

Let liars fear, let cowards shrink,  
Let traitors turn away,  
Whatever we have dared  
to think  
That dare we also say  
—James Russel Lovell



M.E.S.A. Pitzels  
Labor Research Library  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

We pledge ourselves to organize and unite the workers in the automobile, metal and allied industries, in the struggle to increase their power in the national economic life. Our immediate objectives are higher wages, shorter hours, better working conditions and the enactment of adequate social legislation. Our ultimate objective is the complete industrial and political freedom of all workers.

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# ARMY TAKES OVER CRATE BRONZE Strike Accepted by N.A.C. as National Issue

## BULLETIN

**GRAPHITE-BRONZE COMMITTEE REPORTS PROGRESS**  
THE M.E.S.A. Committee at the Graphite Bronze Co. reports almost 100% organization of that plant since the Army took over Sept. 6. Hesitant Graphite workers now realize that the M.E.S.A. means business, and are ready for a showdown should one be necessary.

**KELVINATOR BACKS DOWN IN A HURRY**  
One day following the taking over of the Graphite Bronze plant by the U. S. Army, a sister member of the M.E.S.A. at the Kelvinator Plant at Detroit was fired by the Company. In line with M.E.S.A. policy of protecting its members, preparations for a general Kelvinator shutdown went into action. Results, the M.E.S.A. member was reinstated with back pay.

**LAUSCHE TO BE EXPOSED AS STRIKEBREAKER**  
The National Administrative Committee of the M.E.S.A. has authorized a campaign to publicize the strike breaking activities of Mayor Frank Lausche of Cleveland. Lausche is the Democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio. It is the intention of the M.E.S.A. to send Lausche back to the pool room from which he came.

**UAW CIO SPLIT WIDE OPEN**  
The delegates to the Grand Rapids Convention of the UAW-CIO are split in warring factions that threatens to result in the breaking away of those forces in that organization that are disgusted with the phony results and actions obtained by their organization. Observers for some of these groups will be in attendance at the CUA Convention at Indianapolis.

**CUA CONVENTION, INDIANAPOLIS, OCT. 19, 20, 21**  
The National Convention of the Confederated Unions of America convenes to make plans for the post-war era. It is evident that CUA affiliates are ready for a fight against an attack on labor. Watch this Convention for some real action.

## Only 2 Million U.S. Workers On Health and Decency Budget

We have recently had called to our attention, two reports on the cost of living and standard of living for workers in the United States. The one report is the official government report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This is a government labor research Bureau, under the Department of Labor. Its recommendations are the official Government recommendations.

The other report is prepared by the Heller Committee of the University of California.

The BLS report is based on a bare subsistence standard of living. While the University report is based on a standard of health and decency.

Both reports accept a family of four, that is, a father, mother and two children, as the average American family. The official Government report (BLS) states that an annual income of \$1,740 is needed in order to keep that family alive. The University of California points out that in order to maintain the health of that family, an income of \$2,645 is necessary. Breaking this down to a wage study, we find that the BLS report requires a worker to earn a minimum of 86 cents an hour, or \$34.40 a week, while the University report requires an hourly rate of \$1.27 or \$50.80 a week.

Recently, before the United States Senate, Senator Harley M. Kilgore (D-W.Va.), pointed out what existence under the BLS program would mean.

It would mean that a housewife must do all her own work without any assistance. It would mean that she would have to feed her family allowing 14 cents a meal for each person. This is approximately one third of what is allowed for feeding dogs at the Toledo City Dog Pound and one half of what is allowed to feed the boys in the army.

See BLS, Page 4

## M.E.S.A. Wins At Auto-Lite

Several hundred salaried workers, members of the M.E.S.A. at the Electric Auto Lite Co., in Toledo, Ohio, took a bull by the horns and forced the National War Labor Board to act favorably in their case.

On September 1, after holding a meeting to consider the matter, these white collar salaried workers refused to return to work until their grievance was settled.

For five days, M.E.S.A. pickets walked the pavements outside the Auto-Lite plant, assisted by members of the M.E.S.A. from other departments who followed the M.E.S.A. rule that "you never go through a picket line." In spite of all attempts of the Company and the CIO to force workers to go through the picket line, the strikers held their forces and the WLB was forced to make a decision. WHILE THE STRIKE WAS GOING ON, the WLB decision ordered the Company to pay a 5% bonus with retroactive pay to August 31, 1943, was a complete victory for the M.E.S.A.

