

THE SUN MORNING

Published by:
EJ WORKERS CLUB, COMMUNIST PARTY
567 O'NEIL BLDG. BINGHAMTON, N.Y.

July 1949

Vol. 1. 5

JIGGER WORKERS TOLD -

"TAKE BIG PRICE CUT
OR WE'LL PUT YOU ON 2 1/2 DAYS"

CUTTING AND STITCHING ROOMS

READY FOR FIGHT !

Last week, Bob Carten, superintendent, notified JIGGER workers in the stitching, cutting and making rooms, that they had to take a price-cut on the big new job - or else go on 2 1/2 days a week. To the JIGGER workers this meant a wage cut - as much as \$4 to \$6 a week. But what's more, most of the workers on the floor are sure that if they take the cut, the other floors of JIGGER will take the same kind of slash.

Carten, also known as "Old Sour-puss," waved the big club of part-time work and lower paychecks over the heads of the JIGGER workers to force the pay cut. He was trying to advance the E-J policy of "more work, less pay !"

The old depression threat, "work for 10 cents is better than no work at all," is the company line now.

But Carten GOT A BIG SURPRISE - and a serious hitch in the company plans showed up - THE WORKERS IN THE CUTTING AND STITCHING ROOMS REFUSED TO TAKE THE CUT. Instead, real fighting spirit is developing in those rooms - the workers know that if they stand together they can beat the company threat and the wage cut.

The workers answer is - WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO A LIVING WAGE! Look at E-J's profits last year - \$8,000,000. Prices are still going up - BUS FARE jumped 2¢ last month. RENTS have been "de-controlled" and quite a few of us can expect to

HOWDY !



Here's your paper again. The paper put out by E-J workers who are Communists. One of the things that a lot of workers are telling us is that the paper is slowing up E-J from cutting down as much as it would like. We think that that is important - but that it is more important that every E-J worker get to know about what is going on in every other E-J factory. If you are interested in giving us a helping hand with the paper - drop a line to our address above - or slip some change to one of the guys who hand the paper out. We'll appreciate anything from 5¢ to a buck. We only have our pay-checks to buy the paper, ink, etc, for the paper. THANKS A MILLION !

have our rent increased. WE E-J WORKERS HAVE GOT TO HAVE A LIVING WAGE. AND THE KIND OF FIGHT THAT THE JIGGER WORKERS ARE READY TO PUT UP IS THE ONLY WAY WE'LL GET IT!

Dear Charlie;

I had plans for a swell vacation this year.... a week at the sea shore, do a littel fishing, and lay around on the sand. The wife and kids were all hopped up about it too.

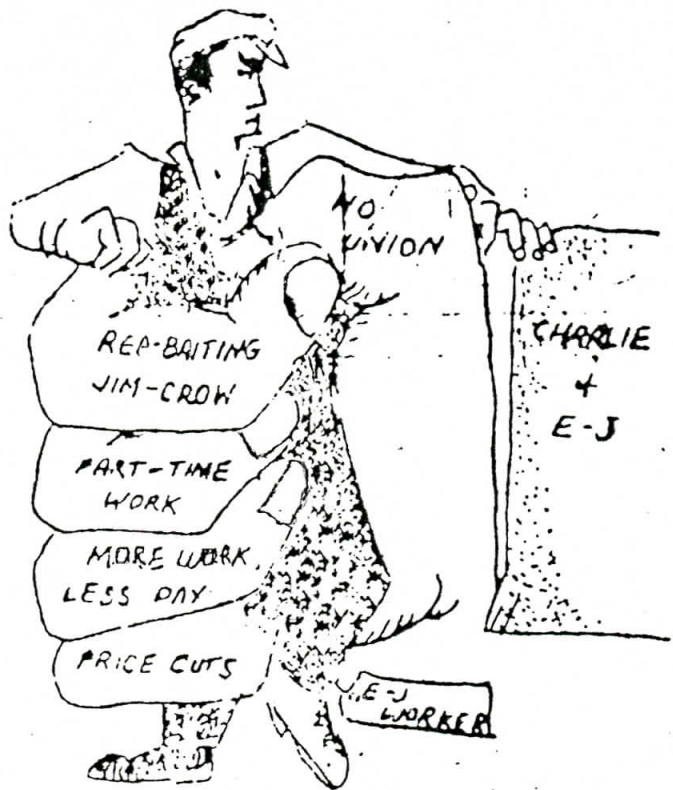
But it all went out the window when your super called us in and told us we'd either have to take a wage cut or else go on 5 half-days a week, and some of us would get laid off too! How can we take a vacation with another wage cut staring us in the face?

