Guild negotiators demanding that the management make commitments at that time on compromise proposals.

Two sessions during the week were devoted to discussion of wage minima standards as set by the Guild in Scripps-Howard contracts.

The New York United Press unit adopted a resolution and broadcast it to all other units asking that all prepare for "such trade union action as the management may force us to take."

Parleys Resumed When Guild Acts

INDIANAPOLIS.—With an ITU leader, a CIO organizer and a federal conciliator sitting in on conference, the Indianapolis Guild has resumed negotiations with the Indianapolis Star after a lapse occasioned by the paper's refusal to bargain while demands for a Guild shop remained in the foreground.

Sitting with the Guild negotiators are A. B. Hattery, former president of ITU local one, and Sid Holland, Regional CIO organizer. Robert Mythen, conciliator, active in the bargaining, is scheduled to report to the National Labor Board on the outcome of the conference.

Negotiations On West Coast

West Coast negotiations were well under way in Los Angeles and San Francisco during Christmas week, for both editorial and commercial departments.

In San Francisco, the North-California Guild established its right to represent commercial departments at the Chronicle, Examiner and Call-Bulletin, and prepared to furnish proof of representation to the Scripps-Howard News-management.

In Los Angeles negotiations have been opened on behalf of Herald-Express commercial employees.

Montreal Fight Reaches Courts

MONTREAL.—The Montreal Guild's six-month fight to establish that employers cannot fire workers with impunity for union activity reached the courts when argument was heard on President Ballentine's application for a writ of mandamus against Maurice Duplessis, Premier and Attorney-General of Quebec.

After a two-hour hearing Justice Curran took the case under deliberation. A decision is expected within a week. Ballentine applied for the writ in an attempt to force Duplessis to reply to this petition for authorization to sue the Gazette under Act Respecting Workmen's Wages which is supposedly designed to guarantee the right to organize.

Wilkes Barre Parley Resumed

The Wilkes Barre (Pa.) Guild was to meet on Sunday to discuss final terms in its contract negotiating with the four publishers, in preparation for a further meeting with the publishers today.

PAY YOUR ASSESSMENTS! STABILITY IS STRENGTH!

IEB Reviews Guild Operation; Acts On Jobless

(Continued from page 1)
them with newly covered papers; learned from Vice President Morris Watson that membership on wire services had risen from 813 to 1,038 since the Convention; and received information on the three Guild strikes which showed their exceptional effectiveness. (The budget will be printed in a later issue.)

Present besides Brown and Eddy were Vice Presidents Garland Ashcraft of Cleveland, Harry Farmer of Toronto, W. Erle Homan of Reading, Pa.; Julius Klyman of St. Louis, Gunnar Mickelson of Milwaukee and Morris Watson of New York, and Secretary-Treasurer Victor Pasche. Vice President Betty Ballantine of San Francisco was unable to attend.

The Board unanimously adopted the program of Vice President Eddy for retaining two International representatives on the ANG payroll and his nomination of Hull and Richard Seller as the two. Seller is now assisting with the Seattle Star strike. Vice President Watson and Don Stevens remain on the CIO payroll.

In this connection the Board decided to terminate its recent plan for retaining more organizers from the old CIO list on the ANG payroll. This plan called for loans to be made by ANG functionaries out of their incomes and had been rendered virtually inoperable by the subsequent dropping of three more from the CIO payroll.

Organizers Dropped
Eddy told the Board that he was negotiating with various locals looking toward placement of the other representatives as organizers. The representatives dropped include Bernice Morgan, Nathan Goldberg, Bill Davy and Fred Myers.

It was made clear by Eddy and other members of the Board, and expressed in a motion by Ashcraft, with Farmer's second, and unanimously adopted, that "the selection of those paid organizers to be retained was not based on the questions of merit or seniority but on circumstances which the Board could not avoid, and those dismissed were let go without prejudice and with extreme regret."

All organizers let go are, under a motion of Mickelson seconded by Eddy and Pasche and adopted unanimously, to receive dismissal pay at the best scale obtained on any newspaper.

In the face of the unemployment wave in industry the Board adopted a resolution introduced by Mickelson printed in an adjoining column. It was adopted unanimously.

The new administrative plan of the Board, proposed by the officers at headquarters, and adopted by the votes of all members present, but Homan, who opposed it, does away with the practice of attempting to carry on deliberations and tally votes on routine matters by mail. The practice grew up in the first years of the Guild when it was impossible to hold regular meetings of the Board. The Board holds its quarterly meetings now, as well as special meetings—which can be called at any time by any three members. The prevailing opinion was that deliberation by mail was impractical and accordingly the Board decided to adopt the practice of all other unions of reviewing and laying down policies for the work of the administrative officers at the periodical meetings.

Votes on charters and assessments will continue to be taken by mail and the Board will be kept currently informed of ANG activities.

(Further actions reported in other stories in this issue and next week.)

THE IEB AT ITS QUARTERLY MEETING



Left to right: Vice President Mickelson, Secretary-Treasurer Pasche, Brown, Executive Vice President Eddy, and Vice Presidents Klyman, Farmer and Homan. Standing: Vice Presidents Ashcraft and Watson.

Campaigns to Aid the Jobless Urged by IEB on All Locals

A Statement by the International Executive Board

The people of the nation are faced with a wave of layoffs which has thrown hundreds of thousands of office, factory and professional workers out of jobs and is threatening the jobs of many more. For newspaper employees, who suffered heavy wage slashes at the depth of the depression cycle but relatively little mass unemployment, the current recession threatens to involve our own industry in the lay-off epidemic. Many Guilds have already been affected.

Confronted with this most serious situation, the International Executive Board at its regular quarterly meeting in New York on Dec. 19 makes the following declaration:

The right of every man and woman to have a job, to earn a living if he is able to work is, as John L. Lewis recently stated, "one of the great principles for which labor in America stands." It also follows, as the chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization stated, that "The economic nation cannot live in health unless the case of those without work is solved vigorously, intelligently—now."

Effort to Discredit Labor Gains

In contrast with the slump of 1930, the present so-called recession has been widely publicized with the evident intent to pin responsibility for these conditions on the efforts of organized workers to keep wages within sight of sky-rocketing price levels. Contrary to employer propaganda, it is our conviction that these conditions, however inevitable they may be, have been greatly aggravated by the desire of big business and financial interests, first, to destroy the labor movement, particularly the CIO, and, secondly, to discredit the New Deal and reverse the policies of the Roosevelt Administration.

This attack, which threatens the welfare of the vast majority of Americans, can be frustrated through planned, organized opposition such as that which has been initiated throughout the entire CIO structure of the country.

