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# ONE GREAT UNION

An Introduction to the Principles of  
Revolutionary Industrial Unionism



By William E. Trautmann

Introduction by Martin Schreder

Includes "The Goal of Industrial Unionism," by Carl Miller

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# Introduction

By Martin Schreader

Great documents always speak for themselves. They need no flowery introductions or long explanations to move them forward. Such is the case with *One Great Union*, by William Trautmann. Trautmann, a founding member of the Industrial Workers of the World and Workers' International Industrial Union, was able to explain the role and importance of revolutionary industrial unionism in a concise and clear manner, and in language that any working person could read and understand.

*One Great Union* was inspired by a similar pamphlet published by the IWW, *One Big Union*, which Trautmann helped to write before the 1908 split between the two wings of the union over involvement in the political arena. Its goal is to introduce workers to the concept of revolutionary industrial unionism and the WIIU by explaining the structure and vision of the Union in the broader context of our society.

In short, *One Great Union* is a primer on the ideas and activity of the WIIU, and serves to give the class-conscious worker a foundation for their work in building the one great union of all working people.

We have decided to re-publish Trautmann's work unchanged from when it was originally written in 1919. This includes his explanation of the original structure of the WIIU, as well as language use that was common in that time. Because of this, we have added as an appendix to this pamphlet the current structure and "wheel" of the WIIU, so readers can see what has and, more importantly,

has not changed.

In addition, we include at the end of this pamphlet the article, “The Goal of Industrial Unionism,” by Carl Miller. Miller’s article continues and expands on the vision of Trautmann, explaining what we in the WIIU hope to achieve through our work.

*7 November 2009*

# One Great Union

By William E. Trautmann

**S**ocial relations are determined by the nature of industrial possessions. The owners of all resources and means of wealth form a class of their own; the owners of labor power, as their only possession in the market another. Political, judicial, educational and other institutions are only the outgrowth of the prevailing system of ownership in the resources and means of production.

One class owns and controls the necessities, to wit: The economic resources of the world. That class, for its own protection and perpetuation in power, subjects all other institutions to its dominant class interests. Conversely, there is a class that strives to change the foundation of industrial, and hence also the social relationship. Immediately following the change, institutions, deriving their support and sustenance from the class in power, will be made to conform to new conditions after the overthrow of the previously existing industrial system.

Social arrangements collapse as a result of ever recurring changes in the economic formations. But the new relations are not a ready-made product of each of the epochs of reconstruction. An historic process of evolution reaches a climax in a revolutionary upheaval. Achievements of preceding epochs are always utilized in the constructive work of a never-resting, always advancing civilization.

Decaying elements render nourishment to Mother Earth for the generation of new species and structures. Nothing is lost in the generative process of nature. Precisely so in social systems. Previous achievements of social and industrial evolutions are always preserved after a

revolutionary climax removes all obstacles to further developments. Only the class before dominating the policies and functions of the social institutions is supplanted by the revolutionary change; the form of ownership in the means of life is shifted to another class.

Capitalist ownership of industries had its origin in the unfolding of conditions which hastened the downfall of the feudal age and its lords, and the advent of the commercial class to power.

Co-operative control of industries by all engaged in the process of production must build its foundation on the highly perfected form and methods of capitalist production, and upon the conditions which accelerate the passing away of the capitalist system of ownership in the instruments of production and distribution.

The feudal lords had to surrender their scepter to the ascending bourgeoisie, better known today as the capitalist class. The latter, at the outset, had in view only the free development of all forces of production, in an anticipated era of unrestricted competition between individuals. When, over a century ago, the change was consummated by revolutions, the instruments of production were more equally distributed. They were in possession of a multitude of the victorious bourgeoisie, who owned small enterprises. Most people would expect that in such a competitive system, as was then established, every one would have a chance to rise to a superior station in life. The instruments of production were not highly developed. Handicraft in the operation of small machines, or in the use of tools, still predominated. Small capital only was required in starting the manufacture of things for relatively small margins of profits.

This epoch, beginning with the revolution of the "Third Estate" in France, found its counterpart in the revolution of the American people against British semi-feudalistic rule. Since then the forms, methods and yield of production have rapidly developed in one direction, in every industrially advanced country. The means of production were centralized ever more in fewer and fewer hands. With the centralization of the means of production and distribution, the agencies protecting the interests in power also grew proportionately. Gradually all elements that obscured the lines of cleavage between the producers of wealth, the workers, and the class that expropriated all economic resources of the world, the capitalists, were, and are eliminated.

The manufacturers of yore exist only in small communities. They depend, however, more or less on the good will of those who permit them to exist, by supplying them with the raw products for production, or those who own the transportation facilities by which the products are transported into the markets.

In this process of transformation other things can be observed. Social relations are shifting with the change in the forms and in the ownership of the means of production. Social strata are fiercely struggling for their conservation, in vain. There is no escape from the irretrievable result of these rapid changes in industrial possessions and arrangements.

The howls of freaks, the frantic appeals and clamors of reformers will not in the least affect the course of events. The destructive battles of trades unions, divided up in factions and sections that find their traditional base in the middle ages, will not turn back the wheel that rolls on with irresistible force.

The outcry, so often heard before, redounds in vociferous strength again: A revolution! "A revolution is needed to change these conditions." It is a cry of despondency. Are Socialists alone in their clamors? They at least propose some way of consummating their program of a revolution. But the middle-class are more frantic in their wails of woe and despair. On their band wagon they are lining up a large following of workers. Millions are made to believe that an impending struggle against predatory wealth will have as object the restoration of by-gone conditions, or the enforcement of restrictive measures for curbing further concentration of industries.

But the workers are not, and should not be concerned in the hopeless struggles of an element in the social organism which is doomed, by irresistible force, to disappear. The producers of everything, the toilers, have a historic mission to perform, a mission that they will carry out despite the promises held out to them that a restoration of past conditions would accrue to their benefit also.

They begin to realize that in the constructive work for the future they have to learn the facts of past evolutions and revolutions. And from these facts expressed in theories they find the guide for the course that they have to pursue in their struggle for the possessions of the earth, and the goods that they alone have created. That ever-growing portion of the working class is building on the rock bed of historic facts, and the

structure to be erected follows the plan that it is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. "The army of production must be organized. By organizing industrially the power to take and hold, and using their political knowledge and rights to control, the workers are forming the structure and the industrial government of the new society within the shell of the old."<sup>1</sup>

Some definite conclusion must be drawn from the previously established premises. It is the heritage of the working class to utilize to the fullest extent the great achievements of the preceding and existing processes and methods of production, for the benefit of all useful members of society.

In its advent to power and supremacy the present economic master class succeeded another that went down in the process of evolution. This mastery of the present owners of the economic resources will also give way and pave the road for successors. The workers, conscious of their mission, must recognize the fact that the industries are developing to the highest state of perfection, and will be ready for operation under a new arrangement of things, namely, after the class now in possession and control of them have made way to another under the pressure of the advancing force of a more advanced epoch of civilization.

Therefore, it is imperative to arrange the human forces of production for the operation of the vast resources and implements of production under a system wherein articles will be made for use alone. So as to build and to arrange correctly, and for lasting purposes, the constructors of a further developed industrial structure must possess a thorough knowledge of the material, and of organizations destined to accomplish the task. The architects must know the proper place of each component part and cell in the composition of industrial combinations, so that, when harmony in the industrial relationship of mankind is established, it will be reflected in the corresponding harmonious social, political, judicial, and ethical institutions of a new age.

Again: Industrial and social systems are not ready-made products. In their changes from one stage to another they derive their propelling forces from the achievements and accomplishments of each preceding epoch. In its onward climb to a further advanced system, society is going to utilize all that present day society has evolved and constructed.

1. From "Industrial Union Manifesto" conference records.



This the workers must know, and then they will also learn the intricate, interdependent arrangements of the component parts of the whole industrial system. Equipped with this knowledge, they will be able to construct and form their own industrial organizations, the fame-structure of the new society, accordingly. By learning the social relations and understanding their source, they can profit and prepare to change the industrial structure of society, which, as a matter of course, will determine also functions of a social and political character under the system which is bound to be inaugurated.

