

4 MOTHERS TELL STORY OF THREATS

By Cyril Briggs

Fifteen hundred persons assembled at the Rockland Palace last Friday night heard from the lips of four mothers of the Scottsboro boys the details of the traitorous alliance formed by Samuel S. Leibowitz, renegade defense attorney, and a group of Harlem Negro misleaders with Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., and other Alabama lynch officials, in an effort to oust the International Labor Defense from the Scottsboro case and to scuttle the defense of the boys at this critical moment, with the legal lynching of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the boys, decreed for Dec. 7th by the Alabama Supreme Court.

The crowd gave a tremendous ovation to the four mothers, and to Angelo Herndon, hero of the Atlanta "insurrection" trial, and his attorney Ben Davis, Jr., now editor of the Negro Liberator.

The four mothers, whose revelations of how they had been browbeaten by Leibowitz's gangster secretary, John Terry, Rev. Alonzo H. King, and Rev. Richard Bolden, two Harlem ministers, evoked the fiercest indignation of the Negro and white persons present, are Mrs. Ida Norris, mother of Clarence Norris; Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of Andy and Roy Wright; Mrs. Montgomery, mother of Olin Montgomery, and Mrs. Powell, mother of Ozie Powell. They were greeted as they ascended the platform by James W. Ford, Communist candidate in the 21st Congressional District; Harry Haywood, National Secretary of the League of Struggle for Negro Right; Samuel S. Patterson, Dr. Arnold Donawa, Aaron Douglas and other veterans in the fight for the lives and freedom of the boys.

Repudiate Leibowitz

The four mothers, speaking at length and without notes, re-affirmed their unbroken faith in the I.L.D. "as the only organization that come to our aid in our time of need and has been with us ever since." They one and all repudiated Leibowitz and his Negro agents, and indignantly denounced their intrigues

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peal to support the I. L. D. in the fight for their lives and freedom.

"We appeal to all mothers to help and support us and the I. L. D., for they do not know when their boys will be framed as ours are now.

"We feel that in fighting with the I. L. D. for the lives of our boys we are fighting in the best interest of our race. We ask all our sympathizers, Negro and white, to join with us in this fight.

(Signed) "Mrs. Viola Montgomery
Mrs. Josephine Powell
Mrs. Ida Norris
Mrs. Ada Wright."

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with the lynch officials, who have savagely persecuted the boys.

Mrs. Norris, speaking with unconcealed indignation and literally shouting her words into the microphone, declared, "I don't want anything to do with this Leibowitz racket. We won't let them get away with what they are trying to get away with. We know that legal steps alone won't save those boys. It takes the unity of all of us, we all must let the lynchers know we stand united. The I. L. D. is the only organization that I know, and my boy, Clarence, told me he wants me to stick with the I. L. D."

Mrs. Wright Tells of Threats and Lies

Mrs. Ada Wright told of how Rev. Lorenzo H. King and Rev. Richard Bolden of Harlem had visited several of the parents of the boys at Chattanooga, Tenn., in the company of John Terry, Leibowitz' thug secretary who attempted to drive Ben Davis, Jr., editor of the Negro Liberator, out of Montgomery, Ala. She told of the intrigues of these people with Alabama lynch officials, of how John Terry was always to be found in the office of Attorney-General Knight, who has led the hue and cry for the blood of the nine innocent Negro lads, of how Terry and the Negro ministers browbeat the mothers, telling them that the boys would sit in the "hot seat just as sure as you are sitting in the cold seat now." It the I. L. D. was not ousted, and

promising them that the best white people of the South (read the lynch rulers) would "do something for the boys" and the big Negro churches in the North would open their doors to the mothers, if the I. L. D. was out of the case. She told of her two boys and the others being terrorized by prison officials, and their minds poisoned against the I. L. D. by John Terry, Rev. Bolden and Rev. King, and by William H. Davis, publisher of the New York Amsterdam News who sent Haywood Patterson a telegram slandering the I. L. D.

Mrs. Wright revealed that one of the tactics of the misleaders was to tell the boys that "all the Reds were being jailed," and that their mothers would be thrown into prison if they continued with "the Reds." "But I told my boys," Mrs. Wright declared, "that I had been thrown into jail in Germany while fighting for them, and I was ready to go to jail anytime in this fight. That John Terry also lied to the boys that the I.L.D. could have got them out on bail long ago, but kept them in jail so as to raise lots of money."

All Urge Support of I.L.D.

Mother Powell made a similar appeal: "I ask all those interested in the boys to get behind the I. L. D. The I. L. D. made the first fight for my boy and the others and have continued ever since in the fight. I will always be with the I. L. D."

Mother Montgomery also declared: "I want you all to stand by the I. L. D., to join the I. L. D. in this fight. Only by supporting the I.L.D. can you help free our boys. The I.L.D. and the Communists are the only ones standing up for the rights of everybody. I hope you all will join them and help to put this program over. Support the I. L. D. Leibowitz is trying to make himself on this case, but I want you all to back the I. L. D. I want them to handle the case until the boys are free. If we all stand up and fight for our rights we will surely win."

Ben Davis told in detail of his investigations in the South, his talk with the boys and their torture by prison officials, including an assault on Haywood Patterson even in the presence of Davis and Mrs. Norris. His revelations were fully confirmed by the mothers.

Angelo Herndon called for a relentless struggle against the Negro misleaders, Leibowitz and their lyncher allies.