We wish to impress upon every Guild officer and member the absolute necessity of our participation in this program to the full extent of our ability and energy with the realization that political as well as trade union measures are required to meet the emergency.

Locals are urged to oppose vigorously any attempt to slash wages in the manner which impoverished thousands of newspapermen in 1932 and 1933.

They are also urged to set up Guild Employment Committees. These committees should first look after the interests of our own members who become unemployed. Every man and woman who has been laid off should be registered and efforts made to bring about their re-employment.

A study of any existing state unemployment compensation laws should be made, with a view of applying their provisions to lay-off Guild members.

Backs CIO Legislative Program

A vital part of the program against lay-offs and recession will consist in carrying out the legislative program adopted at the Atlantic City conference of the CIO.

But this task can only be carried out effectively in full cooperation with other similar committees in local communities such as may be formed by the CIO, local or state AF of L federations, the railroad brotherhoods and committees of citizens. If there are no such committees, Guild members should promote their formation.

Community-wide conferences must be held, mass meetings and publicity campaigns planned, presentations made to city, state and federal governments for adequate measures to meet the situation. The CIO Industrial Union Councils in several cities have been eminently successful along this line, notably in Philadelphia, Milwaukee and St. Louis.

Particular emphasis is laid upon the necessity of arousing the rank and file of AF of L unions to stay the hands of William Green, Matthew Woll and John P. Frey who have knifed the Wages

CHICAGO PAPER COLD TO TERMS BROCKTON PRESSES DRIVE

CHICAGO. — In negotiations lasting six hours on Dec. 22, Publisher Merrill C. Meigs of the Evening American continued to oppose unqualified dismissal, indemnity, resignation pay after 25 years, an evenly progressive indemnity scale, a rehiring clause, and various other points—all of which already are in signed contracts with other Hearst papers. The only change in present minimum wage scales they agreed to was that artists should be advanced to the same scale as photographers, but only on the basis that two artists should be fired.

Meigs was aided by E. D. Saling of his legal department, who took part in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer strike negotiations last year. Turning from an earlier position that improvements in working conditions could not be made because of the business recession, Fuller recently approached two staff members with the proposition that the employees present their grievances without the help of "outsiders," promising that they "would have no cause to regret it." The unit took cognizance of the publisher's new position by a unanimous rejection of any such company unionist proposal.

BROCKTON, Mass.—The Brockton Guild, confronted anew with publisher resistance to an agreement with the Times-Enterprise, is organizing the commercial departments in conjunction with a new drive for a contract. After 13 months of negotiations effort with Publisher Charles L. Fuller, the unit instructed the Guild negotiations committee to resume bargaining in January, by which time it expected to have the non-editorial departments organized.

**DUES AND ASSESSMENTS
WIN OUR STRIKES**

Striking Guilds are Lauded by IEB Their Support by Membership Urged

Warm commendation for the effective strikes being waged by Guilds in New York, Seattle and Bayonne, N. J., was voiced in a resolution of the IEB, adopted unanimously. It said:

The International Executive Board applauds the struggle of the strikers of the Brooklyn Eagle, the Seattle Star and the Bayonne Times against intolerable conditions and extends to the Newspaper Guilds of New York, Seattle and Hudson County, N. J., its appreciation of the conduct of the strikes, which has been in accordance with the best progressive traditions of labor and which have elicited broader public support than any other strikes of recent history.

The Board, assembled in regular meeting, calls upon the entire membership of the American Newspaper Guild immediately to increase its financial support of these strikes in accordance with the moral backing which has been given by the entire labor movement.

The Board is informed that the managements of the struck papers are defeated. Increased financial support for the strikers at this time, the board is convinced, will bring quick victories for the strikers and the Guild.

and Hours Bill to the delight of the most reactionary business interests.

Admittedly a measure which is far short of a solution to the major problems of the depression, the Wages and Hours Bill, however, becomes of greater importance as the curve of employment and wages drops. The pretensions of the AF of L Executive Council must not be allowed to disrupt a renewed drive to enact the bill at the regular session of Congress in January.

The defeat of this bill will encourage the enemies of the Administration and the labor movement to renew attacks on other New Deal legislation and these must likewise be met with a determined and unified defense of the gains which have been won by the Guild and the labor movement during the period of economic upturn.

The CIO legislative program formulated at the Atlantic City conference is laid down in the interest of all Americans who work for a living. It is a program designed to save America for the American people. In its own interest the Guild not only can but must become an important influence in putting this program into practice.

Bayonne, Where 90,000 Back 8 Strikers

A Labor Town, 1938 Model, Rallies Around the Guild Struggle, Finds That Controlled Courts and Hostile Newspapers Are Ineffectual When a Solid Union Movement Backs a Good Cause

BAYONNE, N. J.
If anybody had told me a month ago that a strike of eight people could arouse a whole town of 90,000, I'd have laughed in his face."

The speaker was a merchant. The town was Bayonne—in the very county of Mayor Frank ("I am the law") Hague. And the strike he was talking about was the strike of eight Guild members of the Bayonne Times.

The merchant wasn't the only one surprised. The publisher was more astonished than anybody. Probably the better word is "paralyzed," for a tidal wave of public sentiment swept away 90 per cent of his advertising within a month after the strike began, on Armistice Day.

Remember, this occurred at the height of the Christmas advertising season. Moreover, the Bayonne Times is the city's only daily newspaper. It had bought and killed the only other daily in 1936. It had plucked the usual fruits of monopoly: steady increases in advertising rates and, more recently, an increase in the paper's price from two to three cents.

The merchants had no other daily medium. They were, it appeared, bound to use the Times. Yet, within a few weeks, the indispensability on which the publisher had relied was an exploded myth. One by one, the business men cancelled their advertising. Publisher Lazarus called the merchants to his office and tried to start a stampede back. There was a stampede in the opposite direction.

Old Catchwords Failed

A newspaper publisher, it might be supposed, would sense the situation that made this phenomenon possible almost before anybody else. Publisher Lazarus didn't. He would not even believe it when told. As a result he kept the Guild negotiating fruitlessly for five months. At the end of that time the Guild had either to sign a contract surrendering all its defensive weapons, or fight.

The secret of the remarkable success attending the Guild's strike, now six weeks old, is that this is a strike of a labor town, 1938 style, against a newspaper still living back in the days when a few foolish catchwords, cries of Communism and the like, could block progress. It is the strike of a labor movement steadily growing in stature, strength and unity.

Bayonne, a crowded industrial peninsula, jutting out into inner New York Bay, has had strikes before, large and small. Most of them have been won. But none within memory has gained the active public support now being accorded to the strike of the Bayonne Times editorial staff.

The explanation is that this struggle has offered a rallying point to the labor power that has been accumulating in the city since 1933.

