



LET'S ACT UNION

What Sort Of Union Is The I.W.W. Asking You To Build?

There are many unions in this country but not enough unionism.

There is proof of that in the miserable wages and working conditions of those who provide the country with its food. There is proof in long workdays three generations and a million inventions after the 8-hour day was started. There is proof when those with steady jobs fear that they may lose them. There is proof in the way that workers are pitted against each other across the work bench, across the country, across the world.

We need the unionism that unites us. To get it we must build it.

To build it, act union. Resist all attempts to use you against your fellow worker. Don't help the boss speed him up. Don't help cut his pay. Don't help make him wonder whether it is safe for him to be union and to act union.

Is your fellow worker weary of being a cog in a machine? Does he want to act human on the job? Don't make him feel out of line — act human too.

When you are hunting for a job, and see men hard at work, don't stand gaping at them. It may make them feel that they have to work harder to hold their job—and that makes it harder for you to find one.

To act union is to act for your own good by acting for the good of your fellow workers as a group. It is the sure way to win.

To act union is to show consideration for your fellow workers. The good union man tries to turn his job into a place where he and his fellow workers can do their work well and at the same time enjoy it and enjoy each other's company. He wants sanitation facilities kept sanitary, drinking places kept decent, health and safety practices observed. He does his own bit to keep them that way. By his action he disproves any argument that workers don't want to bother with good conditions. When he and his fellows win something good, they don't want to spoil it.

No union official miles away from the job can make it agreeable. That needs union practice on the job. Nothing much can be done for us, but by acting union we can do much for ourselves. We can even leave our children a good world.

The good unionist is much concerned about the worst jobs, for the conditions there are the base above which all better conditions are built.

On many of those worst jobs, some workers are quitting and some are starting almost everyday. If some were to quit a few days earlier and some were to quit a few days later than they had planned, they could quit in bunches. They could do this without much inconvenience to themselves. If they are asked why they are quitting, and they pointed to some grievance that it is easy to remedy, they may get it taken care of and find it better to stay. To systematize the quitting practice in this way and to use it to improve conditions is not calling a strike. Those who quit in bunches are not telling others to stay away from the job they left. It is a way to press for better conditions on "come and go" jobs without incurring the troubles and sacrifices that strikes often require. Leave strikes for situations where nothing else will work.

Strikes are the workers' last resort, and to be used only after serious deliberation in union meetings. If bunched-up quitting does not win something for you at the job you are leaving, it may make the job better for the next crew that takes it, and very likely will. By the same token you may find conditions better on the job you move to because of the way those who were on it before you left it.

These are a few examples of what we mean when we say "Let's Act Union." Without acting union your payment of union dues cannot build unionism. But trying to act union without building a union does not work either. We need the combination. Build the sort of union that expects us to act union and that helps us do so.

We want the sort of union where all on the same job will be in the same union; where all in the same industry will be in the same industrial unions; where eventually all in the working class everywhere will be helping each other in the Industrial Workers of the World.

This is not a union run by some leader who tells you what he will do for you. It is a device by which you and your fellow workers can do together what you want to do but cannot do alone. Whether you join us now or not, we ask you to give a powerful lot of thought to how you can act union.

Industrial Workers of the World
2422 N. Halsted, Chicago 14, Ill.

- ☐ I want further information about joining the I.W.W.
- ☐ I am unemployed right now.
- ☐ The job I work on is NOT organized.
- ☐ My job is organized under..... but I wish to join the I.W.W. as an individual member.

Name

Address..... City..... State.....

What Is the IWW?

It is a fighting labor union which believes that the interests of labor can be fully served only when working people are united as a class. It wants to see all on the same job united, all in the same industry in one union, all who work for wages in one big union.

The IWW differs sharply from the position of other unions that the problems of the working class can be solved by begging crumbs from employers or praying to politicians for favors. While it fights for better conditions today, the IWW insists that working people are entitled to everything they produce, instead of a meager share.

There will be insecurity and hunger among those who toil as long as there is an employing class which benefits from low wages and evil working conditions. The IWW holds that there can be no solution to industrial warfare, no end to injustice and want, until the profit system itself is abolished.

In striving to unite labor as a class in one big union the IWW also seeks to build the structure of a new and better social order within the shell of an old system which fails to provide for the needs of all.

Who Belongs Now?

Some of the best and most capable union men are already members of the IWW. They are veterans of many a bitter struggle for improved wages and conditions; rebels against an unjust social order who freely offer their hearts and brains to make labor's bright dream of a better world come true. They are men whom one is proud to know; men who will fight, whatever the odds, and fight on until the battle is won.

Some of the best are not enough. The IWW needs them all. And, equally, all who are struggling for the better world that we can have will find they need the IWW.

Who May Join?

Any wage earner may carry an IWW card. No worker is barred because of race, religion, nationality or sex.

It is not, however, an organization for scissorbills, for cowards, for those who substitute words for action. It does not want men who are content to unquestioningly follow leaders.

The IWW is a union devised for men, for the best and most intelligent, and growing numbers of such workers are securing IWW cards. They want to help build the union which will rebuild the world.

The IWW needs them and they find they need the IWW.