

# THE MILITANT

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## Workers Revolution And Bureaucratic Degeneration

By James P. Cannon

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## Lynch Mob Of 28 Set Free By Lily-White Jury

By George Lavan

The acquittal of 28 lynchers in Greenville, S. C., last week served notice on the country that lynch law is still supreme in the South. It means that race-hating white supremacists can brutally murder any Negro they wish and go scot-free.

Many newspapers hailed the Greenville trial as a great step forward because it is the first time such a case has been brought to trial in the South. But there was nothing new about the Jim-Crow atmosphere pervading the courtroom. The rights and lives of the Negro people were under discussion, but the Negro people had no voice in the proceedings. Not one Negro was in the jury, nor was any Negro on the panel from which the jury was drawn, nor did either side in the case even comment on this matter.

While the holding of a trial was somewhat unusual, there was nothing extraordinary about the kind of justice dispensed at the trial. It completely conformed to the general pattern of Southern lynch law justice. Twenty-eight members of a mob that sadistically tortured and then murdered Willie Earle, a 24 year old Negro, were cleared of all charges. In fact, they emerged from the trial as local heroes.

The South Carolina state authorities, the judge and the FBI went through the motions of seeing that justice was done, but only the motions.

### HANDY LOOPHOLE

The state with the help of the FBI drew up a case that had a handy loophole. This loophole was the fact that the prosecution's whole case rested on statements of the accused. No important witnesses were put on the stand by the prosecutor.

Then Judge J. Richfield Martin accommodatedly ruled that the statements of the accused could be used only against the individual maker of the statement and not against other defendants named in them. This meant that although seven of the defendants named Roosevelt C. Hurd as the man who fired the death shots, the jury could not consider this evidence against Hurd.

Naturally each statement picture (Continued on Page 2)

## Acquittal Gives Green Light To More Lynchings

Acquittal of the lynch mob in Greenville, S. C., gave new encouragement to lynchers in other parts of the South. This was shown 28 hours after the Greenville trial, when a mob of armed men took Godwin Bush, 24-year old Negro, from the jail in Jackson, N. C.

Only Busch's quick thinking and action saved him from the torture and murder that befell Willie Earle, the Greenville victim. He broke away from the mob and hid in the woods. After going without food for 48 hours he surrendered to the FBI and was taken to the State prison.

The charges against Bush are typical of the rape cases in the South. A white woman was walking along a dark row of tobacco warehouses when somebody stepped out of a doorway behind her. Immediately she started screaming. A group of white youths scoured the vicinity and seized young Bush. Charged with attempted rape, he was put in the jail and shortly thereafter kidnaped by the lynch mob.

Bush often waited near the warehouse to walk his girl friend home from the place across the street where she worked. Some white citizens of Jackson have since verified this fact.

In contrast to the trial and acquittal of the 28 Greenville lynchers was the trial of James Brown, 25 year old Negro, in Sylvania, Ga. Charged with rape, Brown was sentenced to die in the electric chair after the jury had been out only three minutes. The whole "trial" lasted three hours.

# 24-HOUR STRIKE DEMAND MOUNTS THROUGHOUT NATION

Monster On The Loose



## Ramadier Decrees Military Rule For 85,000 Utilities Workers

MAY 27 — Although the Renault workers are back at work after winning significant gains, the government crisis that was touched off by their strike continues.

Following the lead of the Renault workers, 85,000 workers in the nationalized gas and electric power services scheduled a one-day strike for May 28 to emphasize their demand for a 23% wage increase to meet the skyrocketing cost of living.

The Ramadier regime, however, is committed to a policy of wage freezing and "sacrifices" by the workers. Although Ramadier and his associates call themselves "socialists," actually they are running the government for the capitalist class of France.

Ramadier therefore met the demands of the gas and electric workers with a typical weapon from the arsenal of capitalist governments. He invoked a 1939 wartime law that does not lapse until next July and placed these industries under military control.

The Ramadier decree calls for the use of troops if the workers go ahead with their 24-hour strike. Savage penalties can be inflicted on strikers—up to 5

years in prison. Ramadier claimed that the current wave of strikes in France were "incited" by "anarchists and Trotskyists." The truth is that the rise in the cost of living is forcing workers to battle for wage increases.

While the government prepared to use troops, the rank and file of the union went ahead with plans to carry out the strike. "The government's decision makes no difference to us," one spokesman is reported to have said; "and we shall go through with our plans to the bitter end."

The leadership of the union, however, happens to be Stalinist. Jacques Duclos, top shot Stalinist leader, has announced that only "imbeciles" would call a general strike. And L'Humaine, the Stalinist paper, said there never was any question of a "strike" but simply of a "demonstration."

The Stalinists have suffered a great decline in the eyes of the French workers as a result of their continued support of the capitalist government. This decline is reflected in the vote for officials to administer the government's workers security fund. The CGT (General

Federation of Labor dominated by Stalinists) received only 800,000 votes although it lists more than one million members of the books; while the Catholics received more than 300,000 votes, far more than their book membership. The Stalinist leader, Henri Raynaud and Eugene Henaff, who head the CGT list, came in last.