Even so, it will be asked, how was this possible in a town in Frank Hague's Hudson County, for Hague means trouble for labor.

Hague Lost His Grip

The answer is that while the regular Democratic organization has been under Hague control for a score of years, the Jersey City Mayor has never been able to exercise in Bayonne the absolute dictatorship he holds over his own home town. In fact, in three of the last four quadrennial city elections, the Hague organization in Bayonne was defeated. In each instance, the labor vote—though unorganized and untrained—played a distinct part. There was a good example in 1923. The Hague leader in Bayonne was said to have referred to the several thou-

sand workers at the Constable Hook plants of the Standard and Tide Water Oil Companies as "those bums from the Hook." Whether he said it or not does not matter now; a lot of people believed he did. The result was probably Bayonne labor's first expression of anything like a unified sentiment. The opposition to Hague's forces elected three out of the five city commissioners.

ILGWU Led Parade

Of course, it has been for many years the practice of all factions to place "labor" candidates on their city tickets. But so far this has been done merely as a matter of political expediency by old-line ward politicians. In other words, the workers' vote has been something to snare by any means—and to forget, by all means, immediately after it had served its purpose at the polls.

Many changes date from the beginning of Roosevelt's first Administration in 1933, and the advance of Bayonne labor is one of them. Union organization has multiplied. The greatest single development has been that of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union. Its drive has been marked by a series of successes that has brought its membership to 2,500 in the city, and it has won steadily improving conditions for the workers. The five-day, forty-hour week, vacation with pay and strong safeguards for security in the job are now commonplace in factories working under ILGWU agreements.

This progress was not so easy as it sounds in the telling. It was won against heavy odds and required a number of strikes ranging in duration from two to 17 weeks. The parade began in the early Fall of 1933, when the general strike in the garment industry resulted in the

signing of agreements with ten local dress shops.

Later in the same year a strike at the Maiden Form Brassiere Company won union recognition for nearly 500 employees. Far from being damaged by this, the factory has grown until today it employs in excess of 1,000 men and women.

Again, in 1933, 290 ILGWU workers in a petticoat factory won a two weeks' strike, and the remainder of the needle industry in Bayonne was organized, with and without strikes, in 1934 and 1935.

Besides the ILGWU's 2,500 members, there are 500 necktie workers in half a dozen plants organized by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

But how about the oil industry? This has been for something like half a century the dominating factor in Bayonne's economy. Steady improvements in machinery have, of course, made their inroads on employment. Depression years have further cut down the number of jobs available at the huge refineries sprawled along the waterfront. In spite of this, there still remain at the Standard and Tide Water between 3,000 and 4,000 workers.

Independents Join Fight

Here, too, organization has grown and strengthened in the last few years. The organization has been in the direction of independent unions, but nobody who has observed the spirit of the men and most of their delegates will call them company unions.

For one thing, company unions rarely, if ever, prove themselves so steady in their demand for improved conditions; company unions certainly do not show themselves so ready to back up their demands with action. At both Standard and Tide Water agreements have recently been signed providing for extended sick

leave with pay, vacation with pay, seniority, greater security in the job and other benefits.

Bayonne also has craft unions of long standing—carpenters, bricklayers, boiler-makers, bakers, electricians and others in the American Federation of Labor. Now, the CIO has acquired a share of Bayonne membership—maritime workers, steel workers, textile workers, insurance men, office workers.

This was the set-up when the Bayonne Times unit of the Newspaper Guild called its strike. Practically overnight, these unions—AF of L and CIO—sprang to its support.

This is the fact that defeated the publisher's early strategy of minimizing the strike by announcing that "only eight" of seventy-eight employees had gone on strike. Naturally, it also made ridiculous the publisher's subsequent charge that the strike was a plot by a "Communist combine" to seize control of the paper.

Labor Solid From Start

This solid labor front behind the Guild unit in Bayonne has not ceased to operate at maximum efficiency since the beginning of the strike. To its credit must be placed the heavy inroads made on the paper's advertising, for when an injunction prevented picketing of advertisers by the strikers, unions immediately formed labor committees and made the rounds of the stores.

Cash, too, has flowed in a steady stream into the strike treasury, and the contributors have been mostly the craft and industrial unions whose members live in Bayonne. Since these thousands of people have also stopped buying the Times, the defeat of the publisher has been swift and thorough in every department of his newspaper.

Labor has always been numerically strong in Bayonne. But not until the Guild called its strike on the Bayonne Times did labor find a common objective. It seems certain now that 1938 will see the shaping of a really important political force and that 1939 will find Bayonne labor taking a decisive part in the municipal election.

LAW IN NLRB CASE UNTANGLED

THERE is "no real issue" of freedom of the press involved in the National Labor Relations Board's subpoena of the editors of "Mill and Factory" and the St. Mary's (Pa.) Press, the American Civil Liberties Union has made known, on the basis of a comprehensive legal analysis of the cases by Nathan Greene, co-author with Prof. Felix Frankfurter of the standard work on labor injunctions.

In a letter sent to J. Warren Madden, chairman of the NLRB, ten members of the union's board of directors contended that the NLRB "is entirely justified in determining whether an employer has purchased publications used among his employees to say what he has no right under the law to say himself."

"Intimidation and interference with collective bargaining," they added, "is not protected by the guarantees of freedom of speech and the press. If they were, the National Labor Relations Board would be wholly ineffective."

Greene, in his memorandum, discussed, among other points, the question of journalistic confidence which has arisen many times in criminal courts in recent years. It pointed out that in both the Weirton and St. Mary's cases the anti-union propaganda appeared to emanate "from the independent press."

The Daily Press, the only local newspaper in the small town of St. Mary's, Pa., printed an editorial in its issue of Feb. 26, 1937.

The only question before the Board was whether the publication and distribution of this editorial was part and parcel of an unlawful course of conduct by the Stackpole Carbon Co. These are the facts established by the editor's testimony (before the Board):

1. Harry S. Conrad, vice-president of

Stackpole Co. is one of five directors of the newspaper, and according to the Trial Examiner's Report, "in so far as any direction of the editorials is indulged in directs the policy of such editorials."

2. The editorial in question was written by Ruth Sanders, the wife of Vernon Sanders, who was and is an engineer of the Stackpole Co.

3. The editorial appeared on Feb. 26. On Feb. 25 the Stackpole Co. ordered one thousand reprints.

4. The Stackpole Company mailed the reprints to its employees.

I assume that we would all agree that evidence of this kind is relevant to the inquiry whether the Stackpole Company directly or indirectly interfered with, coerced or intimidated its employees in the free exercise of their right of self-organization. The only point left for discussion, therefore, is the propriety of obtaining evidence as to an employer's unlawful course of conduct from the editor of a newspaper. Is compulsion upon a newspaper editor to disclose whatever information he may have relevant to such an inquiry an interference with freedom of press?

