

Hudson Shore Labor School
1940

Hewes-Beecher Unit
Economics

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

Reading Ilin, M., New Russia's Primer, 1931. Chapter 11.
 MacDonald, L., Wages and the worker. Affiliated Schools, 1934
 MacDonald, L. Labor Problems and the American scene, 1938,
 Chapters 1 and 18
 Pollak, K. and Tippet, T., Your Job and your Pay, 1931.
 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
 Clark, M.R. and Simon, S.F., Labor Movement in America.
 1938.

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
Marshall, L.C. and Lyon, L.S., Our economic organization.
1921. OR
Marshall, L.C. The Emergence of the Modern Order. 1930.
p. 175-190 (The woolen industry)
Waters, C. M., An economic history of England. 1925.
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?

The first trade unions. Small isolated groups of skilled workers.
Shoemakers, Philadelphia, 1792.
Printers, 1794, New York and Baltimore
The doctrine of conspiracy.

The early labor parties Members considered themselves citizens first and workers afterward. Objects: Abolition of imprisonment for debt and compulsory service. Establishment of mechanics' lien laws and free education.

Reading: Clark, M. R. and Simon, S. F. Labor Movement in America 1938.
Harris, Herbert, American Labor, 1939 pages 1-95
MacDonald, L. Labor Problems and the American scene, 1938.
Chapter 21
Seidman, Joel. Labor problems and sketch of the American labor movement, Educational Department, United Auto Workers, Griswold Bldg. Detroit, Mich. 1937. pp-19-24

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.

Reading: Brooks, R.R.R. When labor organizes. 1937. (union lists)
pp. 331-343 pp. 331-343
Cummins, E.E. Labor Problem in the U.S. 1932 ed. Chs. 6-7
Gluck, Elsie. Introduction to American Trade Unionism,
The Affiliated Schools, 1935. 35¢
Handbook of American Trade Unions. Bulletin 618 U. S. Bureau
of Labor Statistics. 30¢
MacDonald, L. Labor problems and the American scene, 1938.
Chapters 22, 23
Seidman, Joel. Labor Problems and Sketch of American labor
movement. Ed. Dept. United Auto Workers, Griswold Bldg.
Detroit, Mich. 1937. pp.3-7

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
Cummins, 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¢
Cayton, Horace R. and Mitchell, G.S. Black Workers and
the New Unions, University of North Carolina. 1939.
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
Stark, Louis. The National Labor Relations Board - Why and How
Social Action, Aug. 15, 1938 - Committee on Social Action,
Congregational and Christian Churches, 289 Fourth Ave.,
New York City

Labor and the Courts

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

Reading: Cummins, E.E., The Labor Problem in the U.S. 2d edition, 1935, ch. 16
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

Reading: Cummins, E.E., Labor Problem in the U. S. 2d ed. 1935.
Chs. 16, 17
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, M.E. rev. ed. 1939

Reading: ~~Loggia, P.~~ Social Security in the U. S. 1936 (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: The party platforms

Brooks, R.R.R. When Labor Organizes. 1937 Chapter X. The Labor Movement and Political Action

Cummins, E.E., The Labor Problem in the U. S. 2d ed. 1935.
chs. 10 and 12

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. 25¢

Ware, C. The worker goes to market, Affiliated Schools. 1934.
25¢.

Warbasse, 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 ~~emerged~~ came into flower
- From U.S.S.R. where production is planned

