Outline of Discussions on
THE PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN WORKERS

WHAT PLACE HAS ECONOMICS IN A WORKERS' SCHOOL

The general questions Economics deals with
The special field of labor economics
Questions workers bring to this field of study
The determination of wages under capitalism
Wages and economic planning

MacDonald, L., Labor Problems and the American scene, 1938
Chapters 1 and 16
Pollak, K. and Tippett, T., Your Job and your Pay, 1932.
Chapter 1.
Daugherty, C.M. Labor Problems in American Democracy.
Rev. ed. 1938. Chapter I.

WHO ARE THE WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES:

The great occupational groups of the Census
The 26 million wage earners
The industries employing more than 200,000
The "cheap labor" groups
Experience of Summer School students as material for study
Why workers do not know who they are

Reading: Hacker, L.M., The United States, a graphic history, 1937.
75¢, pp. 167-175
I Am a Woman Worker. Affiliated Schools, 1936. 50¢
Recent Social Trends (Report on the President's Research
Committee on Social Trends.) 1933. Chapter 16. Labor
Groups in the Social Structure.
MacDonald, L., Labor Problems and the American scene,
1938. Parts 3 and 4
Women at work. U.S. Dept. of Labor, 1936. 15¢

WHAT IS A LABOR MOVEMENT?

Organizations through which it works and grows
Trade unions
Political parties
Consumers Cooperatives
Workers Education

Reading: Seidman, Joel, Introduction to Labor Problems, Brookwood
Publications, 1936. pp. 1-4
1936.
WHAT PROBLEMS DID WORKERS HAVE BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

The complex society today came from simple beginnings. The history of these changes helps us to understand many of the problems of workers today. When we know who the workers were in former centuries, what their work was, just how they performed it, what property was and who were the owners of property in each stage of production we begin to understand something of industrial evolution. Some changes appear to take place very suddenly. Usually they have a long history.

As a matter of fact our industrial order is very new. For convenience we sometimes mark off different systems of production and give them names and dates. We speak of the "Household system", the "Handicraft system," the "Putting Out system" and the "Factory system." Each had its own tools, materials, methods of work, each different owners of property, each its own social classes, and each differed from the others in the extent of the market for which goods were made.

But the introduction of power-driven machinery and the production of goods for world markets did not occur at the same time in every industry, nor in every country. Some industries are still very far behind others in industrial production.

Reading: Huberman, Leo. Man's Worldly Goods. 1936. Part I
OR
Marshall, L.C. The Emergence of the Modern Order. 1930.
p. 175-190 (The woolen industry)
Parts V-VII

WHAT PROBLEMS HAVE WORKERS IN OUR PRESENT INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION?

They have new problems of security which grow out of the changes brought about by that system. The outstanding changes are:

1. The concentration of economic power resulting from the enormous importance of capital in large-scale production
2. The weakened economic power of workers because of extreme specialization of work and loss of ownership of the means of production.
3. The role of the state in balancing economic power through legislation and the decisions of courts
4. Recurring periods of depression resulting in unemployment and wage cutting
5. Concentration of population and overcrowding in cities
6. Technique making possible employment of children, greatly accelerated speed and increased monotony of task.
7. Effects of these changes on ways of living and habits of thought.

The general aim of the Labor movement in all its phases is to find solutions for workers' problems. It is itself a product of the industrial revolution.
HOW DID THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT BEGIN?


HOW IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE AMERICAN TRADE UNIONS CHANGING?

The Locals.
The "National" and "International" unions.
The "joint board".
The city and state federations and councils.
the A. F. of L., and the C.I.O.
The problems of jurisdiction.
The union constitutions.
Union membership and affiliation.


WHAT ARE THE CHIEF ACTIVITIES OF TRADE UNIONS?