For nearly three hundred and fifty years, says Professor Wigmore in his treatise on evidence, it has been recognized as fundamental that the public has a right to every man's evidence and that when the course of justice requires the investigation of truth no man has any knowledge (with a few carefully delimited exceptions) that is rightly private.

For this reason it has always been held that a confidential communication to a journalist is not privileged from disclosure. Statutes designed to extend the privilege to journalists have been passed

in Maryland, New Jersey and Alabama, but of them Wigmore has said, "they are detestable." The New York Court of Appeals only last year affirmed Wigmore's view.

It is thus too late to argue that the requirement that a journalist disclose confidential communications bearing upon matters relevant to an inquiry before a legal tribunal is an invasion of freedom of press. In this case there was no proceeding against the newspaper; the only person accused of violating the law and against whom coercive measures might be taken was the Stackpole Company; the testimony of the editor was sought only to help establish whether or not the Stackpole Company had violated the law.

The issue in the Stackpole case. The article in the October, 1937 issue of Mill and Factory which is the subject of the controversy is a sixteen page attack upon the Labor Board as a "course to democracy," and upon CIO as "so many loafers, atheists, communists, ex-convicts and liars."

This article was reprinted in large numbers, and it is contended by the government, distributed by the Weirton Company to its employees. The writer of the article was subpoenaed to testify. The scope of his proposed examination is thus stated by the Board's attorney:

The issue is whether or not Board's exhibit 670 was the creation of the Weirton Steel Company directly or indirectly, whether or not it was created for the purpose of interfering with the rights of those employees, contrary to the National Labor Relations Act.

It seems to me that for the purposes of the A.C.L.U. there is nothing to add to the above statement except that the A.C.L.U. is in accord with it.

Sees Fire Behind the 'Red Smoke'

New York City

Editor THE GUILD REPORTER:

Some days ago I joined with Miss Dorothy Dunbar Bromley and Messrs. R. L. Duffus, Lewis Gannett and Ralph Thompson in a special appeal for \$10-apiece contributions from the higher-paid newspaper people of New York City to the Brooklyn Eagle strikers, the five of us leading off with our \$10 each.

I don't regret having done this, though I do think the Eagle strikers went too far with their secondary picketing of Eagle advertisers. I think, too, that I got \$10 worth of response out of my part in the appeal, and that from one man. The man is Arthur L. McLeod, of the New York Mirror. On receiving the second appeal in the special-contribution drive, Mr. McLeod took typewriter in hand and wrote me the following letter, later by telephone giving me permission to make any legitimate use of it:

Dear Rube:

Replying to the attached, I am sending the answer to you personally because you happen to be the only one on this committee of five that I know, and under the circumstances, Rube, please do not consider this note in any way personal.

The fact of the matter is, as I write in care of the Guild last week when I got the first letter, that I don't give a damn for the Guild. I think its officers are jousy. I don't see how a self-respecting newspaperman like I know you to be can stomach it; and I believe it has done more to stir down a profession that has been one of the highest in the land than any other single agency.

Voice of Moscow

I was a member of the Guild; I'm a union man at heart; but I consider the Guild nothing more than the voice of Moscow and most of its members either incompetent workmen or actual traitors.

The men who listened to the nitwits who led them out on strike on the Eagle are just out of luck so far as I am concerned; although there are two of them I've known for years and I have been kicking in regularly to them. However, not in deference to the Guild.

I hope this makes my position clear, and if you can impress this upon the Guild management I'll appreciate it. I get sick at my stomach every time I see an envelope addressed to me with the Guild return address.

Of course, Rube, I wish you a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR McLEOD.

It seems to me that the most legitimate use of this letter would be its publication in the Guild Reporter; also the sending of copies of it to Mr. Heywood Brown and to Editor & Publisher. I am attending to Mr. Brown's copies, and am hoping the Guild Reporter will publish the letter.

Wants Discussion

Mr. McLeod's remarks forcefully express the way a lot of excellent and reputable newspaper people feel about the Guild, and have long felt about it. It will not suffice to dismiss these people with a sneering "hah, hah," etc. They do not dismiss that easily; and their continued disapprobation does hurt the Guild, and we all know it. We all know, too, if one may quote an old bromide, that hasn't yet been disproved, that where there is a lot of smoke there is usually some fire.

Can't we have some calm and factual discussion of the points raised by Mr. McLeod? The Guild is four years old now, and should

Guildsman Heads Council

SAN FRANCISCO.—The Guild's position in the San Francisco labor movement received outstanding recognition with the election to the presidency of the Industrial Labor Council of George Wilson, pioneer Guildsman and reporter for the San Francisco News.

Elected to the Executive Committee was Francis McCarthy of the United Press. Both he and Wilson were Guild delegates to the Council. Wilson's election was by a vote of 72 to 12. Both Guildsmen were installed by Harry Bridges, West Coast CIO director.

Wilson is the husband of Betty Ballantine, ANG vice president.

TWO REGAIN JOBS AFTER GUILD DRIVE

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Dismissals of two Guildsmen shortly after opening of negotiations with the city's morning and evening dailies (under single ownership) were revoked after vigorous protest by the Guild against intimidation, backed by the city's most powerful union, the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers.

Threats of further dismissals which had been made by the management and attributed, as were the two ordered, to "economy," were withdrawn for a period in which both sides hoped to reach a contract.

The Smeltermen's resolution of protest and the Guild's refusal to continue contract negotiations until the dismissals were revoked and threats removed brought management capitulation within a week. The Guild had voted a 5-per cent weekly emergency assessment prior to the revocation of dismissals and plans to continue it through the negotiation period.

One-Man Art Show

Abram Tomka, a former member of the Journal and American units of the New York Guild, was to open a one-man show Sunday, Dec. 26, of his oils and water colors at the A. C. A. Gallery, at 25 West 9th St., New York. Much of Tomka's recent work was in the Pennsylvania and Kentucky mines, and among West Virginia and Kentucky hill people.

New Rochester Paper Set GUILDSMAN LED DRIVE

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—A two-paper, one-publisher town since last June 30 when Hearst's Rochester Journal closed down as part of the Albany-Rochester deal with Gannett, this city is to have a third newspaper shortly after Feb. 15.

Publication of the projected six-day evening paper, announced by the newly-incorporated Genesee Publishing Co., Inc., will be the culmination of a movement started last July when the ousted 400 Journalmen, faced the bleak prospect of finding jobs in a restricted field. More than 200 of them joined to

be mature enough to be able to stand self-analysis and self-criticism. To improve its own health, perhaps to save its own life, I think it needs some heavy doses of self-analysis and self-criticism.

