WORKERS PARTY URGES ALDERMEN TO PROBE POLICE

Brutalities in Strike Are Cited In Statement.

Calling attention to the aldermanic investigation of police brutality during the great garment strike of 1915 the district organization of the Workers Party asked the 50 aldermen now sitting in the city council to get busy and probe the brutalities now taking place on S. Market street.

The call was sent to every one of the 50 members of the city council and is accompanied by a citation of acts of violence committed by uniformed city policemen against members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Police Probe Demanded.

The city council has another regular session tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock in the city hall. The Workers Party's statement to the council members follows:

TO ALL CHICAGO ALDERMEN.

Sir: We are enclosing herewith a statement of brutalities committed by Chicago police and hired sluggers, during the strike of the International Ladies' Garment Workers, for your attention and consideration. We believe that such actions are a disgrace to the city and should not be allowed to continue unchallenged.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that during the strike of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in 1915 in this city, an aldermanic investigation into the abuses of police authority conducted thru public hearings, took place, with the result that the city council adopted a resolution condemning the police for considering the strikers as their enemies, and Chief Schleuter was compelled to remove the special police from the strike zone. During these pubic hearings, which resulted in great service to the public, the police administration admitted using spies within the union ranks.

We are of the belief that the present situation constitutes one similar to that of the strike of 1915. We further believe that the city council should conduct a real investigation with a view of taking proper action against those who are violating their oath of office, and we urge you to use your office for this purpose.

Sincerely yours,
Arne Swabeck,
District Organizer,
Workers Party Dist. No. 8.

LIST OF BRUTALITIES

Strike busting police brutality is cited in the following statement which accompanies the letter:

The assault committed by Police Officer O'Rorke, whose number is 3181, on Sophie Altschuler, on the evening of March 14th stands out as one of the most brutal assaults on record. Sophie Altschuler was picketing along South Market street when arrested by Officers Patrick Collins and Schroeder, both of whom are attached to the office of the state's attorney. Miss Altschuler was taken into the hallway of the building at 237 S. Market street, and placed in charge of Officer O'Rorke.

What O'Rorke Did.

While awaiting the arrival of the patrol wagon, Officer O'Rorke treated Miss Altschuler with abusive language, struck her and began twisting her wrists and fingers. Miss Altschuler lost consciousness for a few minutes and was later picked up from the floor by O'Rorke and dragged to the rear of the hall, with a threat that he would throw her down the flight of stairs into the cellar.

Officer O'Rorke actually attempted throwing her into the cellar and was stopped only by the fact that Miss Altschuler again lost consciousness. None of the officers or plain clothes men who witnessed this disgraceful treatment attempted to interfere. Miss Altschuler and Miss Siever were loaded into the patrol wagon and the officer in charge told those of the patrol to instruct the matron in the South Clark street station not to book the two girls till after 6 o'clock. It was then about 4:30 p. m.

Matron Lets Her Suffer.

The matron of the police station upon being called to her attention, the critical condition of Miss Altschuler, replied that nothing need be done for her because the skin on her head was not broken.

Miss Altschuler, after being bailed out, was taken to the Morrison Hotel and examined by Dr. James Maltman who reported: "I attended this afternoon Miss Sophie Altschuler who had been seriously beaten about the head and face. Her wrists were twisted and badly swollen."

On the same day Fannie Yannes, 2229 Iowa street, was struck in the mouth by Officer William Hankin in front of 228 S. Market street. She was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct. As a result of the blow she received her mouth bled and her teeth are still loose.

Another Girl Attacked.

