Justice (Vol. 15, Iss. 5)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords
International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments
Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of Justice were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of Justice shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of Justice.
A YEAR ago today,

There were thirteen million unemployed in America in September, 1932, and at least half that many part-time employed. Disillusion, deep pessimism and stark poverty stalked the highways and byways of our land. Credit, once the sacred symbol of national stability, was utterly discredited — politically and financially: wash-out on the road and head for the scrap heap, while "patiotic" gentlemen were half-heartedly congratulating them upon the fact that "twelve million half-starved and utterly destitute, multitudes of idle Americans" were still law-abiding and order-loving enough not to resort to genuine chaos.

Two months later, the American masses did not have been expected to do. They consigned the "prosperity" years be-holden to Hoover to oblivion. The "New Deal," a hopeful, beckoning question mark loomed upon the American horizon.

With a speed that all but blindered America's population accustomed to the do-nothing, procrastinating policy of the old plutocratic gang at the administrative helm, things began to happen in America, during the daily reaching and obscuring things. The "bank holiday," which disclosed the hopeless tangle into which the money changers and the financial pirates had thrown the entire exchange and credit systems of the country, the decision to move to repudiate Prohibition, and, finally, the passage of the National Recovery legislation, followed each with astounding succession. From one end of the land to the other resounded the slogans: "Jobs for the unemployed!" "Billions for immediate relief!" "Keep up the buying power of the workers!"

And America began breathing, for the first time in four years, a breath of hope. And for the first time in history, the American masses, the majority party, saw fit to elect "captains" of industry and finance, who had appeared a great new voice which proclaimed that the old order of "toughed individuals" is gone forever; that the "New Deal" means Government control and control in business and that, if that present social order be to be saved, if it is worth having at all, it must be re-organized on a radically different basis and revamped internally as well as outwardly.

In true American fashion, this new national hope at once became a symbol of NRA, the symbol of the new industrial policy of the Government. America has trusted it all its stars to the NRA wagon in the hope that it might lead her out of the wilderness and bring her to the promised lands of economic security.

Can America conquer the crisis by way of NRA? Will America's unrest increase because of the way in which the Government is trying to meet the emergency? Can the national attempt to keep these age-old freelance; and their still unbroken will to do their own thing prevent us from running the country to hell? Will American labor come out of the NRA experiment stronger, more militant, more organized? And, if we should be able to bring NRA labor back to the wall of a worker as a weapon of oppression, or, as some fear, will it become a forerunner of "fascist" reaction?

It is still difficult, perhaps, even unwise, to attempt, at this juncture, to answer these burning, troubling questions. It is all still so young, so new — a mere few weeks or a few months. There are still millions upon millions of unemployed in the United States, and the purchasing power of the masses has still hardly increased while the cost of living is already mounting perceptibly.

Yet, he would be totally blind or hopelessly dogmatic who would fail to find a sound justification for hope, real, authentic hope in the trend of events as they are shaping themselves today upon the industrial panorama of our country, or who would deny the real charge in charge of the new sweeping policies in Washington a measure of faith in the genuineness of their intentions.

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Whalen's Address

(Continued from Page 4)

ATTENTION
Cutters, Members of Local 13
Meetings for the following week will have the following arrangements:
1. Labor Membership Meeting, Mar. 7th.
2. Labor Membership Meeting, Apr. 7th.
ARLINGTON HALL.
23 St. Marks Pl., at 7:30.

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The Great Campaign of 1933 is still on.

The stupendous organizing drive of the I. L. G. W. U., which began early in the Spring, has not spent its full large of workers. It has swept already a half dozen streets, with thousands of organizers, some of them of great size, into the structure of the American Garment Workers' Union.

It is still difficult, perhaps, even unwise, to attempt, at this juncture, to answer these burning, troubling questions. It is all still so young, so new — a mere few weeks or a few months. There are still millions upon millions of unemployed in the United States, and the purchasing power of the masses has still hardly increased while the cost of living is already mounting perceptibly.

Yet, he would be totally blind or hopelessly dogmatic who would fail to find a sound justification for hope, real, authentic hope in the trend of events as they are shaping themselves today upon the industrial panorama of our country, or who would deny the real charge in charge of the new sweeping policies in Washington a measure of faith in the genuineness of their intentions.