REUBEN MAURY (Daily News Unit)

CCs to—
Mr. Heywood Brown;
Editor & Publisher.

PAY YOUR DUES! THEY BUILD THE GUILD

SIDE LINES

By CAROLYN MARX

Ted Olson, editor of the Republican-Boomerang, in Laramie, Wyoming, has a story called "Honey-moon" in the December issue of Story and two pages of poems in the current North American Review.

Brooks Atkinson, dramatic critic of the New York Times, will contribute an introduction to James R. Ullman's forthcoming book, "The Other Side of the Mountain."

H. Edward Knoblauch, Madrid correspondent for the Associated Press since 1933, recently published through Sheel & Ward a book called "Correspondent in Spain."

Richard L. Neuberger, of the Portland Oregonian unit, wrote about the President's recent tour of the West under the title "Roosevelt Rides Again" in the November Current History. He is also working on a book, "Promised Land," scheduled for Spring publication.

J. Frederick Esary, Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, has an article in "The Split in the Democratic Party" in the December issue of the Atlantic Monthly. In the same issue, H. B. Elliston, financial editor of the Christian Science Monitor, has an article, "Unflattered Sweden." He visited there last summer.

Eleanor Roosevelt, columnist, and ANG member-at-large, has written a new book, "This Troubled World," to be published Jan. 3 by H. C. Kinsey.

Meredith Williams, columnist on the Oklahoma News, conducts a

regular radio program as "Bill Newton."

Jack Rice, photographer for the Dallas News and Journal, took the pictures for the Life Goes To A Party section of the Dec. 6 issue of Life. To the same issue Walter Green of the Quincy Patriot and Ledger, Quincy, Mass., contributed pictures of the first children's church in America and Keith McPadden, of the Enterprise-Courier, Charleston, Mo., contributed a picture of a bursted cotton bale.

R. L. Duffus, member New York Times unit, is writing a biography of Lillian Wald for Spring publication.

Eliot Janeway, financial editor of the Federated Press and a contributor to the New York Times, has an article on "What Japan Is Buying" in the special supplement of the current issue of Asia.

Paul Gallico, Guildsman and for many years sports columnist on the New York Daily News, and now with International News Service, says goodbye to the antics of the athletes and tells all he knows about them in a book called "Farewell to Sports" to be published March 7.

David Dietz, science editor of the Scripps-Howard papers, has just issued a new book called "Medieval Magic."

Lee Shippey, of the Los Angeles Times, will have a new novel out early in January. It is called "The Great American Family."

SIOUX CITY STARTS BARGAINING DRIVE

SIOUX CITY, Iowa.—A majority of circulation department employees of the Sioux City Journal have chosen divisional officers preparatory to working out a bargaining program.

One man, employed by the paper for eight years, was discharged within the same week that he became a Guild member. The local has obtained ANG authorization for filing a Labor Board complaint.

REFUTES E & P STORY ON PAY

The usual editorial attempt of Editor & Publisher to depreciate the benefits secured by a Guild contract—the latest being a fact ignoring attack on the New York Daily News Guild contract of December, 1936, as an "empty victory for those who won it"—was shattered by Executive Secretary William W. Graves, who included an analysis of the percentage of editorial workers' benefits in a refutation which she has forwarded to Editor & Publisher.

In answer to E & P's statement that experienced editorial people (i.e., rewrite men, copy readers and caption writers) on the Daily News had been paid above any Guild minimum, Kaufman shows where 90 out of 61, or 67 per cent, in these groups were directly raised by the contract. More minute analysis reveals the following:

	Total Raised by workers' minimum
City rewrite	21 7
Brooklyn rewrite	4 3
Sports rewrite	14 8
Copy readers	15 8
Caption writers	7 4

PRINT U.S. GUIDE FOR PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA.—Fruit of two years' research and writing by 130 workers of the Federal Writers' Project, which includes more than 60 Guild members, the Philadelphia Guide has just come off the press. The book describes in 786 pages every phase of Philadelphia, past and present. It is illustrated by more than 200 photos, drawings and maps. It has been placed on sale for \$2.50 at leading book stores throughout the country and may also be purchased directly from the publishers, the William Penn Association of Philadelphia.

Worcester Guild Wins Contract With Post

(Continued from page 1.)

increases last week to 21 of the 32 Guild members on the staff. Almost the entire staff had benefited from at least one of two previous general wage boosts during the long negotiations.

In appreciation of the part played in Guild organization and in negotiations by members of the Boston Guild and by Fred Myers, ANG International Representative, members of the Post unit voted unanimously to give the amount of last week's wage increase to the ANG defense fund. The money will be collected immediately after Jan. 1.

Improvement "Great"

The Worcester Guild was organized largely through the efforts of Ed Allen, secretary of the Boston Guild, a former member of the Post staff.

Wage minimums agreed upon include: \$18 for an inexperienced reporter, writer or photographer, with a scale ranging upward to \$35 after five years of experience; \$22.50 for an experienced desk man, ranging up to \$27 after five years; \$16 for an experienced library worker, with \$25 after four years; \$10 for an inexperienced office boy, with \$12.50 after two years. The minimums represent a great improvement over previous standards on the Post.

In addition, the contract provides for payment of one week's salary for each month of service with the Post, with a limit of 10 weeks' wages; for compensation for overtime work with equal time off; for auto expenses at six cents a mile, and for complete freedom of outside activity for employees. It also guarantees that there will be no pay reductions during the life of the contract.

Robert Sibley, Post police reporter, is president of the Guild. Guy Livingston, now promotion manager but until recently a reporter and rewrite man, is secretary.

OFFICE HELP JOINS GUILD IN MADISON

MADISON, Wis.—In the face of a thinly-veiled campaign of publisher resistance, the Madison Guild has successfully completed an intensive organization drive among business office employees of the Wisconsin State Journal, Lee Syndicate paper.

Twenty-four out of a total of 32 workers have been signed up, and preparations now are under way to proceed with bargaining under certification by the State Labor Board. An abortive attempt to organize the State Journal business office workers in an AF of L federal union fell by the wayside shortly after the Guild drive started.

The campaign was conducted by a special Guild organizing committee, consisting of Cedric Parker, Capital Times editorial division, chairman; Paul Wagner and Arnold Sever, of the State Journal editorial division, and Harry Boden, of the Capital Times business office division.

Hundred per cent organization of the Capital Times business office was completed shortly after the St. Louis Convention, and the Times business office now is operating under a Guild shop contract, which provided the 5-day 40-hour week, two weeks vacation and substantial pay increases.