This is the problem. The working class, as the promoter and supporter of a higher standard of social relations and inter-relations, must be equipped with the knowledge, must construct the organizations, by the use of which the cause of economic social classes can be removed. Industrial inequality is the source of all other inequality in human society. The change in the ownership of the essentials of life will bring, automatically, so to say, the change in the intercourse and the associations, and also in the institutions for the promotion of these things between the human beings upon the globe.

Good will, revolutionary will-power, determination, courage are invaluable assets in the struggle for the change. But they are like the water on the mill-wheels, unconscious of the great service that they are rendering. To convert force and power into useful operation requires intelligence. And that intelligence must guide us to use the accumulated force for a defined purpose. That purpose, as it is agreed, is to form a new social, or rather industrial structure within the shell of the old. To accomplish this, the advocates, the militants for the new orders, must know to what extent the present factors in industrial development have organized and systematized industrial production. When this is fully understood, this may also explain the subsequent domination of industrial possession over the political, social and other agencies in present day and previously existing societies.

The workers of the world, conscious of their historic mission, will learn to avoid .the mistakes they would make should they depend on other forces than their own for the solution of the world's problem. Agencies and institutions deriving their lease of existence from the industrial masters of today cannot be looked to for support. They may feign being in favor of radical changes in the effects-they will, however,

strenuously and violently oppose any attempt at destroying the base, or the cause.

The working class alone is interested in the removal of industrial inequality, and that can only be accomplished by a revolution of the industrial system of production and wealth distribution. The workers, in their collectivity, must take over and operate all the industrial institutions, the means of production and distribution, for the well-being of all the human elements comprising the international nation of wealth-producers.

No destruction, no waste, no return into barbarism! A higher plan of civilization is to be achieved. When the workers understand how the industrial system of today has developed, how one industrial pursuit dovetails into another, and all comprise an inseparable whole, they will not wantonly destroy what generations of industrial and social forces have brought forth. The workers will utilize the knowledge of ages to build and to plant on a solid rock bed the foundation of a new industrial and social system.

Neither will nor should they forfeit their rights as producers in present day society to utilize all available agencies to gain control and domination over their daily life affairs, in the places of production and also, in the political arena. The economic power which they are, developing by organization and education, will also assert itself on political lines through representation of their interests as a class. While the political state of today functions as a shield of production for the owners of the means of production, its compactness and solidity will be undermined correspondingly with the conscious, solid growth of the economic power of the toilers, finding its expression also on the political field; and the patchwork of political reform and concessions for the amelioration of evil condition under which the exploited suffer will correspond with the exercise of political demands by the toilers backed up by the integrally organized industrial power, until, ultimately, the objects of the political state are completely demoralized, and it can no longer function for its erstwhile beneficiaries, so that, with the construction of the industrial organization perfected for their future functions in a workers' republic the political state will collapse completely, and in its place will be ushered in the industrial-political administration for a further advanced social system.

But the foundation for this industrial organization of the workers must be firm and solid. The revolutionary climax, after an incessant course of evolutionary processes by which forms and methods undergo changes, will eliminate forever the cause for the industrial division of society into two hostile camps. Harmonious relations of mankind in all their material affairs will evolve out of the change in the control and ownership in industrial resources of the world.

That accomplished, the men and women, all members of society in equal employment of all the good things and comforts of life, will be the arbiters of their own destinies in a free society, administered by and through the industrial-political agencies of the organized wealth producers.

We present, with this introduction, to all our comrades in battle and strife, a portrait of industrial combinations:...

## Analyses of the Arrangement of Industries: The Chart Explained in Detail

**T**he main object of this explanation to the chart is to show how industries are grouped together in a scientific order.

Production begins with the exploitation of the natural resources of the earth. Labor is applied to extract the material that nature has stored up or generated. Production continues with the transportation of these products, mostly raw material, or fuel-matter, to the centers of manufacture and commerce. The construction of places of shelter for a man and things, the building of agencies of communication, are functions of another industrial branch of the system. We observe, finally, how the care-taking, the education, the providing for public convenience, fell to the functions of another department in the interdependent processes of industrial life.

In presenting this plan of organization of industries, as it exists today, we have in mind only the object before explained. The workers, forced by capitalist ownership of the means of production to do service in all these industries, must organize themselves in their proper places in the industries in which they are engaged. Every worker who studies this map will find where he will fit in when the industries are organized for the control of the workers through industrial organization.

Of course, it is the ultimate purpose of this arrangement that every worker shall have equal rights, and equal duties also, with all others in the management of the industry in which he or she serves in the process of production.

But the other purpose, equally important, is to *organize the workers*

*in such a way that all the members of the organization in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making the injury to one the injury to all.*

Of course, this can only be accomplished when the workers organize on industrial lines. This is to say, the workers of any one plant or industry must be members of one and the same organization — no craft-dividing lines. The capitalist institutions are today organized on exactly the same lines. The industries as they are grouped today, dovetailing into each other, furnish to the workers the basis for the construction of their organization for the struggles of today for better living conditions, and for the supervision and the management of industries in an industrial commonwealth of workers and producers.

### **Distribution of Products is Part of Production**

All natural resources of the soil, mines and water receive their first value when labor is applied to turn the products into useful things.

But all of these products have more social value when they are transported to places of manufacture and commerce, where they are transformed and converted into commodities for exchange.

The life of human beings will not consist of common drudgery alone when all the good things created are enjoyed by the workers.

For all purposes, present and the future, the functions of the public service institutions have to be defined, and people engaged in their maintenance must be given a place in the industrial organization; the same as those who take care of the sick and disabled; and those who render other social and public service should know also that they are engaged in useful occupation, although most of the institutions in which they serve today are prostituted for the protection of capitalist interests.

For all functions combined, the industries are arranged on the general plan presented on the map, as follows:

1. The Department of Agriculture, Land, Fisheries and Water Products.
2. The Department of Mining.
3. The Department of Transportation and Communication.
4. The Department of Manufacture and General Production.
5. The Department of Construction.

## 6. The Department of Public service.

These departments again have their subdivisions. As it is proposed that the workers organize in accordance with the industries in which they are engaged in service, it is essential that a general term be applied. This will make it easier to understand that each of these industrial subdivisions constitutes for itself a sub-organization of workers, in which they will be able to govern affairs that appertain to that industry alone.

Each of these subdivisions would comprise the workers organized in a National Industrial Union, which, however, would not be separate and distinct from all others, as the term "division" would imply. (We have looked in vain for an expression that would convey the proper meaning.)

It is impossible at this stage, to eliminate entirely the terms now used to designate certain functions that sets of workers perform in each industry. But it should be distinctly understood that this is not to imply that these craft-groups in industries will organize, as has been the case heretofore, in separate craft-unions, or according to the tools that each set of workers use. That would mean dividing up under another name. A worker in an industry will be assigned to the organization representing the product or products of that industry. Each sub-branch of the general industrial union is modeled accordingly.

When the workers engaged in a particular industrial production organize industrially, all are subject to the same rules governing the affairs of each industry. But certain fundamental rules and principles governing all component parts of the "one great union of workers" cannot be infringed upon by any of its component parts without doing injury to the whole organic body.

Still another point to be made clear: *The process of production does not cease until the finished product reaches the consumer. All workers engaged in the process of distribution are members of the same industrial union, or Department organization in which the makers of the commodity are organized.*

Of course, the railroad and water-transportation workers will be in the Transportation Department, although it might be said that they also are engaged in the process of distribution. But here is the difference. They only transport goods to other localities or countries, and the real

distribution process for use and consumption takes place after finished commodities have reached the merchant.