Maintenance of standard conditions
Collective bargaining
Status under the National Labor Relations Act of 1935
Provisions of the Trade Agreement
Problems of the "company union"
Strike tactics
Boycott as a program of action
Educational, health and recreation programs
Trade union journals
Reading: Brooks, R.R.R. When Labor Organizes. 1937, pp. 1-63
Brooks, R.R.R. Unions of their own choosing, 1939
Cummings, E.E. Labor Problems in the U.S. ed. 1932. Chs. 8, 9, 11
Fairlie, L. The Company Union, 1936. Affiliated Schools, 35¢
Gluck, Elsie. Introduction to American Trade Unionism, 1935. Affiliated Schools, 35¢
Huberman, L. The Labor Spy Racket, 1937. 85¢ (Modern Age)
Levinson, E., I Break strikes! 1935. (Bergoff techniques)
Levinson, E., Labor on the March. 1938. Part 2
MacDonald, L., Labor Problems and the American scene, 1938. Chs. 24-27
Ogburn, W. R. Living with machines, 1933. American Library Assn. 25¢
Seidman, J., The Elements of Trade Unionism. Ed. Dept. of the United Auto Workers, 1937. 10¢
Walsh, J.R. Industrial unionism in action. 1937.
What workers and employers should know about the National Labor Relations Act. Labor Information Bulletin June 1937. pl. ff
Your rights under the National Labor Relations Act. Legal Dept. of the C.I.O. 1937. 1106 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. 10¢
Press
DOES THE GOVERNMENT HELP OR HINDER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING?

The labor law
Its growing scope
Legal and trade union standards
A "floor" for the bargaining structure
The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
National Labor Relations Act of 1935

Reading: Brooks, R.R.R., Labor on New Fronts. Public Affairs Pamphlet no. 21. 10 cents. 1938
Brooks, R.R.R., Unions of their own choosing. 1939. Chas. 1, 2, 8, 9.
Cummins, E.E., Labor Problems in the U. S. 2d ed. 1935, ch. 18
Cummins, E.E., Government and Labor, 1935-1936 (pamphlet)
Van Nostrans Co. 250 Fourth Avenue, New York 1936
MacDonald, L. and Stein, E. The Workers and Government. Affiliated Schools. 1935, 35¢. Part II
MacDonald, L., Labor Problems and the American scene, 1938 Chs. 32-34, 41, 42

Labor and the Courts
The basis for court action
Use of the injunction
Attitude of organized labor

MacDonald and Stein, E. The Worker and Government. 1935 Affiliated Schools. 35¢. Chs. 14-16
MacDonald, L. Labor Problems and the American Scene. 1938. Ch. 44

The Government and labor disputes
What workers can do under the law
The settlement of disputes
Arbitration and Conciliation
The National Labor Relations Act of 1935

MacDonald, L. and Stein, E. The Worker and Government.
Affiliated Schools, 1935. 35¢. Part 3
Why the Wagner Act should not be amended, Congress of Industrial Organization, Legal Dept. Publication No. 23, 3 cents or $2 for 100.
Your Rights under the National Labor Relations Act, C.I.O. Legal Dept. 1937. 10¢. (1106 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C.)
HAS THE SOCIAL INSURANCE PROGRAM GIVEN THE WORKER SECURITY?

The risks covered
The workers covered
How the bill for it is paid and how it might be paid
The Social Security Act of 1935 and its amendments
Social Insurance Abroad
Stewart, H.E.  rev. ed. 1939
Reading:  "Social Security in the U.S." (contains the provisions of the Lundeen Bill)
MacDonald, L., Labor Problems and the American scene, 1938, Chs. 37-39
Social Security Board Pamphlets
Why social insurance
Brief explanations of the Social Security Act.

WHAT CONTROL HAVE WORKERS USED AS VOTERS?

