STRIKES SET TO 'SWING' MUSIC

'Sit-Down' Strikers Have Their Fun, but Strict Self-Discipline Is Reminder That Objective Is Serious Business, After All.

Card games help to while away the time for sit-down strikers in Cleveland, while others in a Flint, Mich., plant are shown leaning out the windows to greet relatives and friends. Below: Workers protest dismissal from WPA theater project in New York City by calling a sit-down strike. Inset: John L. Lewis, leader of the Committee for Industrial Organization.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

MAHATMA GHANDI may have started the sit-down strike. Maybe it was the miners of Hungary or Wales. Or again, it might have been French factory workers. But it took Americans to set it to "swing" music.

America's new strike technique, as fostered by impressarios John L. Lewis of the Committee for Industrial Organization and Homer Martin of the United Automobile Workers of America, may be of grim purpose and persistent determination, but it is also light in spirit.

Take a typical scene about a striking automobile body plant. Parked along the curbs and in the street outside the plant are scores of cars containing sympathizers with the workers or simply the idly curious. Have they come in the hope of seeing some excitement—a riot, perhaps? No. They have come to listen to one of the nightly concerts played by the strikers' orchestra! And as the closing strains of "Pennies From Heaven" or "It's De-Lovely" float out the windows of the shut-down plant, there is a chorus of honking applause from the audience.

This is not an indication that the strikers are a bunch of loafers, bent on having a good time. It is actually one of the applications of "big business" methods to striking. If organized recreation makes happier industrial workers, so it makes strikers happier—and more effective. Concerts are a part of an efficiently-administered program of discipline and education which is a far cry from the conduct of strikes of the past.

Long Known in Mines.

It is also a far cry from the earliest "sit-down" strikes, which are mis-named, for the strikers do not actually sit down very much. They only remain inside the plant in which they worked, guarding the property against invasion by "scabs" until their demands are met.

Perhaps John L. Lewis, long known in mine labor circles, adapted this idea from a practice of miners over many years past. A miner who was not being given enough timber to "shore" his place would squat and refuse to load any coal until the timber arrived. The superintendent usually lost no time in getting it to him.

The first stay-in or sit-down strike to gain wide attention was that in the mines of Pecs, Hungary, in 1934. Miners down in the shafts refused to come up and even threatened to commit suicide en masse if their working conditions and pay were not improved. A year later the same idea was adopted by workers in colleries of Wales.

The sit-down strike became so widely applied in France last year it produced a crisis which was relieved only when the government, in a great hurry, passed a new collective bargaining measure and several other labor laws.

Strikers "Protect" Property.

In the United States it first received wide attention when employes of art and theater projects of the WPA "stayed-in" but refused to work until their demands were met.

Workers claim that when they strike inside a plant, they actually protect the property. But while they are there, the company cannot put anyone else on their jobs. Company officials claim this is trespassing and illegal.

First act of the union when a sit-down strike is called is to choose groups of pickets and captains, to police the plant and grounds. It is of considerable advantage if the plant is located on the street, and not set far back from the gate, for the success of the strike depends upon the workers' control of all entrances and exits. The way must be kept open for despatches of food and other supplies to come in. If you can say an army marches on its stomach, you can say a modern strike sits down on its stomach. If a plant has windows which open to the street, supplies may be passed in without the necessity of entering through one of the gates.

Women Are Chaperoned.

Strike leaders realize that to keep the sympathy of the public they must remain orderly. Mobs with an axe to grind do not remain orderly for long unless their minds are occupied, unless there are means provided for expending the natural energy their bodies create. For that reason to every striker is assigned some duty. He may be given a certain area to keep clean, a certain "watch" to patrol or a "shift" on messenger duty.

If there are women among the strikers they may be charged with information desks, with preparing food, mending clothing, or even running impromptu beauty parlors to keep up the appearance of their colleagues. Chaperonage is usually of the strictest order, and there have been cases in which the regular plant matrons stayed in with the strikers to administer this important job.

The information clerks are often as not the liaison between the strikers and their families or friends outside. Wives often call at windows to see their husbands. Often ruses are employed in attempts to get the men out and home for a few hours; guards are told that Sam Jones' wife has had a baby, that Art Johnson's son is stricken with pneumonia. Pickets soon learn to investigate such claims thoroughly before giving a striker a pass-out check.

Strikers are not nearly so uncomfortable as might be imagined. In the automobile plants there are usually enough rear seat cushions at hand to provide plenty of soft beds, while floor coverings make good blankets.

Wives Cook the Meals.

Barrels, kegs and boxes serve for chairs and are fairly comfortable, at that. On steel tables the strikers play such games as checkers, monopoly and poker. Washers can serve as either checkers or chips; a checkerboard can easily be fashioned from a piece of cardboard, and where can you find a few hundred men without a deck of cards among them?