For instance: A salesman or clerk in a shoe store would be a member of the organization, or a branch thereof, in which are organized all workers engaged in the shoe industry. A teamster delivering meats, or other goods from a grocery, would be in the organization in which all the foodstuff workers of that particular branch are organized. But a truck driver, who may haul a big shipment of boxes containing garments from one depot to another, and on his next trip between depots will haul a load of nails for further transportation or distribution, performs the work of a transport worker, and as such organizes in the unions of that industry.

With these necessary explanations, suggestive of a better understanding of the plan of organization, one will far better be able to see how industries are grouped on the accompanying chart.

## **I. Department of Agriculture, Land, Fisheries and Water Products**

Four subdivisions comprise this department:

### **A. General and Stock Farming**

This subdivision comprises all workers employed in general and stock farming. 1. In grain and vegetables: All farm workers in plowing, planting, reaping, and fertilizing operations-which would, of course, include all engineers, firemen, blacksmiths, repair workers, carpenters, etc., working on farms and engaged in farm-product work. All workers on cotton and sugar plantations would come into this group, also all irrigation-workers, that is, all working at the operation of irrigation systems as engineers, pump men, lock men, pipe and repairmen, etc. 2. On cattle and live stock farms: Ranchmen, herders, sheep shearers, general utility men, all workers on fowl and bird farms; on dairy farms, etc.

### **B. Horticulture**

This subdivision comprises all workers on fruit farms, flower gardens, tea and coffee plantations, orchards, tobacco farms; all workers

engaged in the cultivation of silk, in vineyards, truck farms; workers in hot-houses; fruit pickers, box makers and packers, etc.

### **C. Forestry and Lumbering**

In this subdivision are associated together all workers in forests; rangers, foresters, game wardens, wood-choppers and lumber workers; all workers in the saw and shingle mills adjacent to forests, who are preparing wood for shipment for manufacturing purposes; collectors of sap, herb, leaf, cork and bark, etc.

### **D. Fisheries and Water Products**

In this subdivision are organized all fishermen on ocean, lakes and rivers; oyster and clam-bed keepers — in short, all workers engaged in raising, keening and catching of fish; in the collection of pearls, sponges and corals, such as divers, sorters, etc., which would include all mechanics on fishing boats and steamers, etc.

## **II. Department of Mining**

This department again consists of four large subdivisions:

### **A. Coal and Coke Mining**

All coal miners comprise this national industrial union. All workers in bituminous and anthracite coal mines, including, of course, mining engineers, firemen, pump men, blacksmiths, mine carpenters, shot firers, breaker boys. Also all workers employed in the production of coke, all miners of turf, peat; all workers in peat retort works, clerks in the offices of mines, and also all workers in the coal yards at the places of distribution, such as teamsters, shovelers, derrick-workers, weighers, etc.

### **B. Oil, Gas and By-Products**

The workers in this subdivision also organize to manage the affairs of this part of the mining industry, that is, all workers employed in the natural gas and oil fields, shaft sinkers, pipe men, pump men, tank men, gaugers, and also all workers in the oil distribution places, as fillers, coopers, teamsters, all workers in the oil-refining plants, as well as oil



by-product institutions.

### **C. Metal Mining**

This subdivision embraces all workers employed in the mining of gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, tin platinum, iron ore, etc., and in it are also organized all workers in the smelters, including the workers in the repair and mechanical departments, such as repairers, carpenters, machinists, rope men, teamsters in the main and subsidiary enterprises, and also waiters, cooks in small mining camps.

### **D. Salt, Sulfur, Mineral, Stone and Gem Mining**

In this fourth subdivision of the mining department organization are brought together all workers employed in the mining of salt, sulfur, clay, borax, mica, bromine, graphite, sodas, gypsum, asphalt, limestone, sandstone, whetstone, marble, onyx, slates, building stones, asbestos, and gems of all kinds, like diamonds, sapphires, etc.

## **III. Department of Transportation and Communication**

### **Brief Preface**

The process of transportation, different from the process of final distribution, comprises the act of bringing the products of land, water, and mines to the places of manufacture and general production, and to re-transport the partly finished goods either to other places at which the process of production is finished, or to bring the finished goods to the points where the distribution to the users or consumers take place. This process also includes the transport of human beings to and from one place to another. As the interchange process can not always be carried on by direct transportation of people, the indirect methods of transmitting commercial transactions by mail or by telegraphy is resorted to.

All the workers engaged in either of the sub-branches of that department are organized together. But, for expediency, they are grouped together in five national subdivisions, as parts of that department organization.

## **A. Long Distance Transportation on Land**

This subdivision embraces all workers employed in the long distance railroad service, such as railroad engineers, motormen, firemen, conductors, trainmen, switchmen, all engaged in the supervision and maintenance of the roads, railroad freight yard workers, station watchmen, car repairers, railroad dispatchers and telegraphers; all workers in the railroad repair shops, all clerks in the railroad offices.

## **B. Marine Transportation**

In this subdivision are sailors and all workers on steamships, tugboats, which, of course, includes all waiters, stewards, nurses, on transportation vessels, also all longshore and freight house workers as are employed in the loading and unloading of vessels, clerks, freight teamsters, etc.

## **C. Municipal Transportation**

In this subdivision are organized all workers in municipal passenger transportation service, street car workers, all workers on elevated roads, or city subway lines, including all the workers in the power-producing plants, electricians, linemen, car shop workers; also cab drivers, automobile drivers, barn, stable and garage workers, wherever the service is directly connected with the municipal transportation service.

## **D. Air Navigation**

This comprises all workers engaged in the service of air navigation, transporting passengers, dispatches, or anything else.

## **E. Communication**

All workers in the postal and commercial telegraph and telephone service are organized in this subdivision, such as clerks, carriers, mail wagon teamsters, telegraph and telephone operators, including the janitors, cleaners, etc., in all stations and houses.

## **IV. Department of Manufacture and General Production**

If this department be subdivided in national industrial unions only,

it would not give justice to those engaged in the various industrial sections that make up the complex organization embracing them all. The department comprises so many industries that it is necessary to establish a standard for their proper arrangements. Each kind of raw material transformed or converted into a finished article for use, be it either for food, or clothing, for comfort or general utility purposes or for the production of instruments for the further development of advanced producing methods, forms the basis for a sub-department of production. Each sub-department again has its national subdivisions. In other department organizations they are marked as parts of the same, while in this arrangement the national subdivisions, or national industrial unions, form the component parts of a sub-department.

The Department of General Production is accordingly composed of the following sub-departments:

- A. Glass and pottery (ceramic goods).
- B. Clothing and textile.
- C. Leather and substitutes.
- D. Metal working and machinery building.
- E. Woodworking goods.
- F. Chemicals.
- G. Foodstuffs.
- H. Printing.

### **Sub-Department A: Glass and Pottery (Ceramic Goods)**

1. All workers employed in the making of glass wares are organized in the first subdivision of this flint glass, green glass, window glass, plate glass workers, furnace workers, mixers, blowers, gatherers, annealers, cutters, polishers, etc.
2. All workers in potteries, porcelain factories, china-ware factories, including decorators and designers, clerks, salesmen, teamsters in sales and distribution houses of ceramic goods.

### **Sub-Department B: Textile and Clothing Manufacture**

This sub-department is composed of workers from the following industrial subdivisions:

1. All workers employed in the manufacture of silk, linen, cotton, wool and worsted articles, as mule-spinners, loom-fixers, weavers, warpers, carders, sorters, clerks and stenographers in factories and retail houses, all workers in dye-houses, including chemists, inspectors, also all workers employed in the making of knitting wares, possamenttery workers, wood silk workers, etc.
2. All those engaged in the making of garments and other goods of silk, artificial silk, linen, cotton and woolen fabrics, such as clothing workers, workers in collar and shirt factories, including all salesmen, clerks, stenographers in distribution places (dry goods stores).
3. All workers employed in establishments where wearing apparel is made of fur, felt, straw, etc., as furriers, glove makers, hat makers, straw hat makers, millinery workers.