The terrific pressure of the campaign leaves no time for those actually engaged in it for back-tracking or retrospective evaluation. All we know is that it is in size, depth and significance this Campaign of 1933 transcends everything that had happened in the history of our Union before. In it, 1930, it overshadows 1910, and leaves the other historic landmarks of the I. L. G. W. U. far behind.

The gigantic achievements in the New York dress industry, the victory in Chicago, in St. Louis, in Boston, in Philadelphia, in Cleveland, the organization of the entire industry in the United States, and the strike around New York with its hundreds of shops and countless thousands of workers, the strikers in the embroidery trades, in the raincoats New York, in the general clothing industry, are not on one of them a failure, each adding new books of new and strengthening the position of the Union in the hands of the workers' garb, industry.

And on the order of the day.

The general strike in the underwear industry involving at least eighteen thousand workers; the coming strike in the tailors' trade, with twelve thousand members of the People's Garment Union; the agreement negotiated and the prospective strike in the blouses and shirt industry involving some six thousand workers in and around New York, the huge list of stores in the very large number of stores in the goods industry in Brooklyn and New Jersey affecting thousands upon thousands of bakers unorganized and badly exploited workers; the striking in the children's wear industry with at least ten thousand workers concerned in it; the last organizing work conducted by the Garment Trades which bids well to culminate in a strike; the drives in Los Angeles and in Kansas City — all these activities developing on a huge scale and raising last to a whisper.

A program that ordinarily would be by size and divergence appear almost fantastic of full achievement even in the span of half a year. Yet, the pressure we have been working the drivers of these days is so great that there is hardly a doubt as to the problem will be worked and the solution will be the successful outcome of this movement. Like a avalanche rolling down a hill, it would not stop until its goal is reached.

We shall sit down calmly, deliberately, and take the strike without any more action, without any more debate, and allow the final factors, let alone the storm has subsided. For the moment there can still be to set up, no easing of the momentum that carries us on.

The Great Campaign of 1933 is still running strongly.

A NEW ELEMENT OF WORKERS has come into the I. L. G. W. U. A large element, numbering tens of thousands, new to it only a few weeks. These are the great masses of women workers in the dress, underwear and the smaller women's trade wears which have recently been driven into the ranks of our Union.

The significance of this large addition of workers to the roll of our Union cannot be overestimated. These tens of thousands have come into the trade union movement on the wave of the great organizing drive which has recently spread through the breadth and length of the women's garment industry. They are the huge masses enrolled in the trade strike in New York, in the dress campaigns in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Kansas City, Chicago, and in all other places where these and like lines are being manufactured.

For the moment, these great masses present an immense and insurmountable problem for the management of the I. L. G. W. U. They will have to be trained in the practices of trade unions and become accustomed to the ways of working with the union. They will have to be turned into the decisions which are made at the regular meetings of the Union. They will have to be trained to be good and skilled workers, good and skilled of clothing, and hungry and cheerful as men and all in other places where these and like lines are being manufactured.

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The Chicago Dress Strike is set.
"Labor Recovery Policy Vindicated by NRA"

ADRESS BY DAVID DUBINSKY, President, I. L. G. W. U., at NRA Rally, at Madison Square Garden, September 12, 1933

Labor’s Big Part in NRA

And the honorable chairmen of the New York City NRA Committee, Mr. Grover A. Whitehead, and Mr. Frederick L. Magoon, were among those present. The meeting was well attended, and resounding applause followed the address.

A few months ago the United States was convulsed with a wave of unemployment. Millions of workers were thrown out of doors, and millions more were on the verge of joining the ranks of the jobless. The Federal government, under the leadership of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, took the initiative in enacting the National Recovery Administration, a program designed to bring about economic recovery.

This was a crucial test for the administration. The NRA was a difficult and controversial measure, but it was necessary to prevent a complete economic collapse. The program was designed to establish fair and equitable conditions of competition, to provide for the protection of workers, and to promote the public welfare.

In the words of President Roosevelt, "The NRA is a measure of our faith in the future, a measure of our hope for the future." It was a bold step, and one that was well received by the American people.

The NRA was not without its critics. Some believed it was a dangerous experiment, while others saw it as a necessary part of the solution to the economic problems of the time. But in the end, the program succeeded in bringing about a modest recovery.