DUES AND ASSESSMENTS WIN OUR STRIKES

On Other Labor Fronts

Ford Book Review: A Backdrop To Violent 'Labor Trouble'

Two Recent Educational Pamphlets

Henry Ford is a man of peace. He has always said so himself, and anyone old enough can recall his sad expedition to Europe in 1915 with a boatload of pacifists determined to "Get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas."

The mission was a laudable one, even if stupidly conceived and executed, yet Ford became a laughing stock, the militarists and munitions makers leading the jeering. Since those days, Ford has been clearly exposed as either a phony, or an ignoramus, on practically all matters outside the sphere of automobile manufacturing.

Yet, it is with some shock that one learns from an Associated Press dispatch that on Dec. 26 he sent 25 gunmen and shoggers to his "labor troubles" assembly plant in Kansas City. The men, characterized as "workers" in the one dispatch, were arrested by sheriff's deputies because they had in their possession, said the A. P., "forty-two pistols, all but one loaded; twelve loaded shotguns, a sawed-off shotgun, and 55 black-jacks."

No Banner Lines

The story was displayed more or less obscurely in afternoon and morning papers. A newspaperer's mind leaps to a visualization of the spread the story would have had with pictures, if 25 CIO men had been guilty of such a felony, but let's pass that up. Let us skip also the fact that the A. P.'s afternoon story was written so as to leave the average reader with serious question that the thugs might have been union men.

This is the third paragraph of the A. P. story appearing in the New York Times:

"The 25 were released later (the same day) at the discretion of W. W. Graves, county prosecutor, 'pending further investigation.' The weapons were retained."

As he searched in vain through the story for the list of names of the 25 gunmen, the average reader must have been overjoyed that the arsenal was retained. The fact that the thugs were released and their names not published may be ascribed to the pledge that City Manager McElroy had given Ford that police would protect the "right to work" (presumably for gunmen) in Kansas City. Threatened by a strike at the assembly plant, Ford had said that he would close it down for good unless city authorities suppressed the Auto Workers Union and its activities.

McElroy made a personal visitation to Ford in Dearborn to give assurances.

Background in pamphlets

These occurrences serve as an illuminating foreground to two recent pamphlets on Ford. One, "The Flivver King," is a novelized 119-page book by Upton Sinclair which goes far to make its reader understand why this writer is more broadly translated and more widely read than any other American living or dead.

The other, "Fordism," a pamphlet containing 64 pages of documented denunciation written by the economics professor, Carl Raushenbush, and available for 15 cents from the League for Industrial Democracy, 112 East 19th Street, New York City, Sinclair's pamphlet can be purchased for 25 cents from the United Auto Workers, Griswold Building, Detroit, Mich. The union is taking an edi-



Demonstrations demanding freedom for Tom Mooney have swept the country from coast to coast in recent weeks. At a New York mass meeting in Madison Square Garden, 12,000 persons were addressed by these public officials: Left to right, Representative Maury Maverick of Texas, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, and Representative Jerry O'Connell of Montana and Nan Honeyman of Oregon.

The Frameup of Mooney and Billings New Protests Sweep U. S.

Friends of Tom Mooney—and he has millions—say that some day, perhaps long after Mooney is dead, Hollywood will do the story of his frameup, just as it presented the Dreyfus case in the film "The Life of Emile Zola." Doubtless the recent presentation of the film with its poignant exposition of how Zola and others fought for justice has been a source of inspiration to the champions of the cause of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings.

The story of Mooney and Billings as all know, begins in July, 1916, when a bomb exploded during a "Preparedness Day" parade in San Francisco. Labor leaders were arrested, charged with murder. In 1917 Mooney was sentenced to hang and Billings to life imprisonment. Mass protests defied execution and later, upon the findings of two commissions appointed by President Wilson which declared the men innocent, Mooney's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment at the President's request.

Since then, the trial judge who sentenced Mooney, ashamed that "my court was used for such a contemptible piece of work," has appealed to every subsequent governor of California to free Mooney, against whom "there is not even a serious suggestion that evidence exists."

Every living juror, once ready to either has confessed to perjury or has been thoroughly discredited by his own statements or the unimpeachable evidence of others.

Yet Tom Mooney remains in prison.

Year after year, conventions of the American Federation of Labor demand the release of Mooney and Billings. The railroad brotherhoods, other independent unions, and organizations opposed to the AF of L, all join in the demand. They are supported by outstanding public leaders. Current pressure

has been sufficient to obtain an investigation by a sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is under way at present. Sponsored by Senator Murray and Representative O'Connell of Montana, a resolution memorializing President Roosevelt to ask for Mooney's pardon has been signed by more than 200 members of Congress.

A new group, the American Committee of Liberals for the Freedom of Mooney and Billings, is adding to the pressure. Among its members are persons who, in other matters of public interest, hold extremely divergent views, such as Senator Royal S. Copeland and Felix Frankfurter.

Leaders in the campaign say that they have made exhaustive studies of the case and find that Mooney and Billings are innocent. LaGuardia said at the New York mass meeting on Dec. 15: "Seventeen years ago, in Congress, I studied the record of the Mooney case and I was convinced he was innocent. Today I am still more convinced."

Year after year, conventions of the American Federation of Labor demand the release of Mooney and Billings. The railroad brotherhoods, other independent unions, and organizations opposed to the AF of L, all join in the demand. They are supported by outstanding public leaders. Current pressure

Postal Gets Our Business

Postal Telegraph and Cable is now a union shop, and the ANG accordingly last week dropped Western Union to patronize Postal exclusively.

Postal, the powerful Mackay company which is now undergoing reorganization, signed a contract with the American Radio Telegraphists Association, affiliate of the CIO's American Communications Association, providing for its 17,600 employees, including messenger boys. The contract was signed after the union had demonstrated its strength in simultaneous, six-hour stoppages in six large cities. In addition to the raises and other benefits, the union won vacations with pay and a stipulation that union men cannot be fired from a shop so long as non-union employees are there.

partment, headed by the notorious Harry Bennett. Professor Raushenbush makes the point that Bennett's membership on the State Prison Board acting on paroles has "undoubtedly helped Bennett to recruit for his Service Department." The Service Department is staffed with ex-convicts, ex-pugilists, ex-murders, and other unsavory persons such as Eddie Cicotte, former Tiger pitcher "who had been in jail for

throwing the World's Series with the Black Sox." Dr. Raushenbush adds:

"There is probably a service man and a spy for every 25 workers, conservatively. A former testified there were 20 service men among 200 workers at the Highland Park plant. On that basis, taking the number of employees at the Dearborn plant conservatively at 80,000 in 1937, the service men and spies together number 6,500."

Ford never uses detective agencies for his slugging. In this department, as in many others, his empire is self-sufficient.

