

[1941]

CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES ON FORD STRIKE

I. ACTION LETTER

Sent to individuals and organizations in Detroit and Outstate. Reviewing the background of the strike in terms of Ford's repeated attacks on the rights of the workers, the Action Letter described the attack on the Picket line at Gate 4, placing the responsibility for violence squarely upon the Company. Urged protests against the reported appointment of non-strikers as "special police" by the Dearborn administration, and urged that letters be sent to the Governor asking that he instruct State Police not to interfere with right to picket or other rights of strikers. 3000 pieces, plus 75 special delivery to key contacts outstate. Exhibit "A".

II. LETTER TO MINISTERS AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE

Sent to a selected group of ministers and professional people throughout the State. Contents similar to Action Letter, but stressing Christian social action. 200 by special delivery. Exhibit "B"

III. 'FACTS VS. PRESS' BULLETIN

Send primarily to individuals and organizations in Detroit, but some outstate. Pointed out newspaper distortion of facts in relation to the responsibility for the strike, the responsibility for violence, and defense production. 1500 pieces. Exhibit "C"

IV. 'Open LETTER TO FORD MOTOR COMPANY'

Printed leaflet; distributed door to door, at Negro churches, at mass meetings. Signed by the Civil Rights Federation, the National Negro Congress, and the editor of the MICHIGAN CHRONICLE, it denounced the attempt of the Ford Motor Company to use Negro workers as strikebreakers. It also advertised a "Citizens Rally" on the Ford situation held at the Hartford Avenue Baptist Church. 15,000 copies. Exhibit "D"

V. 'STATEMENT OF CITIZENS ON THE FORD STRIKE'

Three page statement pointing out the value of the union's demands to the Negro family, urging Negro support of the strike. Circulated among leaders of the Negro community for their signatures, to be printed in full-page ads in the MICHIGAN CHRONICLE and the PITTSBURGH COURIER, leading Negro newspapers.

100 copies mimeographed. Exhibit "E"

VI. DELEGATION OF MINISTERS TO GOVERNOR

Initiated by the Rev. Owen A Knox, a delegation of 20 ministers, including Bishop Raymond Wade (Methodist), Bishop Frank W. Crieghton (Episcopal), Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, and others, interviewed Gov. Van Wagoner. They urged that the Governor foster peaceful methods of settling the strike and prevent the use of violence against the strikers. When the strike ended plans were under way to convene a meeting of all ministers in Detroit to consider the issues raised by the strike. Dr. Crane and the Rev. Edgar Dewitt Jones had agreed to call such a meeting, at the request of Rev. Knox.

VII. PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE FORD STRIKE

At the time the strike ended, final steps were being taken to set up a committee of professional men and women under the leadership of Dr. Henry Jones, director of the Dodge Community House, and Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, pastor of the Central Methodist Church, with the assistance of the Professional League for Civil Rights.