I call that the dirtiest trick yet! It's just a plain ordinary stick-up! You put a gun to our heads and say - take a cut, or else....! That's how you make \$8,000,000 in profit a year! You won't have to call off your vacation this year, will you Charlie?

The economic "experts" say the cost of living is coming down and everything is rosy. But that ain't the way I see it. To me it looks like the grocery bill is higher than ever and rents are jumping sky high. Your pals in City Hall think up a new tax for for us to pay every day. Just a couple of weeks ago the Traction Company jumped their fares again. And then you come along and tell us to take a cut in wages. It looks like vacations are only for people like you who don't do any work and make \$8,000,000 profit!

And then you've got the guts to tell us how wonderful your "free enterprise" system is!

You couldn't get away with it for a minute except that you and the other bosses own the newspapers and the radio stations and the schools and the cops and the judges and everything else. They tell the people that anyone who doesn't believe in your profit system is a traitor and a spy!



"THE BIG (PROFIT) SQUEEZE"

Well, Charlie the red-baiting and phony spy scares and trumped-up political trial of Communists in Foley Square won't help you much from now on. The workers are beginning to catch on to your tricks. I'm not the only guy in my department who had his vacation plans knocked into a cocked hat. Plenty of others are worried and mad about the whole deal. A lot of us are beginning to think we ought to have a union. And some of us are beginning to think that maybe your profit system makes big profits for you, but it sure can't make a living for us. Maybe the Communists have something when they say we could do a lot better if the people owned all the factories. Then we'd see to it that we got paid enough to live decently and take vacations too!

Well, tell the Mrs I hope she's enjoying her vacation in Europe.

JOE JIGGER WORKER

Plain Talk

(Gee, there are so many things to talk and tell about, I hardly know where to begin. Maybe we'll have a chance to tackle some of these items in the next Plain Talk)

NO. 1: It's fast approaching **BONUS TIME** - and rumors are flying thick and fast. The one we've heard the most - and the one which presents the most danger to E-J workers is; the company will give out a small bonus - AND AT THE ONE SAME TIME THROW OUT THE 15% INCREASE ON THE BASE RATE. This means a big-sized flat wage cut for all E-J workers. We need that **BONUS** - (especially considering that \$8 million profits for last year, the company can certainly afford it) But we will not take a wage cut - Look out for the bonus - and get ready to fight!

While the Sole SEATHER TANNERY was shut down last month, Sole Leather was being shipped into E-J from New England. The company has been giving out with the phony excuse that "these shipments had to be made because of 'previous commitments.'" But how about commitments to Sole Leather Workers. The Company owes them a lot more! And to top it off, more salesmen from New England, peddling Sole Leather have been seen around George W's office.

Pullovers in the GEORGE F. factory took a cut of 8%. Another example of E-J's price-cutting.

\$108 apiece - for every member of the family. That's what the "Cold War" will cost every American in 1949 - right now! DOUBLE THAT - to include the arms under the newly passed ATLANTIC WAR PACT. A Cold War means dollars of American Tax-

OVER LYNCH "JUSTICE."

Last week, the peoples' protest campaigns fighting the frame-up trials of the Trenton Six and the Martinsville 7 really produced results - **THE PEOPLE SCORED A VICTORY!**

The New Jersey Supreme Court set aside the trial verdict in the case of the Trenton Six. The high court ruled that the prosecution had withheld evidence which would have freed the innocent men. The Supreme Court verdict showed that the Trenton trial was a deliberate frame-up - the Trenton Six were on trial only because they were Negroes. And the Jersey State prosecution did its' best to "lynch" them "Northern Style."

It's clear that the thousands of letters, telegrams and petitions sent to the Governor of New Jersey made it impossible for the State Prosecutor's office there to carry out its' lynch intentions. Don't ever let anyone tell you that the people don't have a voice in the issues of our time. Don't let anybody give you that stuff - "We couldn't do anything, anyway." Because **"THE PEOPLE CAN SPEAK."**

And in another "lynch justice" case protests of the people, in the form of telegrams, and letters swamped the desk of the Governor of Virginia, William Tuck. These protests forced the 30 day postponement of the execution of the Martinsville 7 - the seven Negroes mechanically framed-up in Virginia. The people fought this Ku Klux Klan verdict.