The NRA was a success because it worked. It brought about a significant reduction in unemployment, and it helped to stabilize the economy. The program was a clear indication that the government was willing to take a leadership role in the recovery process.

In conclusion, the NRA was a major accomplishment of the New Deal. It was a program that worked, and one that deserves recognition. It is a testament to the determination of the American people to overcome the challenges of the Great Depression. The NRA was not a cure-all, but it was an important step in the right direction. It is a reminder that the government has a role to play in the economic well-being of the nation.

Cleveland Garment Workers Carrying On

By Abraham W. Katerka
Manager, Cleveland Joint Board #7

A striking climax to the successful organizational drive of the Cleveland Joint Board of the Amalgamated Garment Workers of America was reached last week when the 1,600 members of the Garment Workers of America, Local 29, voted overwhelmingly to join the Joint Board. The vote was taken on Monday, July 14, and the results were announced on Wednesday, July 16.

The vote was a resounding victory for the Joint Board, which had been organizing the Local for several months. The local had been bitterly divided over the question of whether to join the Joint Board or to continue as an independent union. The Joint Board had been working closely with the local, and had been able to show the members the benefits of joint representation.

The vote was a clear indication that the Local members were ready to join the Joint Board. The vote was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Joint Board organizers, who had been working tirelessly to bring about the merger.

The Joint Board is now the strongest and most effective voice for the Garment Workers of America Local 29. The local members are now part of a larger organization, with more resources and more power to negotiate with management. The Joint Board is committed to fighting for the rights and dignity of all the local members, and to ensuring that they receive fair and equitable treatment in the workplace.

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Punitive interference

In spite of police interference in Cleveland and the efforts of the city administration to suppress the strike, the machine gunners continued to strike.

The police attempt to suppress the strike failed, and the workers continued to strike. The strike has been a test of the strength of the workers, and of the determination of the management to crush the strike.

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JUSTICE

Our New York Map At A Glance

By M. D. D.

The Daily Mirror

A cross between a honeyactive volcano if such a thing is possible, the industry is back at work, save for a few nearly extinct new speculative type that require special handling. The gradual increase in the numbers of the breed is taking the edge off the spirits of the officials and the local board. Yes, more and more the signs are pointing to the end of the year in the underworld whores in attendance.

The leadership of the board, however, achieved the sensation that the whores are making up their minds before any real terms of peace could be discussed. They are now making as much as such a thing as an agreement of their own.

Of the many who have witnessed the biggest in the history of the industry, took place on Tuesday, with the presence of all the leading men of the city. This was a day of the hole, over nine thousand whores were registered in the eight strike halls. This number rises to more than twenty thousand by the end of the day, and on Wednesday, not only in New York but in Paterson, Lodi, and other Jersey towns, and big shops, too.

The White Goods Workers’ organization, with the fullest support of the international, is continuing on a decisive victory. The committee has a membership of 34,000 for the month of April, and a minimum of 457 for the month of March. The strike is a battle of the workers against the employers, and the struggle of the working classes for the control of the industry.

The strike, in addition, is of great importance, not only in terms of what has been achieved so far in New York but in other parts of the country.

The Daily Mirror

The House Workers

Street Strike

Worker’s work will be called out on strike very soon.

Today the workers, too, the latter supposed to be a lost tribe, since the strike, have gathered in a hall near the garment’s sector.

The workers are a group of people who work to learn that white workers are supposed to be peaceful, there are, nevertheless, about 6,000 workers employed in New York and around this month in homes and workshops.

Yes, there is a House Manufacturers’ Association in this trade, and the International Union has been disbanding this group for some time past, and now it seems that a new union will be formed.

The Daily Mirror

The Ten Fast Facts

The Bonn Embroilers, Local 64, are in the midst of a strike that has won the support of the thousands of workers.

The Bonn Embroilers’ organization, which is headed by Leo Newmark, a member of the board of the local 64, has some of the largest strikes in America.

These strikes are not isolated, but part of a general trend toward the organization of the working class.

The Daily Mirror

The Strike of the Underwear Workers

Local 63 is in the midst of a strike that has won the support of the thousands of workers.

And what a strike! The entire industry is now on strike. The workers have taken to the streets from the factories, from the homes, and from the workshops. The strikes are now in full swing.

