

FILE NO. 130044

Petition
OF

Unemployed

For relief.

FILED FEB 13 1931

BY _____

ADDRESS _____

H. W. CARROLL
CITY COMPTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK

BY Chas. A. Smith DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED FEB 16 1931

TO FINANCE

REFERRED _____

TO _____

REPORTED _____

REPORT ADOPTED _____

REPORTED _____

REPORT ADOPTED _____

REF. FOR ORD. _____

C. B. ORD. _____

DISPOSITION _____

FEB 24 1931

ON FILE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your

FINANCE

Committee

to which was referred the within Petition
would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that THE SAME BE PLACED ON FILE

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

TO ALL WORKERS OF SEATTLE BRING YOUR FAMILIES AND DEMONSTRATE ON FEB. 10TH AT NOON AT FOURTH & STEWART STS.

NEAR THE 'TIMES BUILDING'. FROM THERE WE MARCH TO THE 'CITY HALL SQUARE'.

Unemployment is becoming more severe. Daily there are reports of workers committing suicide to avert actual starvation or the witnessing of the starving conditions of their dependents. Thousands of homes are cold for lack of fuel. Yet there is plenty of fuel. Children are kept home from school for lack of food and clothing to maintain health. Many reports are recorded of cases of exhaustion of children and unemployed workers thru lack of food. Yet warehouses are bursting with food and clothing. The graineries are filled with millions of bushels of spoiling wheat.

There are 10,000,000 workers jobless in the United States and 40,000 of these are right here in Seattle. All over the country the workers are organizing into

Unemployed Councils and massing together in

MASS DEMONSTRATIONS and HUNGER MARCHES
DEMANDING RELIEF FROM THEIR STARVING CONDITIONS; DEMANDING FOOD, DEMANDING CLOTHING, DEMANDING SHELTER FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

Workers are banding together, going into stores and restaurants and taking what food they need. Even the farmers are forced, thru sheer necessity, to band together and demand food from the greedy bosses who have monopolized all the foodstuffs. The miserable conditions suffered thru unemployment are visible on every hand. In Seattle the workers are organizing into Unemployed Councils in every neighborhood for the purpose of demanding relief from those who have hoarded and from those who are responsible for the hoarding of all the wealth of food, clothing and shelter.

We have begged and pleaded as individuals for work or relief, but our voices have been ignored or met with cynical contempt by the capitalist politicians and the bosses.
WE MUST EAT. WE NEED CLOTHES & SHELTER.

We want decent living quarters to maintain our health standards.

WE WANT WORK OR WAGES AND ARE OUT TO GET IT.

We have acted as individuals or thru corrupt organizations and have failed to get any results from the robber class and their political lackys. We have learned the bitter lesson of disappointment by individual action. Therefore, let us

UNITE IN THIS STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHT TO LIVE.
Bring your families to DEMONSTRATE and show your solidarity

to support the UNEMPLOYED DELEGATION which is presenting to Congress on February 10th. the following NATIONAL DEMANDS of the 10,000,000 unemployed in the United States.

(over)

- 299-
1. Unemployment Insurance at the rate of \$25 a week for each unemployed worker and \$5 additional for each dependent.
 2. The creation of a National Unemployment Insurance Fund to be raised by:
 - (a) Using all war funds for Unemployment Insurance. (b) A tax levy on all capital and property accumulations in excess of \$25,000. (c) A tax on all incomes over \$5,000 a year.
 3. That the Unemployment Insurance Fund shall be administered by a Workers Commission elected solely by employed and unemployed workers. and The immediate full cash payment of the bonus for war veterans.

and back up the following local demands:

That an emergency relief fund of \$5,000,000 be created in the City of Seattle for relief of the unemployed, this sum to be raised thru;

1. Reduction of salaries of city officials to a maximum of \$2,500 per year.
2. Interest, redemption and sinking funds on city bonds to be reverted to this purpose.
3. Reduction of city police force by one half.
4. Increased tax levy on property with valuation in excess of \$25,000. and
5. Further savings on city budget to raise balance.

Administration of Relief.

Relief shall be provided for all unemployed workers in Seattle, regardless of race, creed, color, nationality, occupation, age, sex or residential qualifications. Relief funds shall be administered and distributed by a city board, composed of workers from factory councils, rank and file members of trade unions and unemployed councils, to be elected directly by the workers. The city board of workers shall constitute a city free employment bureau. All government and private agencies shall be abolished. In addition to the funds provided for immediate relief, the following demand demands shall be adopted to go into effect immediately.

Immediate demands for unemployment relief.

1. No evictions of unemployed workers for non-payment of rent.
2. Free transportation on city street cars and busses for unemployed workers and their dependents.
3. All unemployed workers to be exempt from taxation beginning the year of 1930.
4. Lunches and clothing, adequate to maintain health standards, to be provided for unemployed workers children in the schools.
5. Free medical, dental and hospital service for unemployed workers and their dependents.
6. Vacant apartments and houses, in such shape as to provide decent accommodations, to be put at the disposal of the unemployed workers.
7. Public auditoriums and halls to be free to unemployed workers for meeting purposes.
8. No police interference with employed or unemployed workers or veterans meetings.
9. Immediate abolition of all vagrancy laws.
10. Union wages to be paid on all city and public work.
11. Immediate institution of the 7 hour day and the 5 day week on all city and public work with no reduction in pay.
12. All community funds to be turned over to and put at the disposal of the city board of workers for unemployment relief.