SPEAK UP - MAKE YOURSELF HEARD! Let Mrs. Charlie F. Johnson know that you're not fooled by \$ IN 18,000. Protest the frame-up verdict of the Martinsville 7. Write or telegram Governor Tuck, Richmond, Va. - **DEMAND THAT FULL PARDON BE GIVEN THE 7 MARTINSVILLE NEGROES CONVICTED BY A LYNCH JURY.**

INSOLE CUTTERS GET LOOK AT "SQUARE DEAL"

Let any Insole cutter from the big cutting rooms of IDEAL, MEN'S WEAR, BOYS & YOUTH, what he thinks of E-J's "Square Deal." The lousy deal the Insole Cutters have been taking for some time now has made them fighting mad!

For quite a while, the IDEAL cutters have been working only 4 or 5 half-days a week. Pay-checks have been cut in half on one of the best-paid jobs in E-J.

But the real rub is: the company has been handing out the line that "we're using rubber now - we can't help it." Last week, some Insole cutters got a real look at that "rubber." The "rubber" was CARLOADS OF INSOLES SHIPPED FROM NEW ENGLAND! E-J can buy Insoles from New England cheaper than making them here - and E-J workers are cut down for "rubber." The "Square Deal" flies out the window when cheaper goods can be found elsewhere - because that means MORE PROFITS (to add to that \$8,000,000 of last year.)

In the IDEAL Insole Cutting room only the company stooges are "happy." The Insole Cutting room always had the reputation of a group of fighting workers - finally the company loaded it with a bunch of stooges - small-time chisellers. Now these guys are walking around boasting about their "big" checks (the company hands out duplicates to most of them.) The only ones really making the "big" dough are the loud-mouthed "Big Five," leaders of the company stooges - they are getting paid extra for squealing on their fellow workers and for red-baiting!

E-J's "SQUARE DEAL" clearly means - YOU WORK FOR US FOR LESS PAY -OR WE'LL PUT YOU ON PART-TIME CUT YOUR PRICES OR BUY CHEAPER STUFF SOMEWHERE ELSE, AND WE'LL USE COMPANY STOOGES TO BACK US UP!

2 IN 18,000 AND SHE SAYS SHE'S "AGAINST DISCRIMINATION"

Well, what do ya know? Mrs. Charlie F. Johnson was re-appointed to the Broome County Committee Against Discrimination. Now isn't that sweet! Yeah - it's sweet - but talk about false faces. Mrs. Charlie F. Johnson is the wife of Mr. Charlie F. Johnson. Mr. Charlie F. Johnson owns E-J. E-J employs only 2 Negroes in 18,000 workers.

With one hand E-J bars Negroes from jobs. With the other hand, E-J puts on a false front of a "great benefactor of the Negro people." We've had lots of experience with E-J saying one thing and doing another. But this tops 'em all. It takes real gall to pull a two-faced deal like this!

The Negro people of this country suffer far more than any other nationality. One of the worst burdens of this terrible suffering is that they are barred from jobs simply because of the color of their skin. In the Triple-Cities E-J has by far the most vicious Jim-Crow hiring policy of any company. And yet, Mrs. Charlie F. has the gall to claim that "she is fighting against discrimination."

E-J workers should let Mrs. J. know that they are not being kidded about her "fight" "against discrimination," any more than they are fooled about the phony "SQUARE DEAL" policy. Phone or write the "dear lady" at her home - let her know how you feel about this lousy BLUFF.

PART-TIME WORK, \$25 PAY CHECKS, LAY-OFFS, DEPRESSION, ATOM WAR, and FASCISM..... WHY?

Read William Z. Foster's hard-hitting new book -

"TWILIGHT OF WORLD CAPITALISM" 35 cents

At Endicott-Johnson

Shoe Workers' Earnings Drop as Company Sends Work Out-of-Town

By Robert Johnston

BINGHAMTON.—A fleet of big trailer trucks carrying partially finished Endicott-Johnson shoes are wearing out the road these days between the Triple Cities and northern Pennsylvania. They are bringing parts of shoes from the Triple Cities factories of the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Corporation to one of the half a dozen factories in Pennsylvania opened up by E-J under the name of the Keystone State Shoe Company.

These factories are located in small, former mining towns. The mines long since closed down, these were ghost towns until E-J moved in. The Chambers of Commerce took up collections to build the factories and donated them to E-J. Wages are low—even lower than in the Triple Cities.