### **Sub-Department C: Manufacture of Leather Goods and Substitutes**

This sub-department is composed of workers organized in three subdivisions:

1. All workers employed in tanneries and leather preparing houses.
2. All workers engaged in the manufacture of shoes and boots, as cutters, lasters, inseamers, etc., which, of course, includes all clerks and stenographers in the offices, and the clerks in shoe stores and distribution houses of shoes, teamsters, engineers, firemen, etc., working in the shoe industry.
3. All workers in other leather goods, or substitutes of leather, such as harness makers, and horse goods makers, workers in belt factories, etc., in rubber goods factories, etc.

### **Sub-Department D: Metal and Machinery Manufacture**

All workers employed in making goods of any kind, of metal are grouped together in this sub-department, three subdivisions joining together to constitute the same, in which are organized:

1. All workers in blast furnaces, steel mills, rolling mills, tin plate mills, chain-making establishments, wire mills, nail mills, including all workers in plants, where by-products are manufactured, for instance, in Portland cement mills.
2. All workers engaged in the building of locomotives, cars, stationary engines, and machinery, such as pattern makers, core makers, molders of iron, and other metals, machinists, all other workers in all these plants, including the workers in the power departments of such plants, machinery movers and teamsters, etc.
3. All workers employed in making of metal wares and products other than engines and machines, of different metals, such as workers in watch factories, knife and saw factories, in the making of jewelry goods, and utensils, and of instruments; silversmiths, goldsmiths, etc.

### **Sub-Department E: Manufacture of Wood Articles**

This sub-department consists of organizations of workers employed in the manufacture of goods out of wood, or principally wood. It would embrace all workers in piano factories, planing mills, furniture factories, hotel and bar fixtures; all workers in cooperage shops, in reed and rattan factories, box factories, etc. Of course, the workers of each of these industries would form a branch organization, embracing all the workers of one or more plants in which a given article is manufactured, for instance, in an industrial union of piano workers would be organized not only the wood workers, but also the metal workers, tuners, polishers, piano movers, etc., employed in that manufacturing pursuit.

### **Sub-Department F: Manufacture of Chemical Goods**

This sub-department comprises all workers employed:

1. In the production and making of paint, drugs, rubber, gutta-percha, powder, dynamite, melinite, and all explosives; inks, perfumes, turpentine, celluloid, soaps, etc., including chemists engaged in these pursuits, all workers in drug stores and pharmacies, as clerks and salesmen, etc.
2. All workers employed in the making of cellulose and paper, for

printing and commercial purposes.

### **Sub-Department G: Manufacture of Foodstuffs**

Made up of five national industrial subdivisions, this sub-department is composed of workers engaged: 1. in the production of foodstuffs made of grain and cereals; 2. in the production of foodstuffs made of animal matter; 3. in the production of liquids for consumption; 4. in the production of narcotics; 5. in the distribution of foodstuffs. As the process of production is not finished until the goods are put to use by the consumer all workers in the distributing places, that is, the workers in hotels, inns, restaurants, saloons, etc., form organizations connected with the foodstuff sub-department.

1. Comprises all workers in flour and cereal mills, in bakeries, biscuit factories, candy and confectionery shops, in sugar refineries, in fruit packing and canning plants, including, of course, all engineers, coopers, clerks, salesmen and delivery teamsters employed in any of such establishments.
2. This subdivision comprises all workers employed in meat packing houses, in all the fifty-nine factory departments; dairy and milk depot workers and deliverers, all workers in fish-packing houses.
3. In this are organized all workers in wine and whiskey distilleries, in breweries, malthouses, vinegar factories, ginger and cider mills, all employed in yeast production, and production of soda and soft drinks. These, as all other industries, include the workers in the power-furnishing departments of all these plants and the workers in the delivery and distributing stations, also clerks, stenographers in the offices, etc.
4. The fourth subdivision comprises all workers employed in the manufacture of tobacco goods; cigar makers, stogie makers, cigarette makers, all other tobacco factory workers, clerks in cigar and tobacco stores, distributors, etc.
5. In the fifth subdivision are organized all workers in hotels and restaurants and saloons, as cooks, waiters, bartenders, bakers and butchers in hotels, barbers, if employed in the hotel service, chambermaids, hotel clerks, etc., chauffeurs and cabdrivers; if

they are in the hotel service exclusively.

### **Sub-Department H: Printing**

All workers in the printing and lithographic institutions are organized in this sub-department. Printers, pressmen, bookbinders, photo engravers, stereotypers, lithograph artists and printers, designers, editors of newspapers and magazines, proofreaders, including, of course, all machinists, engineers, firemen, electricians, janitors and clerks in the printing industry.

## **V. Department of Building and Construction**

This department is composed of three national subdivisions:

- A. All workers employed in the *erection and construction of buildings* are organized in this subdivision: Architects, designers, excavators, stone masons, bricklayers, hod carriers, cement workers, carpenters and joiners, electricians, elevator constructors, painters, architectural iron workers, plumbers, building material teamsters, etc. But these crafts are not organized in craft groups, but they form according to the nature of their work branch-organizations of the one "Building Constructors Industrial Union" in every locality.
- B. In this sub-division are organized all workers employed in the *construction of roads, tunnels and bridges*, such as pavers, bridge builders, workers employed in the building of docks, subways, in the construction of irrigation works, of sewers, of canals, etc.
- C. All workers engaged in the *construction of ships and vessels* are organized in this sub-division; in the building of steamers, launches, tug boats, as ship caulkers and carpenters, iron ship builders, machinists, boilermakers, coppersmiths and all other branches of workers directly engaged in this industry.

## **VI. Department of Civil Service and Public Conveniences**

This department is composed of workers organized in six national

industrial unions, constituting each a component part of the department organization.

- A. Hospitals and sanitariums.
  - B. Sanitary protective division.
  - C. Educational institutions.
  - D. Water, gas and electricity supply service.
  - E. Amusement service.
  - F. General distribution.
- 
- A. In this sub-division are organized all workers in hospitals and health-restoration resorts, sanitariums, etc., such as physicians, nurses, waiters, cooks, attendants, laundry workers in these institutions, etc.
  - B. This is constituted of workers employed in the protection of health and public safety, that is, all workers employed in the cleaning and care-taking of streets, public places and parks, the street-protection workers, all workers in immigration stations, house janitors, office building workers, all workers employed in burial places, as funeral teamsters, embalmers, grave diggers, crematorium workers, etc.
  - C. In this sub-division are organized all workers in public schools, and all institutions of learning, education and instruction, such as teachers, lecturers, librarians, including also all workers keeping the institutions in sanitary and wholesome condition, such as school and university wardens, janitors, engineers, firemen, etc.
  - D. This subdivision is composed of workers in municipal power houses, pumping stations, all workers in plants supplying to communities power, gas, electricity, etc.
  - E. All workers in theaters, amusement places, concert halls and gardens, on ball play ground, in summer-resort and amusement places organize themselves into this sub-division, such as actors, musicians, stage workers, singers, ushers, waiters in amusement places, etc.
  - F. The big department stores and distribution houses, with thousands of workers employed in each, have more or less



assumed the functions of public service institutions. Not one specialized article, but in fact any and all kinds of commodities and fabrics are going through the process of distribution.

It would be well-nigh impossible to organize the workers in that service according to the goods that they handle in the process. Therefore, all the workers in these distribution stores are organized together into unions as component parts of the one sub-division, which in turn is a part of the department-organization of public service workers.

Tailors in department stores, clerks in the shoe department of a department store, or any other worker, irrespective of the place of employment, of the tools they use, are organized together; stenographers, clerks, tailors, repairers, freight-handlers, packers, department store drivers, bakers, candy makers, etc., in these stores, all are members of one industrial union.

# Education through Organization

When now and then advocates of a better system of society refer to the new unionism they do it, in most cases, without knowing fully the distinction between the old kind of unionism and the unionism that advocates “One Great Union for the Entire Working Class the World Over!” But, even if the critics of this plan of action disagree with the author of this booklet as to the means to attain a desired end, they can no longer plead that there never has been any literature presented in which the program of the industrial unionists or syndicalists<sup>2</sup> has been enunciated.

