

1,000 Hosiery Workers Cheer Foster Calling for Fight Against Wage Cuts

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Sept. 4.—Booing derisively their officials, one thousand hosiery workers cheered to the echo a call by William Z. Foster for struggle against any wage cutting agreement the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers misleaders may seek to conclude with the bosses, at a mass meeting held last night in the Kensington mill section under the auspices of the National Textile Workers Union.

Edith Berkman, organizer for the National Textile Workers Union, before the packed throng of hosiery workers, exposed the scheme of the A.F.F.F.H.W. misleaders to force a 30 to 50 per cent average wage cut upon the unionized workers and to worsen conditions to the level of the unorganized mills.

Warning the workers that though the wage cutting proposals were voted down at the special convention of

Foster, Berkman and Pace Expose Sell Out Of A. F. of L.

the A.F.F.F.H.W. now in session by a vote of 32 to 26, the hosiery misleaders have not given up the idea of ramming it through, Foster pointed out the role of the social fascists officials in putting over wage cutting, speed up program of the employers in Philadelphia as in all sections of the country and throughout the world.

Sitting in the hall, the officials of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, Alex McKeown, Emil Rieve, William Smith and John Edelman did not attempt to carry out their disruptive intentions when they saw the spirit of the workers.

Foster pointed out that the deep wage cut that the officials are trying to palm off as of one year's duration only, was a permanent one. The vaunted stabilization of the industry that the Musteltes and "progressives" officials have been trying to accomplish at the expense of the workers was the basis of the 1930 wage cut agreement as it is of the present sellout scheme of Rieve, McKeown and Co., Foster declared.

"There is no bottom to the extent that the employers will try to bring down wages through their agents if the workers do not resist this. We may see this in the coal fields where starvation at work has been forced on the miners. We may see this in Great Britain where MacDonald, the "socialist" is leading the capitalist offensive to further starve the British workers," Foster said in stressing

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1,000 HOSIERY

WORKERS CHEER

WM. Z. FOSTER

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the need for struggle against the impending wage cuts.

The example of the 50 per cent wage cut put over the Rocky Mt. Fuel Co. minrs by the U.M.W.A. officials to aid the coal operators in their rate competition with the unorganized Rockefeller mines was used by the A.F.F.F.H.W. misleaders at the convention, Foster said.

The checkoff to be instiuted in the organized union mills is an attempt of the employers and the A. F.F.F.H.W. officials to tie the yoke of the company union tighter about the workers. The same thing is occurring in other industries, in coal, railroads, etc., where the American Federation of Labor bureaucrats feel the base of their company unionized organizations slipping.

The arbitration clause that the hosiery misleaders are seeking to incorporate in the agreement is another method of cutting wages, as was shown recently when Dr. Abelson, the arbitrator, ordered the reduction of wages by 25 per cent of many categorise of knitters and leggers.

Calling upon the workers to prepare for stiff resistance to the employers and the A.F.F.F.H.W. bureaucrats Foster outlined the course of action the workers were to take. To defeat the scheme at the convention, or by a referendum should Rieve and Co. maneuver to put it through and if that was stolen to strike in the shops. To meet the firce offensive of the employers it was necessary to set up committees of action in all shops to organize for a general strike in the industry.

Declaring that the National Textile Workers Union was ready to make ready to make a united front with the hosiery workers and to lend them every assistance in their struggle against wage cuts, Foster called for the building of the N.T.W.U.

Foster told that when the A.F.F.F.H.W. officials went to eRading ostensibly to organize a strike there, they were publicly negotiating for wage cuts in the unionized mills in Philadelphia.

Scoring the Independent Labor Party, of which John Edelman, one of the ledaing Musteites that proposed the wage cut, arbitrating and checkoff scheme, Edith Berkman told that Alex McKeown, the Labor Party and socialist candidate for mayor here, was known as the wage cut candidate.