While the company sends more and more work to these low-paid areas, the 18,000 E-J workers in the Triple Cities are working part time, some as few as 16 hours a week.

Lay-offs are threatening, too. Although the company has said that they intend to keep on all the workers and "distribute the work," they are beginning to lay off workers on the grounds of "poor work." They are using the threat of lay-offs to force the workers to spend more time on each pair of shoes and thus take a cut in wages.

One stitcher who has done good work for the last 30 years was suddenly laid off last week for "poor work." Refusal to cut his rate by spending undue time on each shoe was the real reason.

President Charlie Johnson inferred that speedup is one of the reasons for the lack of work when he said that although the normal annual consumption of shoes in the U.S. is 460,000,000 pairs, today the productive capacity of shoe factories is 600,000,000 pairs annually. (Of course the company answer is that the workers should turn out "better work" at less pay). At the company banquets, almost a nightly affair for one group of workers or another, Johnson has constantly urged that workers spend more time on each pair of shoes, thus cutting down on their rate of pay.

Workers from the All-Sports Factory who demanded that the company stop sending work from their factory to Pennsylvania were given the answer: "We will give your work back to you if you will accept a price cut." Workers in many other factories have been given the same sort of ultimatum.

One group of a couple of hundred workers, the Outsole Cutting and Sorting Department in the big Fine Welt factory, were really steamed up about the fact that the company is buying soles already cut from other companies. They are working only 16 hours a week. When they demanded to see someone from the management, Ray Mills, General manager, came down to talk to them. He told them that if any of them were hungry to drop and see "Charlie" and he'd fix them up. But there was nothing he could do about buying the cut soles, he said, because it was cheaper that way. Needless to say, the cutters are still burned up.

One of the big beefs of the workers is that they must come in every day, wait around hour after hour for work and then get sent home after having earned hardly enough for bus fare. E-J pays only 15 cents an hour on top of the piece work earnings.

At one time when there was a hide shortage and work was slow, the E-J tannery workers in the Fur and Leather Workers Union won their demand for alternating one week layoffs with full-time work while on. This enabled the workers to collect unemployment insurance on the weeks they were off. Many workers are discussing the possibility of the same sort of thing for the shoe workers now.

The E-J Workers Club, Communist Party, is helping the workers to fight for a program which will answer some of their short-time problems. This program calls for:

1. Wage increases to bring the weekly take-home up to a living wage.
2. Friendly trade relations with the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China to help make jobs for millions of Americans so they can buy our shoes.
3. Full work week while working, full week layoffs for alternating groups of workers in each department so they can collect unemployment insurance.
4. End company favoritism in distributing work. Stop company layoffs for "poor quality" work. If the company wants better work let them pay for it.
5. Union organization of all E-J workers to enforce these demands. End the Taft Hartley Law in this session of Congress.

Feb-5-50

Thousands Homeless From Floods

'Can't Have Cold War and Flood Protection, Too'

By Robert Johnston

BINGHAMTON.—Countless families were forced to flee from their homes in many areas of upstate New York last week as flood waters rose from swollen rivers and creeks. I visited several families in the Triple Cities area late Tuesday night to help them move.

They didn't expect to "get it" that night so they stayed on. But they were uneasy and worried as they wondered whether or not the sand-bag dikes would hold.

It is small comfort to these families and to the many thousands already forced to evacuate their homes to know that the Truman Administration is spending billions of dollars all over the world to "contain the flood waters of Communism"—but that for the sake of cold war "economy" not one dollar will be spent by the Federal government for new flood control projects in this area under the current budget.

After the disastrous floods in March, 1936, the Army Engineers drew up a plan for large scale flood control in the whole Susquehanna watershed which in-

cludes this area. In his war budget of 1950, President Truman lopped off a request for \$37,242,800 to build five major dams and reservoirs under the Army plan for flood control in the watershed area. This sum would have included \$4,537,000 for local protection in the Triple Cities.

Truman slashed this item from the budget with the statement: "There will be no starts on new flood control projects"—for the sake of economy!

There was widespread dissatisfaction here when the flood control measure was quashed. Increasing resentment is now rising with the waters. Residents here know that these yearly floods will continue until adequate measures are

reservoirs are built by the Federal government.

Dr. Frank E. Spigel, executive secretary of the American Labor Union, Broome County, issued the following statement Wednesday:

"It seems that Washington has billions to spend in helping Wall Street dominate the world through so-called foreign aid and profitable war preparations, but when it comes to protecting the peoples of the Triple Cities and the rest of the country from floods—the answer is always economy.