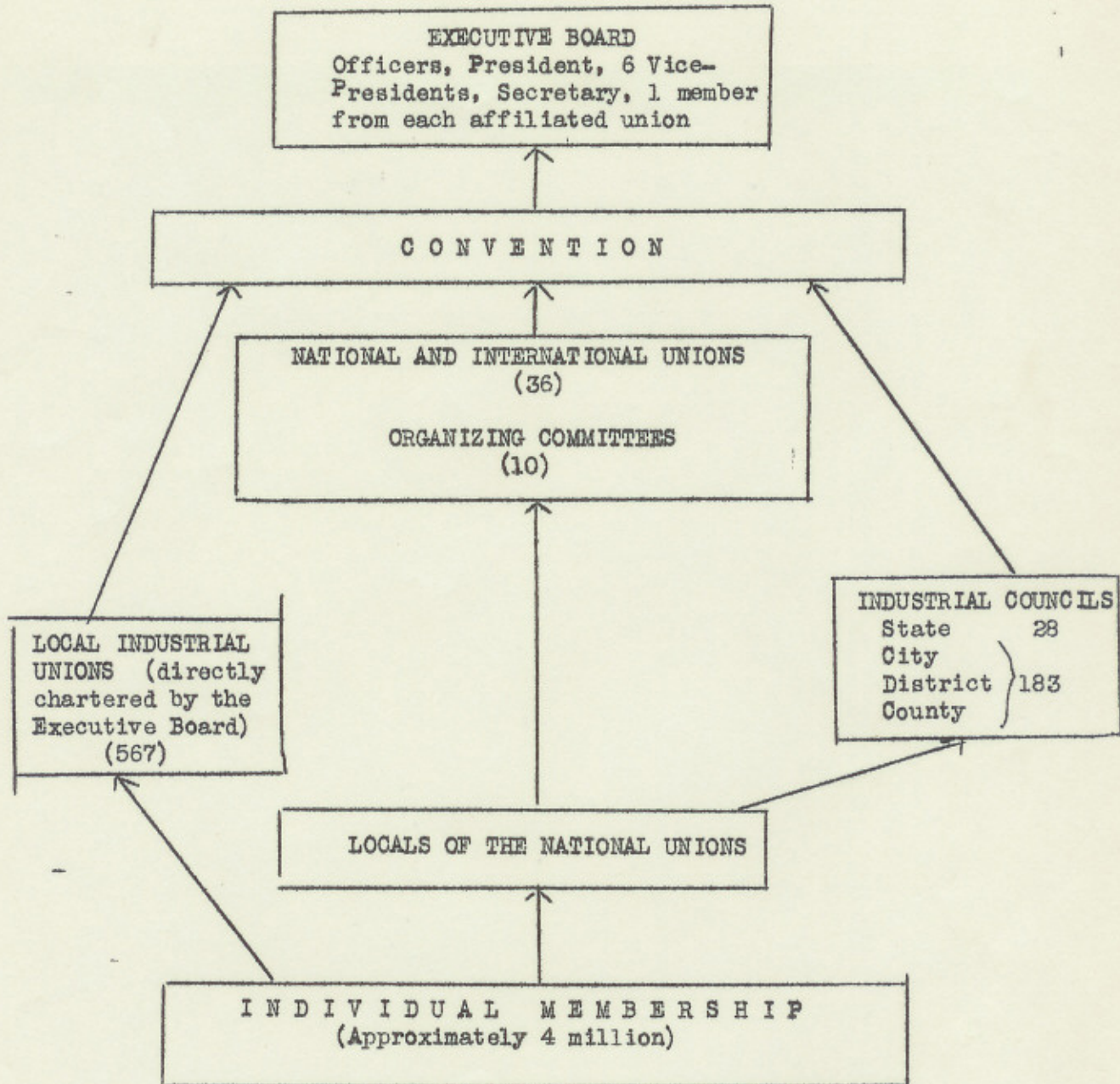
- Reading: Cole, G.D.H. The Common people. London. 1938
Hamilton, M.A. The Labor Party today. Labor Book Service
London. 1939
Hutt, Allen. The Post-War History of the British Working
Class. New York. 1938
Lend, Evelyn. The Underground Struggle in Germany. Industrial
Democracy. April 25, 1938. 15 cents
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, Rhys. The Soviets. 1937. pp. 223-248 (Soviet
Trade Unions)
Labor Fact Book. Vol. 4. New York 1938. Chapter 8 (Labor Abroad)

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



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.
- Feb., 1940 Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, by A. F. Whitney, 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.