Organize industrially; organize right! This is the call to the downtrodden heard all over the world. Increasing numbers of the proletariat of every country is enlightening itself on the subject, and everywhere workers are preparing for organizations in which they will find the embodiment of their collective power and the instrument for direct<sup>3</sup> and also indirect action, just as occasion and constitution may demand.

All countries of the world are governed, principally, in the interests of the small class controlling industrial combinations. Whenever the workers aimed heavy blows at these interests directly, that is, when

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2. By using the term “syndicalists” it should not apply to the syndicalists of England or the United States of America, who have nothing in common with the syndicalists of Italy, France or other countries.
3. Direct action as understood by industrial unionists consists of “withdrawal of labor power or efficiency from the place or object of production.”

they refused to serve, temporarily, in the production process of these industries, the exploiting class all over the world burst out in frantic denunciations of the forces that had so little regard for private property.

The industrial unionists propose to organize the workers for more militant action within present-day society, so that, with every advance gained, the workers will gain an appetite for more and for all, and will find the means to get it.

And in all these days of unrest and struggle the industrialists are preparing the administrative, the government agencies, for the industrial commonwealth. Representatives elected by the workers, organized in their industrial organizations, will constitute the industrial parliament of the future, the workers' commune in municipal, national and international affairs.

### **Study the Chart**

The American syndicalist conception of "direct action" is interpreted as being "Any and all obstructions placed in the process of production," and is tantamount in its destructive and vandalistic effects to the "propaganda of deed" of the terrorist anarchists<sup>4</sup>.

Observe how commercialism, the main factor in the development of the capitalist system of production, encircles the whole globe with the means and tributaries at its service:

Transportation facilities as the messengers for the exchange of products between countries and continents know no boundary lines — land, water, air have been conquered and rendered servants of the monstrous forces behind the prevailing industrial system of production and exchange.

Industrial development has wiped out boundary lines between sectional territories.

National dividing lines disappear before the invincible force of the conqueror.

Continents so long separated by landmarks and obstacles of natural origin are linked and joined together by the gigantic weld of that

---

4. These days, "direct action" has taken on a less destructive meaning, concentrating more on extracting a little more benefit for an individual worker, over and above their rate of exploitation. The classic act of "borrowing" office supplies from work is the most common form of "direct action" employed today. — *Ed.*

international carrier of exchange and distribution.

But the functions of that agent of a social system are still today confined to the service of profit-production for a few.

What still remains, in the minds of mankind, as a force for separate nationalities, is merely imaginary.

A heavy load of traditional falsehoods, holding living human beings in a bondage of ignominious, deep-rooted, and ingeniously fostered intellectual, and hence also in industrial, serfdom must disappear; national separation must be swept aside by the advancing forces of international co-operation, before the highest and, most marvelous stages of industrial development, social progress, and perfection in the utilization of all elements subservient to the generating powers of mankind, can be achieved, and a higher order of civilization be established.

### **The Second International Line**

Observe also how a second transcontinental line connects the world's component parts into one inseparable whole. Science and scientific research and discoveries are the international agencies by which the riddles and miracles of the universe, in all their magnitude, are solved and explained. Institutions of learning, schools and universities are linked together by the uniformity of fundamental laws governing science and the dissemination of knowledge and discoveries.

Likewise are evils and afflictions, springing irresistibly from the same sources, suffered alike by all living beings throughout the world. Remedies and means of prevention must, consequently, assume the character of international agencies, deriving their support from the necessity of eliminating and curing the evils, and of removing the causes for their existence.

Hospitals, as curing stations; cleaning, sanitary and protective agencies, as institutions for prevention; the supply stations of water, light, and other means of public need are therefore joined together with the institutions of learning and with the agencies for recreation and amusement, into one great chain of international dependence, and are formed and maintained in the pursuit of functions preventative as well as beneficial, as the promoters and protectors of public interests and universal weal.

## **Four Cardinal Functions**

Observe, then, how in the complex process of production of the necessities of life four cardinal functions comprise the interlocking chain of industrial activity, through which the resources of the earth must run before their ultimate use.

- A. From the soil, the woods and the waters, all material required for producing purposes is secured by the labor of the millions serving in the social process in raising and procuring the raw products for food, raiment and shelter.
- B. From the bowels and treasures of the earth labor puts out the material for fuel and the essential things which, after being transformed, comprise the implements and machinery of production and distribution.
- C. With the matter thus furnished production proper for the providing of all necessary things of life and comfort is carried on in the various, but inter-depending places of production, mills and factories.
- D. With all these things combined the constructive hand of labor builds the houses of shelter for the protection of life and matter against the adversities of nature's forces, and harness them to render service for social good.

## **Labor the Sole Producer**

To all of the making and development of these social institutions the workers, and they alone, contribute their intellect and their manual labor. They have created the instruments to produce wealth with, and improved them as time rolled by.

These institutions are organized in their operative functions to yield profits for a few who never did, nor do, contribute to their making and maintenance, except in a 'manner to protect them in the possession of things that they did not make.

The human forces rendering these instruments, agencies and implements useful to all society, and adding value to matter and forces of nature, are divorced from their creations by powerful combinations of exploitive nature, by which a few control add the co-ordinate stations of industrial life through the means that they have organized and

subjected to their ruler-ship. Against these hostile powers the workers must organize their own resources and their own collective power, in organizations, embracing all useful members of society and wealth producers.

### **The Mission of the Working Class<sup>5</sup>**

A labor organization to correctly represent the working class must have two things in view.

*First:* It must combine the wage-workers in such a way that it can most successfully fight the battles and protect the interests of the workers of today in their struggle for fewer hours of toil, more wages and better conditions.

*Secondly:* It must offer a final solution of the labor problem — an emancipation from strikes, injunctions, bull-pens, and scabbing of one against the other.

### **Observe....**

How this organization will give recognition to control of shop affairs, provide perfect industrial unionism and converge the strength of all organized workers to a common center, from which any weak point can be strengthened and protected.

### **Observe, also....**

How the growth and development of this organization will build within itself the structure of an industrial democracy, which must finally burst the shell of capitalist government and be the agency by which the workers will operate the industries and appropriate the products to themselves.

One obligation for all.

A union man once and in one industry; a union man always and in all industries. Universal transfers, universal emblem.

All workers of one industry in one union; all unions of workers in one big labor alliance the world over.

### **Industrial Unionism International**

Industrial unionism is not confined to one country. The best

5. From the original "Industrial Union Manifesto" issued in 1905.

expression of it is found in America, in the Workers' International Industrial Union, although the organization may appear to be still weak, numerically. But the conditions for the advent of the industrial revolutionary union are more promising, because the most advanced and highly developed industrial system of production is bound to find its counterpart in a similarly perfected organization of the working class on the industrial field.

As presented in this booklet, these institutions for wealth production, so well organized, so masterfully constructed, suggest the best forms of industrial organization for the workers.

Industries are organized in six big departments, which are composed of forty-three sub-divisions.

This arrangement is not arbitrarily fixed, or the product of one man's nation. The best tabulations of statistical experts of different countries have been consulted, and the systematic arrangement will stand the test of scientific investigation.

Of course, it has been stated, and is herewith reiterated that this arrangement of industrial organization of workers would also assure the most effective solidarity of all producing forces in their defensive and aggressive struggles for the amelioration of the evils they suffer under, evils inherent in the capitalist system of distribution of the commodities created by labor.

When the workers organize in industrial unions, patterned after the institutions in which they are employed, they will be able to stand together as powerful industrial combinations in their skirmishes for better working conditions in any one industry. Not separated by craft divisions, or trade union contracts with the exploiters, they will not only be able to curtail production on a small scale and thus also the profits of the employers of labor, but they will abruptly stop production altogether, if necessary, in any one industry, or in all industries of a locality, or of a nation, or they can., when they are powerful enough, *shut the factories against the present employers* and commence production for use.