## Landlords Await Rent Hikes As Congress Stalls

Millions of workers are faced with the threat of rent increases as the June 30 expiration of existing rent control nears without any Congressional action.

If Congress should adjourn without new legislation, landlords would have a holiday of rent hikes, backed up by eviction threats. At the present time, the House has passed the weak Wolcott bill which, while claiming to preserve rent control, also contains the main idea of the real estate lobbies for "voluntary" 15% increases.

Meanwhile the Senate has pushed to the sidelines the Buck bill which gives regional and local boards the right to increase rents. The longer the Senate delays action, the more concessions the real estate lobby will be able to wring from a joint Senate-House Committee. In the event that the Wolcott and Buck bills are pieced together by a joint committee, it is virtually certain that so many loopholes and provisions for increases would be made, that rent control, while retained in name, would be smashed and at least 15% increases slapped on to the rising cost of living.

Both the CIO and numerous consumers committees are sounding the warning on the dangers of rent boosts. Such inflationary moves would bear down doubly hard on the workers because of the critical housing shortage that worsens with every development. The National Public Housing Conference has just summarized the low-cost building situation with the analysis that "the entire home construction industry is falling apart rapidly."

All bills providing for the full retention of existing rent controls have been pigeonholed in both houses of Congress.

## Truman Weighs Putting Okay On Slave Labor Bill

Truman's continued silence over whether he will veto the Taft-Hartley slave labor legislation is an ominous sign. Couple this with reports about "busy rushing back and forth" between White House lieutenants and the Senate-House conferees, and you get a clear indication that Truman is seriously weighing signing the bill to wipe out decades of hard-won labor gains, or letting it become law without his signature.

### MIGHT SIGN

The May 23 Wall Street Journal reports Truman's attitude as follows:

"Whispering galleries echo talk that Truman will okay the Senate labor bill.

"White House intimates have changed their tune. They're now privately peddling the idea that the 'milder' Senate version is 'not too bad a bill.' Truman, they say, is not dead-set on a veto and might sign a measure along the lines of the Senate plan.

"... Truman's counselors say an over-ridden veto—likely if he vetoes the Senate bill—would hurt him more than union opposition. They discount union vote-getting power in '48."

The conservative Business Week (May 24) says that a veto "assured if the President can count on more than a third of the Senate's votes." While the veto may come anyway, it appears clear that Truman would find it distasteful to reveal he could not line up even 7 Senators in his own party.

### COULD BE SWUNG

The 7 needed Senators, meanwhile, are waiting to see what Truman "might care to tender in the way of post-offices, contracts and jobs," according to Business Week. This Wall Street mouthpiece does not mention that they are also waiting to see what kind of demonstrations and how much political pressure the labor movement is capable of organizing in protest against the anti-union legislation.

Some Senators could be swung, says Business Week, if Truman would outline precisely the type of measure he would approve as a substitute.

## AFL Unions Join CIO In Call For Nation-Wide Stoppage

While Senate-House conferees worked this week to merge the Taft-Hartley legislation into a single union-smashing bill, more trade union bodies joined in calling for a nationwide 24-hour strike to express working class opposition to any form of slave labor legislation.

This demand for a huge demonstration by all sections of the labor movement, which was first proposed by CIO international and local unions, is now beginning to make headway among AFL unions as well.

In New York City members of the AFL Seafarers International Union voted last week to ask AFL President William Green to arrange a one-day work stoppage in conjunction with the CIO and the independent unions. The proposal was also referred to

other SIU branches for consideration.

In Trenton, N. J., the Mercer County AFL Central Labor Union adopted a similar resolution, explaining that such a work stoppage would dramatize labor's demand for a presidential veto of the Taft-Hartley legislation.

In New York a special meeting of the CIO National Maritime Union voted in favor of a 24-hour strike. This places both wings of maritime labor, AFL and CIO, on record as favoring a national protest action.

In Albany, N. Y., a state conference called by the State CIO Council voted unanimously to designate June 10 as "New York State CIO Veto Day," and to hold meetings and parades against the anti-labor legislation. A number of delegates proposed that the day be marked by a statewide work stoppage, declaring that the workers in the factories favored such action.

But State CIO President Louis Hollander would not let this proposal come to a vote. As "justification" for his bureaucratic action he declared that the conference had no authority to decide this question. The individual international and local unions, however, were permitted to make their own decisions on the kind of protest demonstrations they want on June 10.

The New York AFL Central Trades and Labor Council will hold a mass protest meeting against the anti-labor bills at Madison Square Garden on June 4. AFL President Green will be the main speaker.

In Philadelphia, Westinghouse Local 107 of the CIO United Electrical Workers voted unanimously at a membership meeting not only for a national 24-hour labor holiday but also for a simultaneous march on Washington from every local union in the country.

In Buffalo, the Westinghouse UE local executive committee advocated a one-day stoppage and the organization of joint mass meetings like the Cadillac Square rally in Detroit last month.

In scores of other industrial centers both CIO and AFL unions made plans for additional joint or separate local actions against the anti-labor drive.

