THE CLERK

OUR MESSAGE
AN APPEAL FOR UNITED ACTION

APRIL 15, 1935

The function of the Clerk's Union, as of all unions, is to establish united action among members, for the common purpose of raising the living and working standards of all. To aid in this object a few Clerks, members of Local 38-50, dedicate this little paper. It is your paper and open to all Clerks as a medium through which they may express their opinions and inquiries, as to how best our organization may be perfected. So WRITE TO YOUR PAPER - THE CLERK.

YOUR JOB IS AS GOOD AS YOUR UNION
YOUR UNION IS AS GOOD AS YOUR RANK AND
FILE CONTROL

And this holds good whether you're on a regular job or relief work - whether you're laboring in overalls or pushing a pen in the office.

The relief workers on the SERA project at 1269 O'Farrell St. proved this out in their strike which ended last week in a 100% victory. They are all back at work with FULL DEMAND WON.

Strikes and unions among white collar workers are something new. Exploitation of white collar workers is not new. Up to now, employers have considered their clerks one class of labor which they could hire and fire with impunity. They paid them less, demanded more and kept them chained to starvation wages by the mythical promise of "advancement".

Today examples of white collar organizations and struggle are reported from all over the country. In New York a rank and file magazine, "The Office Worker" is being published. Newspaper reporters are massing solidly in their Newspaper Guild.

It means that white collar workers are discovering their class position. In the O'Farrell St. strike, solidarity protests were obtained from A.F. of L. Unions.

The movement is in its infancy and has a long road of struggle ahead. But that struggle has begun. Hundreds of thousands of white collar have learned the meaning of organization in the ranks of the unemployed. That lesson is permeating the ranks of the clerks.

THEO RUMORS!

For the past several months ugly stories have been going the rounds, regarding the finances and general management of the Clerk's Local. We have no intention of stirring up muddy waters and it was probably for similar reasons that members who have the "low-down" on certain happenings did not prefer charges. Whether or not that was the right attitude to take, is a debatable point. Where a man gyps a harsh and slave driving boss, there may be some slight justification. But, among a group of workers, banded together for mutual aid, dishonesty comes under a different code.

If one-half the rumors are true, then the organization is sure in a mess that needs to be cleaned up at once for all. Don't you think so?

HOW MANY HOURS ARE ENOUGH?

Discussion of the length of the working day seems almost superfluous, as not only has Wm. Green so well shown, but our best known economists are unanimous in desiring that a permanent shortening of hours to balance improved machinery is absolutely imperative. We must become reconciled to these coming changes and so must the employer. President Roosevelt has more than once advocated this coming change and it is up to us to get behind it with enthusiasm. Wages will, of course, have to be adjusted.

That is what unions are for.
DELEGATES ELECTED TO MARINE FED. CONF. 3 MILITANTS TO REPRESENT LOCAL 38-73

In the election held for the 3 delegates to represent Local 38-73 at the Marine Federation Conference in Seattle 3 militant fighters, who were active in the strike and who fought all down the line for the Marine Federation have been elected. They are Harry Bridges, who received 1495 votes out of the 1845 cast — Henry Schmidt second with 1019 and Henry Scholl third, with 995.

The fact that the membership saw fit to elect these active fighters shows that the membership realize that the only way we can get better working conditions is by fighting for them. NOT by sitting on the fence and representing "both sides".

YOU MUSTN'T DO THIS! YOU MUSTN'T DO THAT!

Any Clerk can be excused for saying, "If it is unwise to do and to allow certain practices, in a Labor Union; what then, is the right thing to do?" The answer is simple. A Labor organization is a body of men or women of a given craft, banded together to act in UNION, to protect their livelihood. In order to so act, a common ground or understanding must be established wherein varying individuals comprising the craft, may attain UNITY. Obviously, only by the widest expression of opinions from members can such a basis be laid. Only this way can the respect of members be gained for the decisions arrived at by the regular meetings. Most important; only this way can discipline, which is so vital to every Labor Union, be maintained. We all know that crooked and subversive handling of funds, backstairs methods of conducting union meetings, playing favorites, bias against others and accepting officials own estimates of themselves as little tin Gods, will kill the spirit of a Union and destroy the enthusiasm of the most active members. Full control by Membership of all activities is the sunshine that will dispel the fog you're in clerks; if you think so WRITE! If you don't think so WRITE! TO

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PASS THIS ON TO A CLERK