Food usually is cooked in a hall near the plant. Sometimes a chef from a restaurant in the town supervises the work. The wives and sweethearts of the strikers do most of the actual cooking, and pack the many tubs and baskets which official union messengers transport through the gates or hoist up to the windows.

There is no liquor for anyone. For, while there is no objection to the strikers' having a good time during their siege, the objective is too precious to risk what even one lone striker might do if he were "not himself".

Discipline in some plants approaches military standards. The rules, self-imposed, are rigidly obeyed; the few infractions are punished swiftly and severely. The old fraternity house method is used in the majority of cases; the non-conformist is made to "assume the angle" over a table or box, after which his fellows vigorously apply barrel staves upon the strategic spot. The offense is seldom repeated.

The orderly conduct of the strikers is aptly illustrated by one plant.

Men Do Own Washings.

A bugle call arouses the men from their slumbers at 7 a. m. Some take advantage of the shower baths provided in the plant; everybody washes well, behind the ears and all. Forty-five minutes later in the company cafeteria the breakfast sent in by the women folks is served—fruit, cereal, milk, coffee, rolls and doughnuts. For lunch there will be stew, dessert and coffee. At night meat, potatoes, vegetables, coffee and dessert.

When they have finished breakfast, the men patrol their assignments. The plant is kept almost as clean as it is when there is no strike on. They do their own laundry in some cases; the conveyor lines resemble back yards on wash day. Some of the men, of course, send their laundry home.

Time is not allowed to drag. When the work is done the strikers may, if they wish, attend classes which are conducted under the auspices of the union officials. Here they may be instructed in public speaking, economics, physical culture and, to be sure, labor problems.

Propaganda With Entertainment.

There are generally two important meetings every day. The strikers' executive committee meets and discusses the progress of the movement at noon; later on there is a general meeting at which all the strikers are advised as to what is going on.

After dinner at night there is invariably community entertainment, such as might be found in a boys' camp. Radios provide music for community singing part of the time. In addition, a not-half-bad orchestra can usually be rounded up from the ranks of the strikers.

In the regular employes' meetings and "parties" when there is no strike on, the company seldom fails to include propaganda designed to promote happier relations between employer and employe. And in the parties of the strikers there is plenty of propaganda supplied by the leaders to keep up enthusiasm for the strike. Mixed in with the "swing" music and hill-billy songs is an occasional paraphrase of a familiar ballad—a new lyric reminding the strikers of the advantages to be gained if they will continue to be persistently patient.

Perhaps the importance of the sit-down strike as a weapon of labor depends upon the very discipline which has been developed and maintained. It is not hard to see that an idle mob, banded constantly together for days, might get out of hand, act rashly and by some act of violence defeat its own ends.

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STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

ONE of the trade magazines of the motion picture industry startled the workers in the business recently by publishing a report on the popularity of the screen stars. For months, people had been told that Robert Taylor had climbed to the very top: that he got more fan mail than Clark Gable did, that his name above a theater was magic, because it drew so many paying customers; that, in short, Mr. Taylor was tops.

But — according to this report, Clark Gable is the screen's most popular actor!

Last year Shirley Temple held that position. This year she is second. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers as a team come third, Robert Taylor fourth, and William Powell fifth.

In case you're interested, the other leading stars are listed in this order: Myrna Loy, Claudette Colbert, Norma Shearer, Gary Cooper, Fredric March, Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy as a team, Lionel Barrymore.

—★—

It is nice to report that James Cagney's new picture, "Great Guy," is one of his best. It had to be. He made it for Grand National you know, a new organization, and if it hadn't turned out well we might have had no more Cagney on the screen for a while, at least. After all his troubles with studios it is pleasant to know that he is once more on the big time and that his comeback is really a triumph.

James Cagney

—★—

Have you listened to that new radio program, "Do You Want to Be an Actor?" If you haven't, do! It's very entertaining. People who are in the audience are given roles in scenes that are done before the microphone, and after each performance the best woman performer and the best man are given movie tests by Warner Brothers. It's quite possible that some of our future stars will be developed in this way.

—★—

If the radio programs given by "Myrt and Marge" for so long were among your favorites, you'll be glad to know that a new series done by that popular couple has started. It's a family affair, for "Myrt's" son is now on the program, and "Marge" is her daughter. The son, George Damerel, used to go to the University of Southern California, but he left college to tour with his mother and sister when they went on the stage. Looks as if "Myrt" had built up a pretty good business for the family by writing those sketches, doesn't it?

—★—

Grace Moore has had to abandon her career on the concert stage and on the air, temporarily, in order to take a much needed rest. She has been working hard in pictures—in fact, she has turned into a real trouper, and the temperament that used to cause so much trouble is well under control.

—★—

In "Stowaway" you'll see Shirley Temple doing imitations of Eddie Cantor and Al Jolson and doing them well. The funny thing about it is that the child star never has seen either of them; just worked the imitations up from what she she was told about the two gentlemen's work.

