

Fascist in Plant Output Hits Bottom

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By Jack Young
(Special to the Daily Worker)

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 6.—Production in a vital war industry where fascist-minded Richard Franklin and his associates dominate the workers is less than half of what it should be, it was learned here today.

Admission of this startling low production rate was made by the "Cannon Employees

Association," many of whose officers are members of Franklin's "American Union Alliance."

An organizing drive of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers is under way at the Cannon Electric plant here, where approximately 1,800 men and women are making parts for war planes.

To forestall that organizing drive, the "Cannon Employees Association" started publishing a mimeographed paper called the "CEA Backer."

The first edition of this publication dated July 13, 1942, was dedicated to James H. Cannon, company president.

The leading story started off, "Dear Jim," and said, in part:

"Now, Jim, you mentioned in one of your letters, that 50 per cent of the total personnel in the plant was only working 50 per cent. To our everlasting shame, and that includes every member of the CEA, we have to face that fact. . . ."

The article continues, ". . . just a few illustrations: sometimes a buddy of ours happens to be working next to us and we notice that he begins a sort of periodic visiting.

"Leaving his machine and not realizing, not meaning wrong, or just not giving a 'dam' about production and detracting the other party from his or her work.

"Of course we see that and that's a heavy part of the 50 per cent loss of production."

This article makes no suggestions for on the job training of workers to increase their efficiency or any other proposal for increasing war production.

FAKE DEMOCRACY

Support of this "Cannon Employees Association," whose policies are stalling production, is given by company president Cannon in a letter to Harry Bridges, state CIO director.

Last May, Bridges wrote Cannon explaining the steps the CIO is taking to ensure all-out production.

Answering Bridges on May 8, 1942, Cannon heaped abuse on the CIO and said:

"Our little group now have in their hands means of expressing and representing themselves on a basis that is thoroughly democratic for those involved and I am confident that they are loyal and well meaning. We know we have their loyalty and will receive the benefit of their best endeavors. They know I have implicit faith in them."

It is a peculiar sort of "thorough democracy" that exists in the "Cannon Employees Association."

No membership meetings are held and regardless of how the membership votes their desires can be negated by the association's board of directors headed by Ned Mandella, president and henchman of Franklin.

Such over-riding of a membership vote by the board of directors is expressly provided for in a clause of the CEA by-laws reading:

"All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business affairs of the corporation shall be controlled by a board of directors."

BOUGHT UNIFORMS

A recent audit of the books of the CEA revealed that \$640 was spent for uniforms.

No explanation was given as to who these uniforms were purchased for. Cannon workers buy their own clothes used on the job.

However, L. L. Drouet, chairman of the personnel and occupational committee of the CEA, has confessed that he has "an honor guard of 582 men whom I have trained myself" ready to carry out the lynch program advocated by Franklin.

The audit also showed that \$1,320 had been spent for advertising, which is apparently more than ample to cover the cost of the few mimeographed bulletins released by the CEA.