

THE CLERK

VOLUME I
NUMBER I
APRIL 15, 1935

OUR MESSAGE AN APPEAL FOR UNITED ACTION

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 38-90, 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.

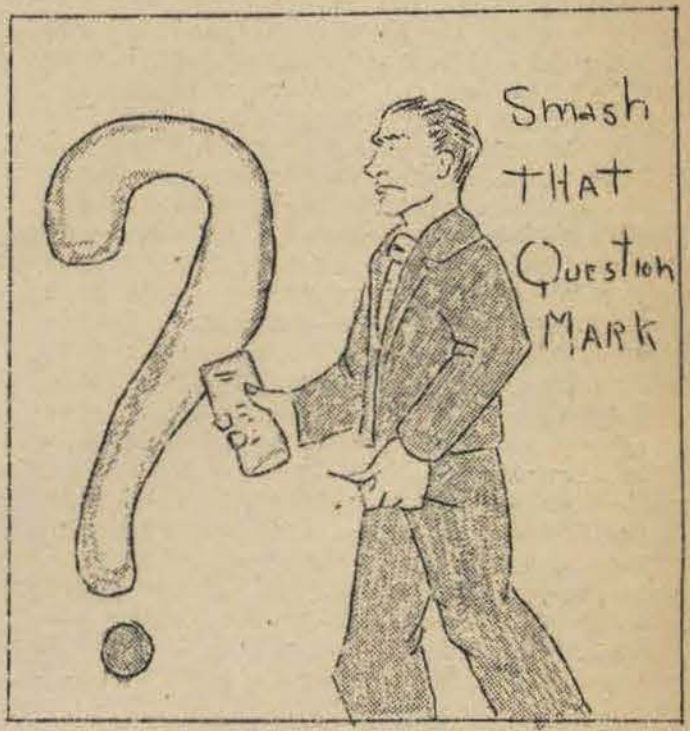
The relief workers on the SERA project at 1259 O'Farrell St. found this out in their strike which ended last week in a 100% victory. They are all back at work with FULL DEMANDS WON.

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 collars have learned the meaning of organization in the ranks of the unemployed. That lesson is permeating the ranks of the clerks.

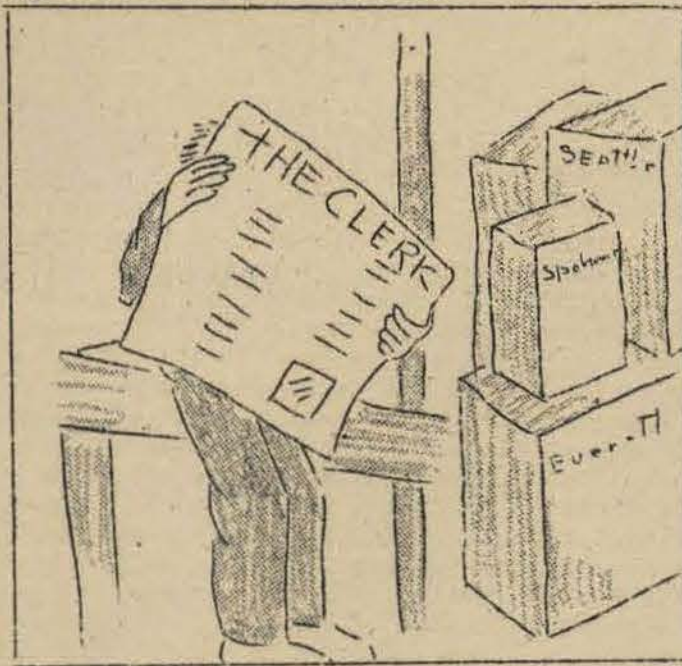


THOSE RUMORS!

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 ethic. 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 declaring that a permanent shorting 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.



PASS THIS ON TO A CLERK!

* * * * *
DO NOT TRADE AT MCKALES SERVICE STATION
* * * * *

SHIPOWNERS FOOLED THOUGHT STRIKE BE OVER
IN 5 DAYS -- CLERKS SORRY THEY FINKED.

WE ASK YOU

Dear Ed:

Before the strike the officials of the Steamship Companies told all their faithful help that the strike would last about five days and that the men would break down the gates to get back, but such was not the case as we all know. But if another strike would occur a lot of men that stayed in would come out. A good many have said as much and Plant knows it, too.

I was up to Avon on oil and I spoke to a clerk. He told me that all during the strike he got no overtime pay and the watchman worked 12 hours and no overtime and sometimes the scab clerks had to wait long hours for the launch to take them back to the Lurline to sleep.

The majority of clerks, as you know, are a lot of disappointed businessmen and just the right stuff to make a good scab, but since they have come to the waterfront they are becoming educated to the fact THAT ALL WORKERS MUST STICK TOGETHER. Some of the scabs would give all they possess if they could undo what they have done.

Let me say this before I close, if there ever was a man that deserves the praise of the American people is that man who was called, "The Man of the Hour" and leader of our hard-fought strike --- Harry Bridges.

A Member of the Teamsters for 20 Yrs.

DELEGATES ELECTED TO MARINE FED. CONF.
3 MILITANTS TO REPRESENT LOCAL 38-79

In the election held for the 3 delegates to represent Local 38-79 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 1645 cast -- Henry Schmidt second with 1019 and Henry Schrimpf, third, with 898.

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 UNISON, to protect their livelihood. In order to so act, a common ground or understanding must be established whereon 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 the opinions of 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

Who is the clerk on 38 that works all the long shifts and why?

When do the clique at 22 plus 38, 33, 45, 54 and 46 find time to collect their pay?

Who checks up on the 140 hours?

Where is that petition from the long distance Brothers who think 140 hours are not enough for them to show off their talent?

How the Secretary like the panning he got at the last meeting and if he knows another is due next meeting from the same quarter?

Did a certain clerk on pier 7 once have a chance to go into the loan business to the sum of 100 smackers?

What does our President think Cushings Manual is? A kind of Racing Form?

How are we ever going to get back into the good graces of the stevies?

Does our President sign the minutes when passed? If not - why not?

Did the Secretary destroy those postal cards he had printed, but never mailed? Or is he saving them for next year's valentines?

Has the new blood on the executive gotten down to cases yet, and will a new broom sweep clean?

We've had the Beer and the Booze salesmen address our meetings, when is the President going to rustle up a Wine salesman to take up our time?

Who is a good man, not a member of the clique, to send north for the Convention.

FIRST ISSUE OF "THE CLERK"

THE CLERK'S PAPER - WRITE FOR IT

This is the first issue of "The Clerk". The clerks are in vital need of a voice that cries out in their defense. THIS IS YOUR PAPER -- WRITE FOR IT!

P.O. BOX 1158

P.O. BOX 1158 - SAN FRANCISCO

PASS THIS ON TO A CLERK