The strikes are the result of a movement that has been the basis of industrial demands for a long time.

For a time it did look as if a strike might be avoided. There were still some who were afraid of the strikes that were being organized in the industry and there was a meeting held in the union hall, attended by all the leaders, to discuss the possibility of avoiding a strike.

And then Local 60 has more than doubled its membership through the stroke, raised its membership to 12,000 and is now calling on its members to support the strike. The new law abolishing home work is carried into effect.

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NRA Cloak Label Goes Into Effect October 9

By F. Nathan Wolf, Secretary

On October 9, the NRA label of the Cost and Bolt Code Authority will become effective in the cloak and suit industry. 

All women's coats and suits, and either men's or in retail stores, will have a label sewn on them on a conspicuous, part of this lining. The label will take on its usual form, the words "NRA" and the name that is marked under Cost and Bolt Authority." The label will also be in the label and materials being identified along the way where the material was used, thereby preventing the use of materials made from them. 

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In Kansas City Women's Wear Market

By Ray Owens
Member, Local 117

The Kansas City slick, suit and dress manufacturers are just in the middle of another three months, where we have barely any hope in the market, today (September 13), and regardless of the difficulties we have had, we have had the good old wise shop conditions are gone forever.

**What a Change!**

Consider what our hours and wages used to be when we first went to the market. We had said, at that time, we'd have the same amount of time to work as we had before the union stepped in. It was a real deal for us girls to work four days a week, and when the union-recognized, some of us found out that we wanted a new deal for working and had no right to sign agreements with their firms that they could work less than that. All our old friends were getting told they were working for less and that they had to be the good workers and that they didn't have as much as the old timers have.

**The Nighttime That Passed**

I think this must be borne in mind that the women are glad that the strike lasted. They were not sure that the strike was going to last long enough, but the women stayed in the market and things have improved. This is the women's press for the industry. Under the new conditions, women who work and who work hard, and who do their work, are getting the same pay as the old timers and now they have what they had before the union.

**The Fight of the Rainstorm Builders**

By Israel Feinberg
Vice-President, Int'l Organization in All

I know readers of "Justice" would like to know something about the current rainstorm strike in Boston. It is true; this is what you want us to report. We have been watching the industrial operation at a distance; as it does not seem as though the strike will now go on for another week, and when the strike is over, things will be better. We have been watching the living conditions of the railroad men and women and have found that there is a great deal of progress being made. We have been in touch with the employees and have found that there is a great deal of cooperation being made.

**Battle Forced Upon Workers**

Well, my report that we have won this fight not because of the success here but because of the struggle. The Boston railroad workers have been fighting for a long time to get the right to organize and the right to strike. They have been working for a long time to get the right to organize and the right to strike.

**Full Equality Basic Idea**

In the past, there has not existed in the railroad shops a great deal of unfairness. The workers have been used by the employers and they have been treated unfairly. The Boston railroad workers have been fighting for a long time to get the right to organize and the right to strike.

**The Strike Is Inevitable**

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In summary, the L. L. & G. W. U. (Local 135) has been a union in Kansas City for many years. It has been a union for the workers in the Kansas City area. It has been a union for the workers in the Kansas City area. It has been a union for the workers in the Kansas City area. It has been a union for the workers in the Kansas City area.

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Ladies Tailors Prepare for General Strike

By L. J. Barenick
Business Agent, Local 38

The New York Ladies Tailors, Custom Dressmakers, and Alterers, after many preparations for the coming battle, have announced their strike and protest in the industry.

**The Strike Begins**

I do not know what our employers consider as a strike, and I am sure that they are very little work in the industry. They signed the NRA blanket code and have been in the industry. I am sure that some of them know that their work is not of any value to them, and that it is the only way by which they can hope to secure anything at all in any way of fighting.

**A Different Situation Exists**

A different situation exists in the union shops. In the shop of the Baltimore Gown, one of the shop leaders, had called the attention of the employer and his obligations to the display of the scene. The firm there agreed to give the workers the same 30-hour week with a base in earnings to the workers.

**The Idea Is Turning New**

During the last three years, our members have used a period of hardships. The strike has been going on for a long time, and has forced many of our members to go to work in the Union in order to get their old jobs back. These members have become accustomed to the fact that their workers.

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