## Call On Labor Of All Lands To Help The German Workers

An important manifesto by the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International, calling for the creation of a "free, united German republic of workers and peasants," has been received in this country. Addressed to the workers of Europe and America, it urges opposition to annexations, reparations and the dismemberment of Germany.

"The resounding failure of the Moscow Conference," declares the manifesto, "leaves the German problem temporarily 'unsolved.' But Germany is still covered with ruins, cut up into four occupation zones, under four different military dictatorships. The toiling masses are still the prey of ruin, famine, lack of clothing and housing. Their most elementary needs are still unfulfilled after seven years of war and privation. And the most elementary democratic rights are still denied them after twelve years of Fascist dictatorship."

The manifesto calls on the workers of various lands to oppose the reactionary plans of their rulers in regard to Germany. To the workers of the United States, the manifesto says:

"The oppression of Germany by American imperialism, the final pauperization of the German workers, the definitive colonization of its riches by your own monopoly capitalists — the very ones against whom you have carried on such admirable strike struggles since the end of the war — all this must soon bear down heavily upon the further development of your own class struggle.

"The lowering of the standard of living of the German workers will give a powerful means of pressure to your capitalist exploiters to use against your own standard of living. The military dictatorship that your generals want to perpetuate in Germany is a training school for future would-be dictators of the United States.

"The same hyenas who prepare the anti-labor laws in Washington also want to reduce the German working class to abject slavery. Your struggle against the greedy and reactionary policy of the American trusts is one and the same with the struggle for the recall of the American troops from Germany and against all the reparations plans."

The full text of the manifesto will appear in the June issue of the magazine, Fourth International.

## CIO Now Organizing New Phone Workers International

MAY 26—The CIO is proceeding to organize a phone workers international union, it was announced by Phillip Murray today. Allan S. Haywood, CIO Organization Director, has been named head of the Telephone Workers Organizing Committee which will receive financial and material assistance from the CIO in building a powerful industrial union capable of embracing the 500,000 Bell and AT&T employees.

Formal announcement of the CIO developments came two days after John J. Moran, president of the long-lines telephone workers, announced that his union was polling its membership on CIO affiliation. Moran indicated he meant business by stating he was submitting his resignation as a vice-president of the NPTW.

In addition, representatives of other leading NPTW affiliates met with Murray and Haywood in Atlantic City last week-end to discuss the problems of CIO affiliation and organization. Many phone workers have expressed dissatisfaction with the termination of their recent strike,

at levels far below their original demands. They feel that only a strong centralized union can match the power of the highly centralized AT&T - Bell trust. Their interest in the CIO widened as a result of CIO support of their recent strike.

Meanwhile, Joseph Beirne, president of the NPTW, which had previously considered affiliation to either the CIO or AFL, announced that the NPTW was proceeding with plans to launch the Communications Workers of America as an independent national union at a Miami convention scheduled for June 9.

The strength of the CIO move is evidenced by the fact that approximately 100,000 of the 260,000 members of the NPTW were represented in the first meeting with Murray and Haywood. A second and larger conference is being scheduled next week-end in Philadelphia.

## THE RANKS WANT ACTION!

An Editorial

The Taft-Hartley slave labor legislation hangs over the American trade union movement like a razor-sharp sword. The thin strand that may keep it from falling is a possible presidential veto and a possible switch of 7 Senators from support of the measure to support of this hoped-for veto.

The immediate question facing labor is how to assure this veto and the switch of these 7 Senators.

The trade union bureaucrats have given their answer to this burning question. They have sent appeals to Truman to please reject this legislation. And the AFL officials have ear-marked \$1,500,000 for an advertising and radio campaign to inform the public about the evils of this savage anti-labor measure. That is about all.

These advertisements have made some telling points. They have told how the Taft-Hartley bills were written in accordance with specifications of the National Association of Manufacturers. They have underlined how the bills violate the 13th amendment to the Constitution. They have disclosed how the platform of the Republican Party championed "free labor" while the candidates of the Republican Party in office have championed slave labor.

But this is utterly inadequate. Truman has responded to the prayers up to now with contemptuous silence. None of the 7 Sen-

ators have indicated by a word that they will sustain a veto.

The public already knows how vicious the Taft-Hartley bills are. The public already knows that the Republicans consider campaign promises nothing but scraps of paper. The public knows too that the Democrats share the guilt, although the AFL advertisements say nothing about this. The public knows that in the House a majority of Democrats (93 to 84) supported the Hartley bill; and that in the Senate the Democrats split evenly on the Taft bill (21 to 21).

The great mass of workers start from these conclusions. What they want now is action. They want to exert real pressure on Truman and Congress.

This pressure can come only from dramatic demonstrations and mass actions involving millions of participants. Resolutions passed by union bodies throughout the country show that what the union ranks want is a 24-hour nation-wide protest strike.

Moreover, this action is only the beginning of the militant steps they want to take to fight Wall Street's anti-labor drive. They want a definitive answer to the Taft-Hartley legislation. The way to do that is to organize an independent Labor Party! Mobilize on the political field and put labor's own representatives in office!