—★—

Hollywood is still shocked over the suicide of Ross Alexander, although his friends knew that he had never ceased to grieve over the death by suicide of his first wife, Aleta Freile, a little more than a year before. It was said that she killed herself because, coming to Hollywood from the New York stage, she could not seem to get ahead in pictures. Young Alexander was doing very well with his career, and his second wife, Anne Nagel, is one of the screen's prettiest young actresses.

Ross Alexander

—★—

ODDS AND ENDS . . . Remember "The Shiek," with Valentino? Nino Martini will appear in a picture based on a similar story . . . Jean Harlow and Robert Taylor will appear together in "The Man in Possession" . . . It isn't supposed to be know that Joan Fontaine is Olivia de Haviland's sister, but everybody knows it—and the fact was announced here in "Star Dust" months ago, when she signed with Jesse Lasky . . . Once again "Madame X" is to be screened, this time with Gladys George in the stellar role.

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They're So Simple to Sew!

NOT only the sun, but the moon as well, will rise and set on these new styles created by Sew-Your-Own. This timely trio is one of the most wearable ever offered the members of The Sewing Circle. Yet, and you'll love this, there isn't a complication or a single trick detail to bother with in the whole program.

Pattern 1981—Pajamas so comfortable, restful and entirely satisfying that the alarm clock will have to ring twice—no foolin'—that's the boast and even the promise of this newest two piece outfit. It goes through your sewing machine like a dream, and really is one made up in satin or one of the vivid new prints. For lounging, the long sleeved version in velveteen or silk crepe is a knockout. It is designed in sizes 14, 16, 18 and 20 (32 to 42 bust). Size 16 requires 5 yards of 39 inch material, with short sleeves 4⅞ yards.

Pattern 1207—If your day begins at the crack of dawn with a standing invitation to prepare breakfast in nothing flat, or thereabouts, this is a house dress you can well appreciate. It's on in a jiffy and is just the thing for a two-handed expert breakfast maker. The lines are clean cut and slenderizing. It has a large pocket that's helpful, and general prettiness that is conducive to one's mental and physical well being. It is available in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 50. Size 36 requires 4⅜ yards of 39 inch material, with long sleeves 4¾ yards.

Pattern 1978—This blithe little blouse will add spice to your wardrobe at this time. Not only is it the essence of smartness and the last word in style, but the first word in simplicity, which is important to you who sew at home. It is feminine as to collar, delicately slender of waist and highly original throughout. You may have it with short or long sleeves, as you prefer. It is designed in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 (30 to 38 bust). Size 14 requires 2⅛ yards of 39 inch material, with short sleeves 1¾ yards.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Patterns 15 cents (in coins) each.

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Burdens of the Day

It has been well said that no man ever sank under the burden of the day. It is when tomorrow's burden is added to the burden of today that the weight is more than a man can bear.—George MacDonald.

Gas, Gas All the Time, Can't Eat or Sleep

"The gas on my stomach was so bad I could not eat or sleep. Even my heart seemed to hurt. A friend suggested Adlerika. The first dose I took brought me relief. Now I eat as I wish, sleep fine and never felt better." —Mrs. Jas. Filler.

Adlerika acts on BOTH upper and lower bowels while ordinary laxatives act on the lower bowel only. Adlerika gives your system a thorough cleansing, bringing out old, poisonous matter that you would not believe was in your system and that has been causing gas pains, sour stomach, nervousness and headaches for months.

Dr. H. L. Shoub, New York, reports: "In addition to intestinal cleansing, Adlerika greatly reduces bacteria and colon bacilli."

Give your bowels a REAL cleansing with Adlerika and see how good you feel. Just one spoonful relieves GAS and constipation. At all Leading Druggists.

Burden of Wisdom

He who knows much has many cares.—Lessing.

PAIN IN BACK

NEARLY DROVE HER CRAZY Got Quick RELIEF By Rubbing

Muscles were so sore she could hardly touch them. Used Hamlins Wizard Oil and found wonderful relief. Just rubbed it on and rubbed it in. Thousands say Hamlins Wizard Oil works wonders for stiff, aching muscles. Why suffer? Get a bottle for speedy comfort. Pleasant odor. Will not stain clothes. At all druggists.

HAMLINS WIZARD OIL
For MUSCULAR ACHES and PAINS
Due to RHEUMATISM NEURALGIA
LUMBAGO—CHEST COLDS

Calotabs Help Nature To Throw Off a Cold

Millions have found in Calotabs a most valuable aid in the treatment of colds. They take one or two tablets the first night and repeat the third or fourth night if needed.

How do Calotabs help Nature throw off a cold? First, Calotabs are one of the most thorough and dependable of all intestinal eliminants, thus cleansing the intestinal tract of the germ-laden mucus and toxines. Second, Calotabs are diuretic to the kidneys, promoting the elimination of cold poisons from the blood. Thus Calotabs serve the double purpose of a purgative and diuretic, both of which are needed in the treatment of colds.

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