The workers, though, must tear down, as a first duty to themselves, all craft demarcation lines, the remnants of a bygone age. Unhindered by that drag-chain, they can then develop and organize their industrial power. But that power must be guided in its use and exercise by

the collective intelligence which will develop simultaneously with the generation of power. Equipped with the power of an industrial organization, with the knowledge gained in the everyday struggle against the oppressors, they will successfully strive for a higher standard of life-conditions, within this system, and they can master things and forces so that they will reach the final goal of all efforts-complete industrial emancipation.

Hundreds of thousands of workers in every civilized country are learning to understand the principles of industrial unionism. Thousands are organizing for the battle of today, for better conditions, and for the final clash in the future when the general lockout of the parasite-class of non-producers will end the contest for industrial possessions and political supremacy.

If you are one of the millions needed to accomplish the task, join the industrial union composed of workers in the shop or plant where you work. If none exists, be the first to get busy. Get others, organize them. Learn to tackle the industrial problems. Show others how the workers will be able to run the industrial plants through the agencies of their own creation, locally, nationally, internationally, the world over.

There are organizations everywhere, and where there are none, they will be formed. In the industrial union movement alone will the workers forge the sword, train themselves for the use of all and every weapon that can be utilized in the struggle for a better world. In the industrial union movement the workers will adhere to the great words of a great thinker, Karl Marx:

“The emancipation of the workers must be achieved by the working class itself.

“Workers of the World, Unite!”

For all information regarding The Workers’ International Industrial Union referred to in this booklet, write to General Secretary Treasurer, The Workers’ International Industrial Union, P.O. Box No. 651, Detroit, Mich., U. S. A.





## THE STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SYSTEM

A labor organization to correctly represent the working class must have two things in view.

First—It must combine the wage-workers in such a way that it can most successfully fight the battles and protect the interests of the working people of today in their struggle for fewer hours, more wages and better conditions.

Secondly—It must offer a final solution of the labor problem—an emancipation from strikes, injunctions, lock-outs and scabbing of one against the other.

Study the Chart and observe how this organization will give attention to coal and oil, ship, steam, provide perfect industrial Unions and coal and oil, the strength of all organized workers to a union career from which any weak point can be strengthened and protected.

Observe also, how the growth and development of this organization will build up within itself the structure of an Industrial Democracy—a Workers' Co-Operative Republic, which must finally burst the shell of capitalist government.

and be the agency by which the workers will operate the industries, and appropriate the products to themselves.

One obligation for all.

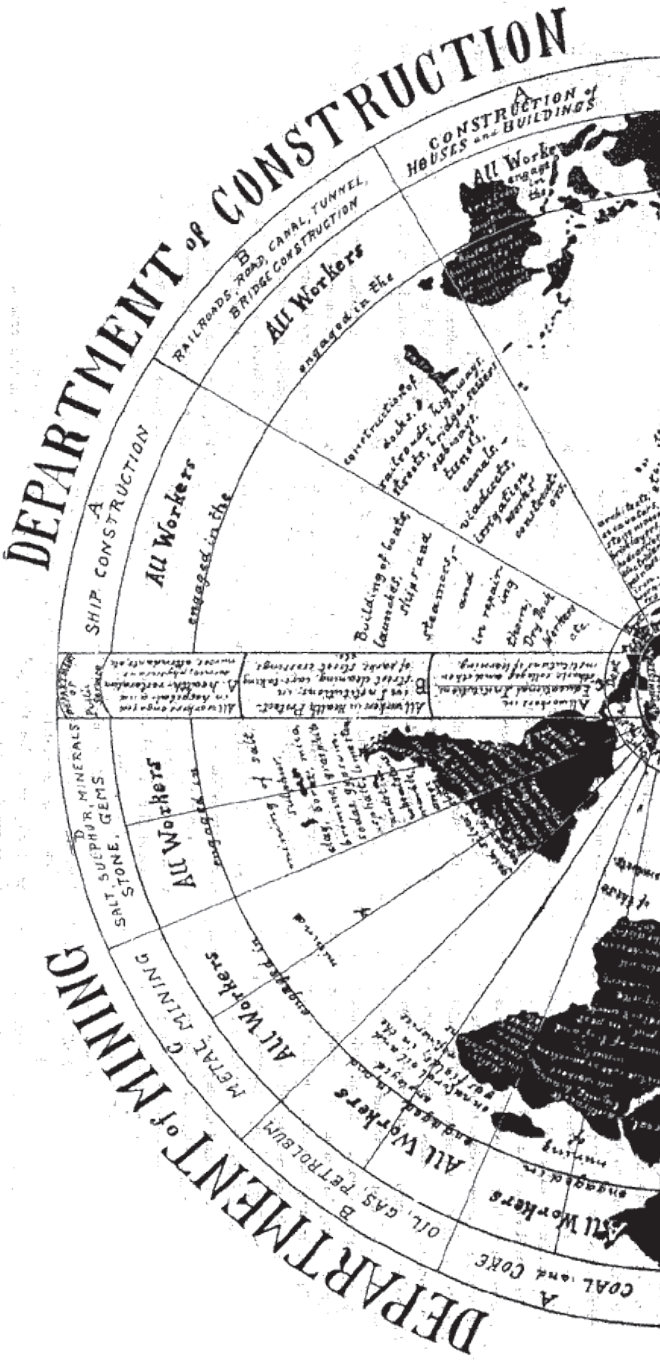
A union man once and in one industry, a union man always and in all industries.

Universal transfer.

Universal emblem.

All workers of one industry in one union; all unions of workers in one big labor alliance the world over.

For a better study of industrial arrangements portrayed in the Above Chart order "Our Big Union," by William E. Zimmerman, sent postpaid on receipt of ten cents.



# ONE BIG UNION



# Industrial Departments of Today's Workers' International Industrial Union

## Industrial Department A: Agriculture and Fisheries

A1: *Agricultural Workers* — All workers on farms, ranches, orchards and plantations.

A2: *Lumber Workers* — All workers in forests. All workers engaged in logging operations, in saw and shingle mills, and in preparing wood for fuel and manufacturing purposes. Bark and sap collection.

A3: *Fisheries Workers* — All workers in fishing pursuits on oceans, lakes and rivers. Oyster and clam bed keepers. Workers engaged in collecting pearls, corals and sponges. Workers in fish hatcheries.

A4: *Floricultural Workers* — All workers in nurseries, flower gardens, greenhouses and hothouses. Cultivation of silk. Distribution of floral products.

## Industrial Department B: Building and Construction

B1: *General Construction Workers* — All workers engaged in construction of docks, railroads, highways, streets, bridges, sewers, subways, tunnels, canals, viaducts, irrigation canals and pipelines.

B2: *Ship Builders* — All workers engaged in building and repairing ships, boats and small harbor craft. All dry-dock workers.

B3: *Building Construction Workers* — All workers engaged in erection

and construction of houses and buildings, and in delivery of materials.

### **Industrial Department G: General Manufacturing and Production**

- G1: *Textile and Clothing Workers* — All workers engaged in producing cloth from natural or synthetic fibers. All workers engaged in manufacturing wearing apparel.
- G2: *Furniture Workers* — All workers in furniture factories. All workers engaged in producing wooden containers.
- G3: *Pulp and Paper Mill Workers* — All workers in pulp and paper mills engaged in making pulp, paper and paper containers.
- G4: *Printing and Publishing House Workers* — All workers engaged in producing printed matter, including newspapers, magazines and books.
- G5: *Communications and Computer Workers* — All workers engaged in telephone, telegraph, radio, television, satellite and computer communication and operation, including programming, networking and broadcasting, and website design and maintenance.
- G6: *Food and Beverage Workers* — All workers except agricultural and fishery workers, engaged in producing and processing food, beverages and tobacco products, including bar, fast food and coffeehouse workers.
- G7: *Leather Workers* — All workers in tanneries and factories producing leather goods, luggage, boots and shoes.
- G8: *Glass and Pottery Workers* — All workers producing glass, chinaware, pottery, tile and bricks.