"We can't have a cold war and flood protection too.

It is up to the people to call a halt to cold war expenditures and put the heat on for passage of flood protection in the Triple Cities.

"Congress must not adjourn again without approving the \$5,900,000 recommended by the army engineers for flood control."

On March 11th, this year, Major General Lewis A. Pick, chief of army engineers, approved a report calling for \$3,812,000 to be spent in the Triple Cities area to build approximately 32,000 feet of flood wall. This report pointed out that since 1865 there have been 19 major floods in the area. The worst of these was in March, 1936 when many lives were lost and millions of dollars worth of property destroyed. Other serious floods occurred in April, 1940, December, 1942 and March, 1948.

When Congressman Edwin A. Hall from this district voted against the Korean "Aid" Bill on Jan. 19th, this year, he said: "They (the Truman administration) thumbed their noses at me when I asked for flood control protection for my district, now I thumb my nose to them."

Anti-Jimcrow Movie Banned by White Supremacy Theatre Mgr.

BINGHAMTON. — "The Quiet One," a film depicting Jimcrow slum conditions in Harlem, scheduled for a one week showing in Binghamton's Grand Theater was cancelled after two nights showing last week. The manager told this reporter that he closed the picture because his patrons did not consider it sufficiently artistic. He said that people walking out of the theatre commented that it was not entertaining because there was no acting in it. He said he did not know what he was getting when he booked it.

When asked if he had taken any steps to publicize the film to the people of the Seventh Ward, an area where slum conditions exist similar to those portrayed in the picture, he replied: "We would not want the majority of colored people in here anyway. We have the better class of people coming to this theatre." Asked if the theatre discriminated against Negroes he replied, "Oh no, we don't get enough of them to worry about."

New York film critics have given excellent reviews of the film. The Worker film critic rated it one of the 10 best of the year. The "Center Reporter," published by the Binghamton Jewish Community Center urged its readers to

Ruth Johnston, chairman of the Binghamton Club of the Communist Party called upon the manager to see that the film has a return engagement in the near future. She said:

"The Quiet One" is a fine film which does a good job of exposing how Jimcrow slums are destroying the lives of our children. It is just as applicable here in Binghamton as it is in Harlem. The cancellation of this film helps to perpetuate these conditions. It is a Jimcrow act of the same pattern as the banning of Paul Robeson by the Columbia Broadcasting System on Mrs. Roosevelt's television program.

"We urge everyone who believes in democracy to call the Grand Theater and register a protest. Ask the manager to bring 'The Quiet One' back in the near future. Tell him you want more pictures dealing with the real life and problems of the Negro people."

Upstate Worker

4-9-50

20-Year Recreation Plan

Shortchanges Negro, Italian Youngsters

By Robert Johnston

BINGHAMTON.—In recommendations for a 20-year recreation plan for the Triple Cities area, submitted last week to the Board of Supervisors by the Broome County Planning Board, an additional 110 acres of play space was called for by 1970.

But the plan calls for a reduction in play space for the densely populated Seventh Ward, an area mostly populated by Italian and Negro people which is most inadequately served now.

★

LACK OF ANY PLAY SPACE in this area was dramatized last week by the tragic drowning of four-year-old James Gilbert Fields, who fell into Susquehanna River while playing with two of his sisters on the bank.

The recreation problem is further aggravated by the removal of the Girls Club from the area, leaving approximately 200 young girls almost totally without recreation facilities.

★

THE 20-YEAR PLAN calls for increased play space in nearly every area in the Triple Cities, but calls for no new playground or playfield to replace

the small Woodburn Park playground which is in the path of Dewey's arterial highway.

Outside of the playground attached to Columbus School this is the only safe play area in the entire Seventh Ward.

One youth leader in the Seventh Ward has urged that the plan be changed to include much more space in that area (which has the densest population of young people) and also that temporary measures, such as play streets, should be provided.

★

AT ONE POINT in the recommendations the County Planners admitted that the present facilities are "in many ways deficient in number, size, distribution and equipment." Existing play areas, admit the planners, "total approximately 290 acres, whereas accepted national standards call for approximately 390 acres based on present population."

At the present time the Triple Cities depends mainly on the "benevolence" of the Endicott Johnson Shoe Corp. in providing playgrounds. The County Planners' report exposes the inadequacies of this set-up.