Dr. Raushenbush exposes particularly the Ford wage myth. For one thing, a trick of the company is to "rehire men at starting rates after seasonal or other layoff, even though they had previously worked up to a considerably higher wage rate." In June, 1937, Ford's average hourly wage was about 86 cents against an average of 90 cents for the rest of the industry, even including the parts manufacturing plants which pay lower rates than the auto manufacturing companies. Early in July Ford advanced the rate five cents an hour in an effort to forestall or organization. "Even with the new wage rates," says Dr. Raushenbush, "only a man in the topmost wage bracket getting at least \$1.10 an hour could, without working Saturdays, earn enough dollars to buy what the \$5-man had been able to buy in 1914."

The Free Press

The U. S. Reserve Board Head Can't Make the Times Grade

Eccles Speech On Tax Gets Runaround

Consistent with the New York Times' campaign on its editorial page for immediate repeal of the undistributed profits and capital gains tax, was the paper's treatment of a speech by Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Eccles spoke in Chicago, Dec. 14, voicing opposition to immediate repeal of the tax. The Associated Press story carried this at the lead. The Times not only ignored the lead, but made no mention in its report of the speech of the Reserve board chairman's opposition to the repeal.

The AP story of the speech, printed in an obscure position by the Baltimore Sun, had as its head line: "Eccles Urges Retention of Profit Tax Principle." The Washington Post story carried as its headline: "Save Principle of Profits Tax, Eccles Pleads." But the Times—"Eccles Urges Cut in Building Costs."

Times Used a "Labor" Lead

In the Baltimore Sun AP story Eccles was quoted as saying, "Changes in the undistributed profits and capital gain taxes should be considered only to make these laws more equitable and to improve their mechanism without abandoning their principles prematurely."

On the same morning the New York Times reported, "Labor and industry were warned today by Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve System, that restrictive practices raising costs and diminishing production were responsible for the present decline in economic activity and that a continuation of such policies would make impossible any progress toward a full and continuous employment of the nation's workers and productive plants."

The campaign by the Times for immediate repeal of the taxes has been conducted on the grounds that they were "responsible" for the present business recession.

How Chicago Tribune Puts 'Color' in News

CHICAGO.—What was lacking was a galloping horse, a ten-gallon hat and a maiden to rescue, but the Chicago Tribune's leased wire story of the American Enamelled Ware Company's recent strike at Port Huron, Mich., succeeded just the same in making a hero of a strikebreaking sheriff.

Getting in an incidental dig at Michigan's Governor Murphy, the story said:

"Denied aid by Michigan's 'labor' governor, a courageous sheriff mobilized a staff of 150 deputies to-night to enforce the law in the face of threats by CIO leaders to bring a force of pickets here. . . ."

"Sheriff William L. Van Antwerp defied both Governor Frank Murphy and the radical John L. Lewis organization. . . ." (Italics ours).

UAW Aids Eagle

DETROIT (FP).—West Side Local of the United Automobile Workers has voted a contribution to the striking newspaper Guildsmen on the Brooklyn Eagle. "The many layoffs and part-time operations in our plants made it impossible to give more," wrote Walter Reuther of the local.

The Guild Reporter

Copyright, 1937, by the American Newspaper Guild



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"It shall be the duty of the GUILD REPORTER, under the supervision of the IEB, to promote in every legitimate way the policies of the ANG as established in Convention, and to confine its editorial policies to that specific program. All notices printed in the REPORTER shall constitute notices to the entire membership." — From Art. XX, Sec. 1, ANG Constitution.

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 and bulletins on Thursdays.

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 December 27, 1937 Vol. V, No. 3

Brooklyn and After

THAT was a remarkable job done in Brooklyn, from the beginning to the ultimate, extra final end.

Every Guild member will feel proud over the resourcefulness, energy and good judgment with which the whole strike was conducted.

It will sound trite to say that every member has an obligation to press home at once the advantage accruing to us; but it is not trite.

It has been characteristic of most of our strikes that their immediate effects, have been more pronounced on other shops than on their own. Partly this is true because our strikes have been to defeat attacks on our organization more than for financial improvements. Partly, also, it is because after long struggles the papers can effectively plead poverty. A strike is like getting over a fence—you can go places afterward.

On the other hand our demonstration of ability and willingness to fight is an object lesson noted far and wide. And for very practical reasons. If a strike pinches us it pinches the publishers hard, too. In our first big strike, on the Newark Ledger, it was estimated that for every dollar we spent Publisher Russell spent 17—probably \$400,000 or more. He lost his paper to boot.

One could say conservatively that a publisher's costs in a three-months strike would meet the added expense of a Guild contract for several years. It is no wonder then that after the Milwaukee and Seattle victories the number of papers covered by agreements bounced in six months from a baker's dozen to more than 70.

In other words, now is the time for another forward movement throughout the Guild. Locals should have their pencils out these days figuring the details of membership and bargaining drives. Incidentally, every gain made by other locals now will make future gains easier in Brooklyn.

Much of the ANG has been waiting for this opportunity. Here it is!

Let Not Thy Left Hand --

SPEAKING to a group of diners fervently described by Time Magazine as "the greatest aggregation of white-tied wealth and power ever assembled under one roof"—meaning the recent New York convention of the National Association of Manufacturers—Colby Mitchell Chester, head of General Foods Corporation and chairman of the Association, presented a labor program in behalf of 5,000 N. A. M. members who employ 50 per cent of the workers in American factories.

Most of Mr. Chester's speech was hardly new, but there was one point which made radio listeners check up in the papers the next day to make sure they had heard correctly.

"It is pertinent to ask," said Mr. Chester, "if the leaders of labor . . . will voluntarily stop giving contributions to any political party?"

The mill-owners applauded. These same mill-owners poured millions into the GOP war chest last year. Ernest T. Weir, who sat at the speakers' table, is credited with having spent \$97,300 to push the campaigns of Republican nominees. And Mr. Chester must have heard that eighteen members of the du Pont family, which was represented in his audience,

contributed to the GOP cause a total of \$855,520, while the combined contributions of all labor unions to the Democratic Party, to Labor's Non-Partisan League and to the American Labor Party came to only \$770,218.

Whatever Mr. Chester may have had in mind we can only guess. From the hallmarks of special privilege, however, come reverent allusions to the British labor laws.

Seeking exact information about this employers' heaven across the seas, we ran across the following in the September Bulletin of the International Juridical Association:

"There has been some attempted agitation recently by employer groups in the United States in favor of legislation prohibiting unions from making political contributions. The British statutes are cited as a precedent. These statutes, however, do not prohibit political contributions by unions."