Rise and decline of the Socialist Labor Party
The American Socialist Party before the World War
Political policies of the American Federation of Labor
Post-war splits in the Socialist Party
The American Communist Party and opposition groups
Formation of Labor's Non-Partisan League
Prospects for a national American Labor Party

Reading:  Brooks, R.R.R., When Labor Organizes, 1937, Chapter X. The Labor Movement and Political Action
MacDonald, L., Labor Problems and the American scene, 1938, ch. 29
The Weekly People (Socialist Labor Party)
The Daily Worker (Communist)
The New Leader (Socialist, "old Guard")
The Socialist Call

WHAT CONTROL CAN WORKERS USE AS CONSUMERS?

Wages and the Cost of Living --- real wages and money wages
Items in the budget --- the wage earner's food
Your money's worth
Installment buying
Why distribution costs are high
The story of Consumers' cooperative societies

Reading:  Consumers' Guide, Bi-weekly publication, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Fowler, B.B., Consumer Cooperation in America, 1936
Goslin, R. A., Cooperatives, 1937. (Headline Book no. 8)
Foreign Policy Association, 8 W. 40th St., N. Y.  25c
Ware, C. The worker goes to market, Affiliated Schools, 1934.  25c
Warbasec, J.P. Cooperative Democracy, 1936
WHAT CAN AMERICAN WORKERS LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

From England where the labor movement began
From Germany where a strong labor movement was demolished
From Scandinavia where democracy came into flower
From U.S.R. where production is planned

          Hamilton, W.A. The Labor Party today. Labor Book Service
          London. 1939
          Hutt, Allen. The Post-War History of the British Working
          Class. New York. 1933
          Lend, Evelyn. The Underground Struggle in Germany. Industrial
          Democracy. April 25, 1938. 15 cents
          Childs, M. W. This is Democracy: Collective Bargaining in
          Scandinavia. 1938.
          Moe, Finn. Does Norwegian Labor seek the middle way?
          New Frontiers. April 1937
          Williams, R. Phys. The Soviets. 1937. pp. 223-248 (Soviet
          Trade Unions)

WHAT ARE THE INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF LABOR?

The International Federation of Trade Unions
The Red International of Trade Unions
The Labor and Socialist International
The Third International
The International Labor Organization
Origin and history
Basis of representation in the International Labor Conference
How conventions are passed
Actual accomplishments

Reading: Lorwin, L., Labor and Internationalism, 1929
          Labor and the International Labor Organization (pamphlet
          issued by the Washington Branch office of the I.L.O.)
          The International Labor Review (monthly publication of
          the I.L.O.)
          Thomas, A., The International Labor Organization, 1931
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS
1939

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Officers, President, 6 Vice-Presidents, Secretary, 1 member from each affiliated union

CONVENTION

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIONS
(36)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEES
(10)

LOCAL INDUSTRIAL UNIONS (directly chartered by the Executive Board)
(567)

INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS
State 28
City
District 183
County

LOCALS OF THE NATIONAL UNIONS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP
(Approximately 4 million)

See Letter from Ralph Hetzel, C.I.O., January 15, 1940
HISTORIES OF TRADE UNIONS WRITTEN BY THEIR OFFICERS
AND PUBLISHED IN THE LABOR INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

(List prepared by Ester Detlefsen)

Issue of

January, 1939  The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, by Daniel J. Tobin, President.

February, 1939  The "Osiery Workers' Union, by Emil Rieve, Pres.

April, 1939  The United Rubber Workers of America, by S. Dalrymple, President.

May, 1939  The Electrical Workers' International Brotherhood, by D.W. Tracy, Pres.

June, 1939  The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, by Gladys Dickason, Research Director.

Dec., 1939  Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, by D.B. Robertson, Pres.

Jan., 1940  The Hatters, Cap, and Millinery Workers' Union, by Max Zaritsky, Pres.


March, 1940  The International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America, by G.L. Berry, Pres.

April, 1940  Hotel and Restaurant Workers' International Union, by Edward Flore, Pres.

May, 1940  United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers' Union, by James B. Carey, Pres.

June, 1940  Federation of Flat Glass Workers of America, by Erwin D. Shuttler, Pres.