### Issue in Dispute

On September 13, 1943, demands for wage increases in the form of a bonus were certified to the Regional War Labor Board. On March 1, 1944, the Board ordered the company to pay a 5% bonus, retroactive to August 31, 1943, to all M.E.S.A. members involved in the dispute. On March 10, 1944, the company appealed the Board's directive order. Shortly after, the committee and the company agreed to withdraw their appeal on hourly rated employees but leave their appeal stand for salaried employees, and agreed to pay the 5% to the hourly rated employees according to the directive order and to abide by the Board's decision on their appeal.

See AUTO-LITE, Page 4

## N.A.C. Resolution On Graphite-Bronze Strike

The National Administrative Committee of the Mechanics Educational Society of America has listened to a detailed report of the issues leading up to the Graphite-Bronze strike. The report was graphically given by Local and National officials, and included the action of Mayor Lausche in his attempt to break the strike. The issue of Brother Torok is so fundamental from the Union's point of view that we feel we are justified in using all our resources to obtain Torok's reinstatement. This National Administrative Committee supports the decision of Local No. 5, Graphite-Bronze, to return to work and continue in work during the period the plant is under the control of the U. S. Army.

However, should the Plant revert to private management prior to the reinstatement of our brother, then this committee orders full mass support by strike action of all the plants controlled by the M.E.S.A.

It is further understood that in accordance with the action taken at the Cincinnati convention of the Confederated Unions of America this matter will be referred to all C.U.A. affiliates throughout the United States for general C.U.A. support.

## Believe It Or Not!!

The biggest surprise on the Graphite Bronze picket line was the patrol wagon provided by the City of Cleveland to haul away pickets who were doing a good job of preventing "Strikebreaker Lausche" from carrying out his brag to break the M.E.S.A. strike.

Painted in bold letters on the side of "Paddy" were the shocking words, "Donated to the CPD by the District Council A.F. of L. Painters Union."

## M.E.S.A. Election

The National Administrative Committee of the M.E.S.A. has approved the use of the Educator to promote the candidacy members who are candidates for national office.

Limited space in the Educator makes it necessary to confine campaign articles to about three hundred words. In order that members of the M.E.S.A. will have a knowledge of the qualifications of candidates, all candidates are urged to submit their articles and pictures to the publicity office.

## What Is The N.A.C.?

The National Administrative Committee of the M.E.S.A. (NAC) is the highest body of authority in the organization outside of a referendum of the entire membership.

The NAC is composed of delegates from the various locals of the organization. In order to be eligible to serve as a delegate to the NAC a member of the organization must be a worker from the shops. No full time official of the M.E.S.A. is allowed to serve as a delegate to the NAC. All members of the NAC are elected by the workers who make their living at the tools of the trade in the shops.

It was this National Committee, meeting in emergency session at Cleveland, Ohio, that adopted the resolution calling for a stoppage of work by all members of the M.E.S.A. wherever they might be employed, should the Cleveland Graphite Bronze Co. be returned from U.S. Army control to private management before a satisfactory settlement is made in our dispute. Under the M.E.S.A. setup, the control of the organization is in the hands of the workers from the shops. The delegates to the NAC accept the injury to our Brother at Graphite Bronze as an injury to all, and bind the organization to mass strike action, in their own defense, should such action become necessary.

It is the opinion of the NAC that a discrimination case is not a matter to be handled by one local, that it is a direct injury upon the entire organization and that when an employer discriminates against a member of the M.E.S.A., he has attacked the entire organization and will have to meet the action of workers not only in his own plant, but of all members of the M.E.S.A., wherever they might be employed.

## Government Acts When Mayor and Company Fail To Break Strike

After six unsuccessful days of attempts to break the solid strike of M.E.S.A. members at the Cleveland Graphite-Bronze Company, by Cleveland's Anti-Labor, "Gestapo Mayor" Lausche, President Roosevelt has ordered the plant taken over by the United States Army for resumption of production.

The M.E.S.A. has no dispute with the present management at Graphite. Its fight was with a group of individuals who have been declared by the President of the United States as incapable of maintaining production at the plant. It is our opinion that under the collective bargaining agreement now recognized by the United States Army as the basis for union negotiations, our dispute at Graphite will be satisfactorily settled.

During the six days of open conflict, Cleveland's now infamous Mayor used all of the armed might of mounted police and clubbing policemen in his attempt to smash labor unions in Cleveland.

He publicly stated that he would break the strike, but the action of members of the M.E.S.A. in refusing to heed the appeals of the man who out-Hitler'd Hitler is a victory of which we can be proud.

The Cleveland police department, more than 400 strong, rode their kicking horses and clubbing policemen into our peaceful picket lines. Women and children were clubbed and trampled, the right of peaceful picketing was completely ignored.

In spite of all the organized strike breaking actions of the Cleveland and Graphite Bronze Company and their stooge, Frank Lausche, the M.E.S.A. picket lines held fast. We have won a great victory at Cleveland.