Tuesday, March 18th, Officer 5159 and 3609 assaulted Ethel Spink who was not at that time a striker. She was on her way to work and because she looked like one of the striking garment workers she was assaulted by Officer 5159 and Officer 3609 then stepped in and assisted. Miss Spink was not hit but shaken by the police officers. A reporter for the DAILY WORKER was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for getting the numbers of the officers. Miss Spink was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

The same day Officers Collins and Schroeder referred to above in connection with the arrest of Sophie Altschuler arrested Gussie Cohen, 1413 N. Larkin street. After they placed her under arrest they amused themselves by taking hold of Miss Cohen's hands and hitting her in the face with them. This happened about 4:30 or 5 o'clock p. m. when Miss Cohen came from work. She is not on strike as her boss has settled with the union. After hitting Miss Cohen with her own hands Collins and Schroeder dragged her to the patrol wagon.

Cop and Thug Beat Girl.

On Saturday morning, March 22, Olga Levin, 365 E. 59th street, was assaulted by a man named Sam Goldin, who is employed by Lipson Bros., at 325 W. Adams street, in the presence of Officer 3401. Officer 3401 not only refused to arrest Goldin but assisted him in assailing Miss Levin.

More than 700 arrests have been made of men and women peacefully walking the streets in the strike zone, while the officers mentioned above have become a danger not only to the striking workers but to the community as a whole, continue to be detailed to the strike zone.

IMPEACH COOLIDGE!

THE PARTY

Two Organization Ta

By C. E. RUTH
Executive Secretary,

WHAT kind of a party have we?

There is no doubt as to the answe pont of principles and tactics. Our tac are Communist.

But that does not answer the quest are we organizationally? Can we ansv are a Communist Party?

There are many facts which go to show that organizationally we are still far below the standard of a Communist Party. Our members do yet fully realize what Communist dicipline is and the standard of work which is expected from the members of a Communist Party.

Take the question of dues payments: In a party fully impregnated with a Communist spirit and discipline the question of regular payment of dues by all members should not require special organizational action. Yet it seems that such is the case in our party.

Payment of Dues.

We have counted the number of members in our party as 20,000 during the past year. The actual dues payments during the last quarter of the year were about 18,000 per month. The first indication that these figures as to dues payments did not actually show the membership of the party came in the industrial registration taken in November. The reports from the branches showed 25,000 members on the rolls in place of 18,000 who were paying dues.

Since that time the National Office has secured more facts about the situation. A new system of monthly reports from the branches to the District Organizers was established.

The way in which the organization has responded to the call for these reports is itself a sad commentary on the necessity for efficiency within the party organizations. All party branches have been sent report cards on the first of each month. Out of the thirteen hundred party branches which were sent report cards on March 1, reports from 156 branches have reached the National Office. We do not know how many branches actually sent in their cards to the district offices for it seems that even the District Organizers cannot fill out a simple report on the 20th of the month, eight of them having failed to send in the tabulated statement of branches reporting which the National Office requires of them.

Reports Delinquent.

The reports which have been received, however, throw some light upon the question of membership and dues payments. Here is a table showing the facts:

District	Total Branches	Total Reporting	Total Members	Members With Dues Paid to Date
2	120	50	2,241	1,479
3	57	20	287	183
5	97	16	338	290
6	65	45	1,172	816
7	38	22	622	306
15	40	3	22	19
	417	156	4,682	3,093

Here are 156 out of 1,300 branches which report 4,682 members on their rolls. If the same ratio of membership held good for the remaining branches it would mean that we have 35,000 members on our rolls. That is probably an exaggeration as the average membership per branch is lower than in the branches reporting above. Suppose we take in place of this method of computing the membership the ratio between dues payment and members on rolls. The table shows that one-third of the members of the party do not pay their dues regularly. They are from one to three months behind in their dues payments. If this ratio holds good for the whole party then, since our dues payments show 18,000 members paying dues monthly, we have over 27,000 members on our rolls.

Is it the best we can do to collect dues from only 18,000 out of 27,000 members monthly

Certainly we cannot proclaim ourself a Communist party in our organizational work so long as such a condition exists. We must find ways and means to remedy this situation. We build up a stronger spirit of responsibility to the party organization and greater pride in seeing that our or-