The article explains that by a statute enacted in 1913, all union members could be assessed for a political fund by a vote of the majority of members present at a union meeting, but that any member not wishing to contribute could be exempted if he gave notice to that effect. The 1927 act provided that members must give actual consent to a political levy instead of being bound unless they asked for exemption. "The British statute," concludes the article, "continues to recognize the propriety of union expenditures for political purposes."

"It is pertinent to ask," says the chairman of the N. A. M. We disagree with you, Mr. Chester. Your question is not pertinent. It is impertinent. Like the rest of the "labor program" espoused by your organization, it serves to bring the leaders of American industry closer to an open announcement of a new political philosophy revealed by many similar utterances during the last year—a disbelief in the traditional American principles of political equality and majority rule.

Sigma Delta Chi

EACH annual convention of Sigma Delta Chi in recent years has been attended by a fanfare of news stories about plans for major reorganization. Obviously written with one eye on the Guild, they keep reporting that this national journalistic fraternity, based mainly on college memberships, is to be broadened into a society taking in all, or nearly all, working newspaper men.

More substance than usual was given to the stories this last time by the presentation to the convention of a comprehensive reorganization proposal about which we print in this issue a letter from Executive Secretary Kiper to ANG Vice-President Eddy. Apparently the advance stories overshot their mark again. The proposed plan, which did open the way to studies of economic standards, was sent back for redrafting and submission to a referendum.

It is obvious that the news stories would not keep recurring if they did not represent a conscious desire by someone to precipitate Sigma Delta Chi into rivalry with the Guild. Many publishers have long been praying for some such rivalry. In England, significantly, an attempt is being made to re-orient the old British Institute of Journalists—which like Sigma Delta Chi has publisher members—so as to enable it to bargain collectively in competition with the National Union of Journalists.

We hope the idea represents only wishful thinking by at most a handful of Sigma Delta Chi members—if any! As a body devoted to raising professional standards the fraternity has a place. The Guild is glad to see any organization working sincerely toward this end. On the other hand, an attempt to deal with standards of pay, working conditions and so on, if made by an organization considerably under the influence of employer members, would too easily lend itself to active use against the Guild. It could set low standards, for example, which any publishers could then flaunt to defeat the Guild's program. This would work to the detriment of the great majority in Sigma Delta Chi as well as the ANG.

We welcome Mr. Kiper's assurances, and hope that the good relations between the two organizations, cemented by the presence of many members active in both, will long continue.

Consolidations

Nashville newspapermen who have been fired or who fear a similar fate through the merger of the Tennessean and Banner interests probably wish they had organized a Guild long ago for their protection against just such emergencies.

The boys who are out in the cold have no severance indemnity and no Conference Committee to plead their cases with the management.

Those who have had the questionable good fortune to hold their jobs are being paid the wages of a stenographer, are working the six-day, 60-to-90-hour week, and have no recourse but to take it and try to like it.

—From the Memphis Guildman.

THE FREEDOM OF THE GRAVE

By MORGAN HULL

GRAVE diggers should not attempt to improve their economic conditions for the same reasons that newspapermen should not be trade unionists.

For this important discovery Guildsmen and grave diggers alike are obligated to the New York World-Telegram, which, needless to say, did not draw the parallel between the two professions but did inadvertently demonstrate an important truth which can be of considerable value to Guild negotiating committees.

In an editorial on Nov. 30th, entitled, "An Inhuman Strike," the World-Telegram piously condemned a union of grave diggers (CIO) for going on strike. A pitiful picture was painted of the great distress which was caused the sorrowing relatives of some honest citizen who allegedly remained unburied because of the heartless and unsympathetic grave diggers.

In the opinion of the World-Telegram something should be done; there ought to be a law. Why? Because grave diggers have a special role in society. Their function is too important to be interrupted by labor difficulties. In short, grave diggers have a special relationship to public welfare which cannot be exposed to the hazards of trade unionism.

These reasons, it will be noted, are exactly those which Publisher Roy Howard advances as arguments against the Guild Shop on the World-Telegram. Reporters have a peculiar responsibility to provide news (substitute graves) in the interest of public welfare and this special relationship cannot be exposed to the hazards of trade unionism. As to the diggers, we must preserve the "freedom of the grave."

That Matter of Pay

The editorial failed, however, to suggest that the grave diggers might be compensated in a degree more commensurate with their responsibilities to society.

Some readers noted, also, that the World-Telegram was not exercised about the fact that the shelves of every publicly operated mortuary in the nation are littered with tin cans or paper sacks containing the ashes of many a citizen whose sorrowing relatives haven't the cash to provide a decent burial or any other disposition of the remains.

Now, was the World-Telegram distressed merely because one citizen was momentarily denied decent burial, or was it campaigning for the principle that a decent burial is the right of all? Certainly, it might have occurred to almost anyone that for every individual whose interment is interrupted by a strike there must be, conservatively, at least a thousand who are deprived of decent burial by poverty.

Then, if the World-Telegram really has its heart in the matter, surely it ought to condemn poverty? No doubt this it has already done and will do again, but unfortunately the only practical solution to the problem of poverty for the workingman is trade union organization and activity. This, obviously, gets the "Tele" right back to the premise which it was attacking, a contradiction which is much too complicated for a liberal newspaper.

A Subtle Advantage

Aside from the fact that the World-Telegram was, in fact, taking subtle advantage of an opportunity to arouse thoughtless emotional prejudice against the labor movement, the editorial throws a great deal of light on publisher arguments that the newspaper business is "special," is "different" and has a "unique responsibility to the public," which must be "inviolate."

Of other examples there are many, but one is worth noting. An obscure New York judge, for motives apparent to all court reporters, recently delivered a vindictive and irrational attack on a union of hospital employees which went on strike and interrupted the services available at the institution.

Nurses, orderlies and internes, the judge said, had a special responsibility to the public, to the sick and the injured. There were touching illusions to the noble task of ministering to the needs of the suffering and the dying and there were implied aspersions on the character of people who would desert a position of public trust to win a few paltry dollars. If nurses object to a 12-hour day they should rely on the growth of public enlightenment.

Since legislation which would improve working conditions in private hospitals has commonly been defeated in the New York state legislature by organized hospital operators, with the assistance of highly organized religious and charitable groups—groups which operate a large percentage of private institutions—the wait for public enlightenment promises to be a long one. The press, it might be noted, fails to report the attacks of religious groups on this kind of legislation.

It seems that employers can pick and choose which of the services "vital to the public welfare" they will perform. But employees seem to be required to furnish vital services whether it is profitable to them or not.

Most employers advance the same argument in an attempt to evade one or more demands of the union which represents their employees in collective bargaining. Each situation is "special," each business is "different." Each has a "public trust," and a public trust, of course, "must be inviolate."