## Lausche A Strikebreaker

Strike-breaking Lausche, Cleveland's contribution to the Hall of Horrors, is the Democratic candidate for Governor of the State of Ohio.

Lausche was elected Mayor of Cleveland, but since getting in the saddle, he has shown himself as a phony double-crosser who has sold out to the Anti-Labor Merchants and Manufacturers Association and Chamber of Commerce in order to promote his political ambition.

The National Administrative Committee of the M.E.S.A. has gone on record as considering Lausche as a danger to democracy here at home. The N.A.C. has authorized a campaign to expose his strike-breaking activities and to drive Lausche back to the pool room from which he came. In taking this action, the N.A.C. went on record as not endorsing any candidates for political office. It is our opinion that Frank Lausche has no right to run as the candidate of the Democratic Party for Governor of Ohio. We are opposed to using the tools of democratic political government in order to capture that government and abolish that democracy.

There is a major lesson that we members of the M.E.S.A. can learn from Lausche's traitorous activities, if labor is to be represented on the political front, it will be necessary to form a party of its own and to elect men who represent labor alone, instead of phony politicians of the two major political parties, who put you on the cheek before the election and stab you in the back as soon as it's over.

Those of us who have been in the labor movement for a long time, know of hundreds of cases where the so-called "friends of labor," of both parties, have shown themselves as tyrants whose only law is the law of force. We are sick and tired of these Gestapo politicians and recognize more than ever the need for a genuine farm labor party in the United States.

## Just a Note

The National Administrative Committee of the M.E.S.A. has assigned Brother Jerry Raymond to National Publicity Director, to the additional duties of M.E.S.A. Representative in the Detroit Area.

## Labor Day Holiday, One Big Joke

Monday, September 4, Labor day 1944. To some it was a day of picnics, to others just another day in the steady grind at a machine in factory.

Labor Day is that day, officially set aside in recognition of the contributions of labor to the advancement of the nation and society. "In recognition of the contributions of Labor" Who is this "Guy" labor, what has he done that requires a special day?

Listen fellow—the celebration of "Labor Day" is really one big joke.

You see—Labor is the fellow that takes the raw materials from the earth and fashions them into commodities for the use and pleasures of the people of the world. Labor is the fellow that builds bridges, lays highways and miles of winding railroad. Labor is the fellow that tunnels deep under mountains, hauling out coal and ore,

the following article, prepared for the Labor Day is because members of our editorial staff were on picket duty at the Cleveland Graphite Bronze Co., at the time the Educator was to go to press.

When members of the M.E.S.A. are in open conflict with an employer, then all officials of the organization are called upon to aid in this fight. For that reason, this issue of the Educator, which was supposed to come off the press last week, appears at this time. It is our opinion that the author of this article has made certain points that deserve publication even if they appear a little late.

Labor is the fellow that takes that ore and by genius turns it into steel, builds automobiles, airplanes, tanks, guns, ships, weapons of death. Labor is the fellow that builds towering buildings into the sky. Labor is the fellow that makes every item that an eye glances can see and that deep thought can bring to mind. The engineer who makes the plan is labor, the manager who directs production is labor, the man who digs the ditch, who sails the ships, who builds the die, who

makes the tools, who runs the press, who drills the well, plans, who makes, who bleeds and burns and dies, that makes is Labor. I say, fellow, to set aside a certain day each year as a token of appreciation for that "guy" efforts is a joke. Labor is the fellow who has made it possible for you and I, for financial barons and industrial tyrants to have what we today call America. You see, under our system of economy labor is the funny thing. It is the most

necessary of all commodities required for production and at the same time, because it is so abundant, always replacing itself with more and more and in such a quantity, it is given less consideration than a drill press or a mill.

Hold on now! — You say that the owners of industry invest their money and provide jobs for labor? Granted, but money is only of value when there is something that can be bought with it. Labor must produce the products or all the money in the world couldn't get a spark plug or a can of beans. Take a couple of million dollars to a place where the hand of labor has never been and the only thing you have is excess baggage to haul around.

When financiers invest money in a business, that money would stand static unless the brain and brawn of labor were used to produce products for sale to bring over more money and more and more.

To set aside a particular day in appreciation of the contributions of that "guy" is a joke and if the sucker is willing to give his life so that the coupon slipping leeches of society can dine on lobster while he eats chow, well I suppose it's not the Coupon Clipper's fault, it is his.

It is not a day of brass bands and speeches of praise that labor wants, it is security. The right to live and to enjoy some of the things that it has produced.

Today it is evident that that fellow Labor is beginning to recognize his importance. Should he ever awaken to his place in the world it will be too late for capital to make concessions of wage increases and unemployment insurance. That day will be "Labor Day". That will be the day that Labor takes over.







