U.S. Production 45 per cent More Than High Record of 1929!

STRIKES — LESS THAN ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT QUIT WORK

The above figures were officially released recently by government departments—including the O.P.M., top defense agencies—showing that over 99.9 per cent of workers on defense contracts were working in defense industries and that only a half dozen strikes, involving less than 500 workers, were under way as employees on defense contracts. It means that strikes affected only one-tenth of one percent of defense employment.

Labor and Industry Production Councils Needed

In spite of the above record, we are far from all-out defense production.

Do We Need a Plan?

We are far from all-out defense production. Newspapers and public statements are filled with complaints of failure to carry out the program on time. Official figures show that only a fraction of the millions of arms and other goods are going to the nations fighting Hitler, despite the huge size of defense appropriations.

Here are U.S. Government figures on production failures, prepared by the Office of Production Management and other defense agencies:

- Of approximately @5 billion dollars appropriated for defense by October 15, 1941, only 754 billion have been let in contracts—far below one-half the amount appropriated by Congress. Of the amount let in contracts, only 10 billion have been paid out for goods and services received.
- Of more than 12,000 industrial plants found suitable for arms production by the Army and Navy experts, only 6,600 were being utilized on September 30, according to testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Of 184,000 manufacturing companies in the U.S., only 4,000 have fixed defense orders from the government over the preceding six months to October 15, according to OPM officials.
- And only 6 per cent of machine tools in use are now being employed on both arms and civilian production, according to Oliver W. Cook, OPM engineer.

Production of consumers' goods is being drastically curtailed, due to shortages of materials and labor to expand capacity on plants. At the same time hundreds of thousands of workers are being idle. The nation's millions are unemployed.

These failures to fill quotas and these shortages are coming at the very moment when demands for consumer goods are being made in the first place, and they can still be overcome, if, as C.O. President Murray has pointed out, we go ahead "with full utilization of available labor, with proper redirection of consumer demand, with the application of constructive ends of the intelligence God gave us."

America has ample resources to build both for defense and for higher civilian standards at the same time. All that we need is planning for full production, for full utilization of labor's skill and labor's brain, and for the expansion of productive capacity where it is needed.

People of the Capitol District Demand Production Council

The people of the Capitol District represented at the recent Social History Rally, held at the Eric Thuesen, chanted a resolution calling for the Immediate Formation of a Production Council on a Capitol District Basis, including representatives of government, labor, industry and the public.

aim of the Council

- To reconcile armed in needed quantities and on time to defend United States against aggression and to add the nations existing Hitlerism
- To improve the American standard of living by producing and distributing sufficient civilian goods at the same time
- To preserve the right to organize and bargain collectively as the price of America's peace
- To give labor a real voice in America's greatest task—the defense of our free institutions.

General Duties of Council

(a) Find out the domestic and arms demands of the two industries, and expand capacity of arms and other goods.
(b) List the total number of workers in industry and industry where they are available, and train new workers where they is found necessary.
(c) Increase production by full use of all plants, eliminating bottlenecks caused by "contract hogging" by some big corporations, by red tape in ordering orders, and other technical factors.
(d) Promote collective bargaining in all industries, requiring industry to obey labor laws such as the Wagner Act, War-Time Anti-Trust Security Act, Walsh-Healey Act, etc.

Is Labor Now Represented in the Defense Program?

Labor representation on Production Councils is a basic part of the CIO's defense plan. Some people claim that labor is represented in the defense program now and that labor, therefore, should stop demanding any more places in the program. This claim is simply not true. Labor is not now and never has been adequately represented in national defense, despite the fact that labor has the responsibility of making the weapons and goods that create defense. It is true that some labor advisory committees have been set up.

They are a poor substitute for labor representation. They have no power to make decisions, no power to recommend action, even very little power to give advice.

The CIO wants an equal opposition to advisory committees, when its representatives took their seats in the specific legislative committees.

"The CIO stands opposed to the establishing of any more labor advisory groups and does not have an interest in any group affiliated with the CIO that will work diligently through its own union and through the CIO to bring about the full cooperation of the CIO Industry Council plan by the government of the United States."

Must Labor Give Up Its Rights?

Organized labor is wholeheartedly behind the defense program, realizing the paramount importance of our institutions against the menace of Hitlerism. The CIO has repeatedly gone on record supporting national defense, in convention resolutions and in statements and resolutions of its thousands of affiliated bodies.

Labor's cooperation in the promotion of the nation's defense program has been established by its record in the major tasks and defense industries of the country," President Murray said. "... Never before in the history of the U.S. has industrial peace been so great a degree as it has been in the industries over which the CIO has jurisdiction and in which its affiliated unions have been bargaining rights with employers.

We naturally hope and intend to improve our conditions of employment and to improve our standards. This we contend is a legitimate, constitutional and God-given right.

Endangering Our Democracy

The right to organize, to bargain collectively and to take strike where necessary is the heritage of Americans down through the years. These are the first rights that the Nazis destroyed when they took over Germany, and the first rights they are trying to destroy in other people's countries. Certain anti-labor forces in this country that take their cue in Congress and in the newspapers elaboration of these rights are playing Hitler's game. They would endanger our democracy by sacrificing our right of labor and their right of labor's gain.