### **Industrial Department M: Mining, Minerals, Metals and Machinery**

- M1: *Metal Mine Workers* — All workers engaged in mining all metals and minerals. All workers in refineries, smelters, mills and other reduction works. All workers in stone and other quarries.
- M2: *Coal Mine Workers* — All workers engaged in coal mining, and

the production of coke and briquettes.

M3: *Oil, Gas and Geothermal Workers* — All workers engaged in oil, gas and geothermal, fields, refineries and processing facilities. All workers engaged in distribution of the products.

M4: *Chemical Workers* — All workers engaged in producing drugs, paint, rubber, explosives, medicines, chemicals, plastics, synthetic fibers and other chemically-based products.

M5: *Metal and Machinery Workers* — All workers in blast furnaces, steel mills, aluminum plants, etc. All workers engaged in the production and maintenance of agricultural machinery, cars, locomotives, engines, automobiles, bicycles, aircraft and various instruments, including high-pressure boilers and heating/venting/air conditions systems. Tool makers, jewelry and watchmakers.

### **Industrial Department P: Public Services**

P1: *Health Service Workers* — All workers employed in and for hospitals, clinics and health restoration services.

P2: *Educational Workers* — All workers employed in educational institutions.

P3: *Recreational Workers* — All workers in playgrounds, and places of amusement and recreation. Artists not employed as an independent contracted professional.

P4: *Restaurant, Hotel and Building Service Workers* — All workers in facilities for public accommodation, excluding bars, fast food restaurants and coffeehouses. All building service workers.

P5: *General Office Workers* — All workers engaged in general, legal, public interest and financial offices and institutions that do not directly involve any other industry.

P6: *Municipal and Utility Service Workers* — All workers engaged in the transmission, supply, and maintenance of gas, electric, water, and sewer services. All workers engaged in the collection and refining of disposable, salvageable and recyclable materials. All workers engaged in the maintenance of public cemeteries, parks, streets and highways.

P7: *Household Service Workers* — All workers engaged in performing

services in the home, including disaster repair and professional cleaning services.

P8: *Sex Workers* — All workers employed as dancers and models, telephone sex workers, actors and other workers who use sexuality as the primary tool of their trade.

## **Industrial Department T: Transportation and Distribution**

T1: *Marine Transport Workers* — All workers engaged in marine transportation. All workers on docks and in terminals.

T2: *Railroad Workers* — All workers engaged in long distance railway freight and passenger transportation and telecommunication. All workers in locomotive, car and repair shops. All workers in and around passenger and freight terminals.

T3: *Motor Transport Workers* — All workers engaged in hauling freight and passengers by truck, bus, and cab. All workers in and around motor freight sheds and bus passenger stations.

T4: *Municipal Transportation Workers* — All workers engaged in municipal, short-distance transportation services.

T5: *Air Transport Workers* — All workers employed in air service and maintenance.

T6: *General Warehouse and Distribution Workers* — All workers in warehouses and general distribution facilities, wholesale and retail.