Auspices:

SEATTLE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF
AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

Headquarters:

106 Columbia Street. Room 4.

Workers. This fight is your fight. Help out. Come to the above address for these leaflets. Lets cover the city. Let every man, woman and child know of this demonstration.

FRIDAY. FEB. 10th. at NOON at FOURTH AND STEWART. FROM THERE TO THE CITY HALL.

PLEASE ME ON.

NOTIFY YOUR FELLOW WORKERS.

(over)

TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASH.

We, the rank and file delegation, have been unanimously elected by over ^{thousand?} 2000 unemployed workers assembled before the City Hall on Feb. 10, 1931, as a delegation representing the interests of our fellow-workers and are voicing their demands.

In the city of Seattle, it is known that there are between 45,000 to 50,000 unemployed workers and their families and they are suffering from cold and hunger. It is reported daily in the local press, about the numerous suicides and other acts of desperation amongst the suffering masses of this city, due to their terrible plight as a result of unemployment. The masses of the city of Seattle are suffering as a result of the breakdown of the present capitalist system of economy which has proven itself unable to serve the interests of mankind.

Not being content with throwing the many millions of workers out into the streets after having exploited them in the industries, at a pittance, the bosses are resorting to the most inhuman speed-up system, sapping every ounce of energy out of the working class. Already there is a systematic drive against the workers in the city, to cut their wages down below the level of existence. The cost of living is still too high and many workers are unable to obtain decent food or living accommodations, because of the high rents. The slop houses, soup lines and bread lines, are feeding stuff that they call food, which the rich people would not even think of feeding to their hogs or pet dogs,

food that upsets the workers' stomachs and besides this, the workers are compelled to suffer all sorts of abuses and humiliations at the hands of the so-called "charity organizations".

The suffering of the masses of the City of Seattle are the common sufferings of over 10 million workers throughout the U. S. for which the capitalist government refuses to do anything. And, Herbert Hoover, in the face of these miserable conditions, which, according to Senator Caraway of Arkansas, results in a daily death toll of over 1000 starving workers and their families, has stated "that while the people must be responsible to the government, the government cannot be responsible to the people." This is a complete and open and cynical refutation and denial of the so-called democratic ~~pretensions~~ pretensions of the capitalist class of America which were veiled in the sugar-coated phrases of the "great emancipator", Abraham Lincoln, when he stated that this government was for the people. This is an open admission by the capitalist politicians and spokesmen that they lie when they state to the masses during the election campaigns "that they are for the people" and that they are the "people's choice" and that they are representing the people "impartially". has been proven a lie not only by the open admission by Herbert Hoover but also by the fact that the Red Cross Society which is an instrument of the bankers and business men, together with Hoover and the present government administration, refuses to ^{feed} satisfy the hungry masses in the farming areas.

While the ex-servicemen, who risked their lives on the battle fronts for the interests of Wall Street, are denied the cash bonus, millions of dollars are being given back by Andrew Mellon as tax rebates to the large corporations.

Already the U. S. Public Health Commissioner, Cuzzoni Cummings, has testified before a Senate Committee, that in more than 17 farming states, as well as in the cities, there will be a tremendous death rate and disease rate, due to starvation, pellegra, tuberculosis, typhoid, etc; all resulting from the terrible plight that the masses find themselves to-day, many of whom are compelled to eat out of garbage cans, while the parasitic capitalist class is wallowing in luxury, holding forth at their banquets and balls and cynically laughing in the face of the hunger corpses that are stalking throughout the country.

To-day, a mass delegation of hundreds of workers, representing the millions of unemployed masses of this country, are at Washington, D. C. for the purpose of presenting the millions of signatures collected by the unemployed councils and conferences; to be presented to Congress demanding the immediate enactment of the Social Insurance Bill, sponsored by the Unemployed Councils and the Trade Union Unity League, demanding unemployment insurance, to be paid by confiscating the billions of dollars of war preparations for the unemployment insurance fund; for the taxing of the rich and by other means, which can very easily be done by reducing the profits and incomes of the idle class.

Only in the Soviet Union, where the working class owns and controls not only its industries and other means of production, but also the government, there is no unemployment; they are short

over two million workers and while the cultured and trained technicians of the U. S. can find no employment in this country, only in the Soviet Union can they find an outlet for their talents as well as earn a living. Thus we witness the emigration of over 13,000 technicians from the U. S. to the Soviet Union, which is the only land owned and controlled by the workers; where conditions of the masses are constantly getting better as contrasted to the conditions in the capitalist countries; proving the superiority of the socialist system of society over the bankrupt capitalist system which cannot any longer serve the interests of humanity.

In this land of richness and plenty, the idle rich are wallowing in luxury, while masses are dying of starvation and disease.

Therefore, we the delegation ~~being~~ elected by the assembled unemployed workers who have gathered here for the purpose of voicing ~~their~~ their desires and demands in support of their delegates at Washington, for unemployment insurance, demand that the city of Seattle, as well as the state of Washington, shall go on record in support of this delegation, which is presenting the millions of signatures demanding the enactment of this bill by Congress and amongst which there are thousands of signatures collected in the city of Seattle.

We demand immediate and decisive action by the city council in support of the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill, as presented to Congress by the mass delegation in Washington today. We further demand as measures to be taken for the immediate relief of the unemployed of the city of Seattle that the following measures as presented herein shall be adopted and especially do we demand

the immediate appropriation by the city of 5 million dollars for the immediate relief of the unemployed of this city. We further demand, immediate enactment through law of the following demands presented herein and we also demand that these measures be carried through by the measures proposed.