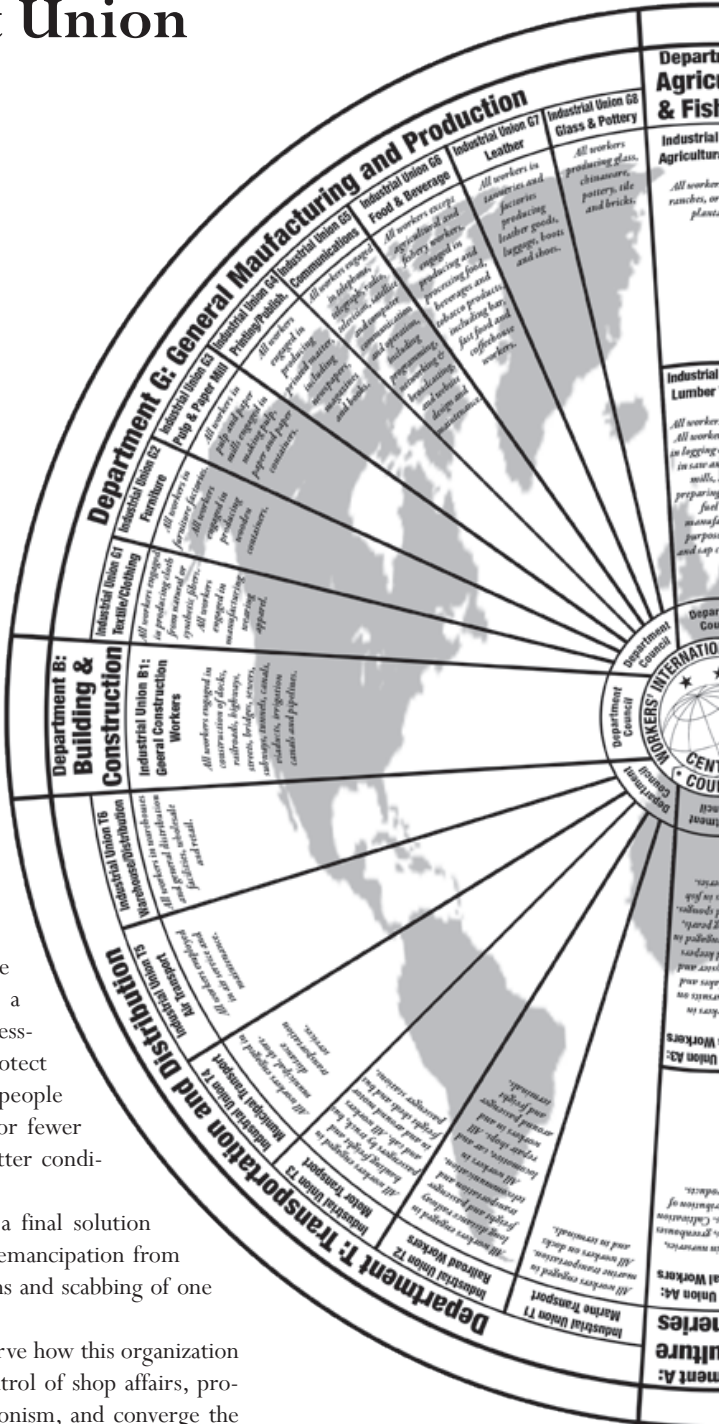
# One Great Union

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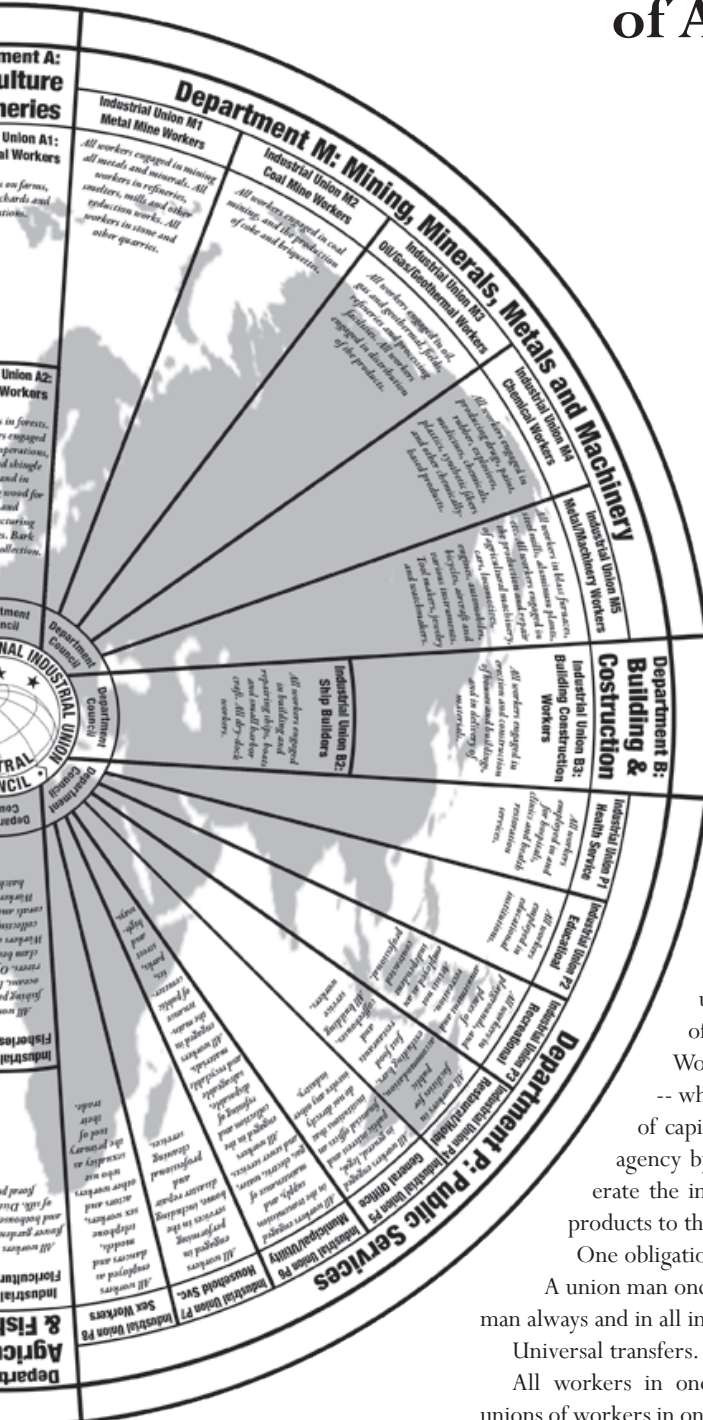
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Study the chart and observe how this organization will give recognition to control of shop affairs, provides perfect Industrial Unionism, and converge the strengths of all organized workers to a common cen-





# of All Workers



ter, from which any weak point can be strengthened and protected.

Observe, also, how the growth and development of this organization will build up within itself the structure of an Industrial Democracy -- a Workers' Co-Operative Republic -- which must finally burst the shell of capitalist government, and be the agency by which the workers will operate the industries, and appropriate the products to themselves.

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Universal transfers. Universal emblem.

All workers in one industry in one union; all unions of workers in one big labor alliance all over the world.

# The Goal of Industrial Unionism

By Carl Miller

**E**very worthwhile organization has an ultimate goal — something they are trying to create that would make life better for everyone. The WIU is no different.

We are organizing to build a system that will cure the ills and clean up the mess created by our current money-driven system called capitalism.

Capitalism is a system that is based on profit instead of fulfilling the needs and wants of the people. The new system will be based on the well being of humanity. We do not propose to lay out a blueprint here; it will be up to the working class to determine what the new society will look like.

However, there are basic building blocks that will have to be in place that will lay the foundation for a system of genuine economic democracy.

**T**he first thing we will do is eliminate private ownership of the means of production. The means of production include all of the tools, factories, farms, etc., that are used to produce what we need to live, and what we want to enjoy life. These would be placed under the direct democratic control of the workers, who will run them in the interests of the people.

Everything that is produced will belong to the people, and will be distributed based on needs and wants. Production for profit will be a thing of the past and work will become something that is done for the betterment of society, not to enrich a hand full of fat cats.

The workplace will become a place for the free exchange of ideas,

ideas for improving production and ideas for improving society.

In all industries and services workers will have say on how production is carried out, from the raw materials to the final touches.

We will elect our supervisors and managers based on their knowledge and experience, and should they fail to live up to the ideals of the new society we will be able to replace them with a majority vote. The safety and well-being of the workers will become a primary concern.

We will create workplaces where work will become a fulfilling and even enjoyable experience and since production for profit is at an end, the workday will be much shorter, leaving more time for family, self improvement or whatever pursuits we desire to undertake.

There will be no more involuntary unemployment, no more layoffs, cutbacks or pay reductions. The ups and downs of the capitalist business cycle will be eliminated since overproduction will mean that much more for everyone to use and enjoy. There will be no more recessions or depressions since there will no longer be market forces at work, all capitalist style relations will have been buried in the past.

Workers will no longer have to worry about whether they will have a job tomorrow.

As long as people need things to live and enjoy their new lives, workers will have jobs to fulfill those needs and wants. Should there no longer be a need for certain things produced at certain factories, we as workers will simply determine what the new needs and wants are and re-tool the plant to fulfill those new needs.

**A**ll workers will be fully compensated for the social wealth they create. In other words, under the present system workers receive what is called a wage. Wages represent only a tiny fraction of the total wealth created by workers on a daily basis.

Under the new system, workers will receive in return for their labor the full value of the wealth that is produced. At the end of the work week workers will receive a voucher, or perhaps a card, that represents the total amount of labor they used up to produce for the needs and wants of society.

The worker can take this voucher or card and use it to “buy” the equivalent of goods or services produced by other workers in society.

This means that compensation under the new system will be many,

many times higher than it is under the present system and workers will be able to enjoy a standard of living greater than at any time in human history. With full employment and freed of the key element of capitalism — exploitation — workers will be able to live happy and fulfilling lives. The wages system will be a long forgotten memory.

When workers reach retirement age, they will continue to receive their full compensation, as though they never left the work force. Gone will be the days of worrying about living off the meager pittance of Social Security, or whether or not their pensions will be cut or done away with by the company they worked for.

Senior citizens will be able to live out the remainder of their lives in the dignity and comfort they richly deserve for their many years of producing for society.

**S**ociety as a whole, not just the office or the shop floor, will undergo a radical change. With full employment and compensation much higher than today's meager standards, and the workday much shorter, people will have the time and resources to more fully enjoy their lives.

There will be time to travel and see things they would never get to see under our present system. They will have the time and ability to improve themselves through further education or by experiencing things and activities they didn't have time or money to do under the old system.

The old worries of being able to provide for their families will be gone. Homelessness will be something read about in history books. No one will go without decent shelter and people will be able to live where they choose.

Health care will no longer be the stressful, bank breaking experience many people go through today. It will be a human right, guaranteed for all from the cradle to the grave. There will be no need for insurance or lots of money to get decent medical care.

Those who are unable to care for themselves, such as the elderly or the severely handicapped, will be provided for in facilities or communities where they will be able to enjoy their lives, not locked away in hospitals or old age homes.

Education will be free for all from grammar school to university.

Those who formerly did not have time or money to enrich their lives through higher learning will now be able to fulfill this need. Schools will be safe, clean places where our children will gain knowledge through the most advanced methods of teaching.

Parents and even children will have input into how schools are run and what the curriculum should be. Those who have difficulty with learning will be tutored and will get the time and attention they deserve so that no one will be left behind.

Even social relations will undergo a profound change. Without the pressure and stress of trying to provide for our families and worries about jobs and money, our relationships with our fellow human beings will be much more civil and open.

With the material and social reasons for crime gone, the streets will be a safer place for everyone.

**T**hese are just a few of the key features of the new society that the WIUU is organizing to bring about. We do not claim that the system will work perfectly all the time and we can truthfully state that it will not be the long dreamt of perfect utopia that humanity has envisioned for centuries. No system is perfect.

But we will claim that it will be many, many, many times better than the oppressive, greed inspired and de humanizing system we currently labor under. There can be no freedom without economic freedom, and the WIUU works every day to lay the foundation for an economic democracy for all people.

All of this may sound like pie in the sky, like a pipe dream, but one of the greatest achievements of capitalism is that it spurred the creation of the tools and technologies which gives us the ability to eliminate want and privation.

Since capitalism has fulfilled its historic mission it is time to usher in the new system, where all who labor will be able to enjoy the vast amount of wealth that is produced every day.

In other words, everything we need to create the society laid out in this writing is at our fingertips, all we need is the organization and the will to make it all a reality.

The WIUU has the will and the plan to make this dream a reality. Join the union of your class and make economic democracy a reality.

# NOTES



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