

# MINERS' BLACK FRIDAY

## Zeigler Miners "Guilty" in Klan Frame-up

### The Agreement Made on "Black Friday"

THE full text of the shameful agreement drawn up by Lewis and the operators against the striking miners in the anthracite field is as follows:

This agreement, made this twelfth day of February, 1926, between Districts 1, 7 and 9, United Mine Workers of America, parties of the first part, and the anthracite operators, parties of the second part, covering wages and conditions of employment in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania, witnesseth:

1—Work shall be resumed at once under the terms of the expired contract, which, subject to modification as hereinafter provided, shall be in force and effect until Aug. 31, 1930.

2—At any time after Jan. 1, 1927, but not oftener than once in any year, either party may, in writing, propose modification in the wage scales of said contract. The parties agree within fifteen days after receipt of such written proposals to start conferences in the usual manner in an effort to agree upon such modifications.

3—If within thirty days after starting such negotiations the parties have not agreed, all issues in controversy shall be referred to a board of two men with full power and without reservation or restrictions, and the parties agree to abide by any decision or decisions of such board, either on the merits of the controversy or as to procedure to be followed. Such board shall be appointed as follows:

The operators shall name three men and the miners shall name three men. The operators shall select one man from the miners' list and the miners shall select one man from the operators' list, and the two men so approved shall constitute said board. Unless agreed, the men named by the parties shall not be connected with the United Mine Workers of America or the business of mining coal. The board shall be obliged, within ninety days after appointment, to arrive at a decision on all issues in controversy, and to that end shall formulate their own rules and methods of procedure and may enlarge the board to an odd number, in which event a majority vote shall be binding.

4—The demands of the operators and the mine workers on the question of co-operation and efficiency are referred to the board of conciliation, exclusive of the umpire, which shall work out a reciprocal program of co-operation and efficiency.

5—The board of conciliation shall proceed to equalize wages, etc., in accordance with clause 12 of the agreement, dated Sept. 19, 1923.

6—Except as modified herein, the terms and provisions of the award of the anthracite coal strike commission and subsequent agreements made in modification thereof or supplemental thereto, as well as the rulings and decisions of the board of conciliation, are hereby ratified, confirmed and continued during the term of this contract, ending Aug. 31, 1930.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto, thru their accredited representatives, have caused this agreement to be properly executed, the day and year first above written:

On behalf of the anthracite operators: W. W. INGLIS, GEORGE HADESTY, J. B. WARRINGER, E. H. SUENDER, THOMAS THOMAS, ANDREW M. FINE.  
Attest: JAMES A. GORMAN, Secretary.  
On behalf of Districts 1, 7 and 9, United Mine Workers of America: JOHN L. LEWIS, PHILIP MURRAY, THOMAS KENNEDY, C. J. GOLDEN, RINALDO CAPPELLINI, ANDREW MATTEY.  
Attest: ALVAH MARKLE, Chairman.

### RELIEF STILL BADLY NEEDED

Despite the fact that the anthracite coal strike has apparently been settled, the general grievance committee of the miners, in general meeting assembled in Walkers-Barre on February 13, decided to open food relief stations in co-operation with the International Workers' Aid. Accordingly a committee was immediately elected, consisting of 15 miners, representing 15 different locals, of which D. A. Edmunds, chairman of the grievance committees, will act as secretary. The first food station will be opened Monday, February 15. There is much actual suffering among the families of this district. Many have absolutely no means of procuring the bare necessities of life. It will take several weeks before all the mines are working and pay day comes only once in two weeks. It will, therefore, be at least a month before any cash comes into the individual family. In the meantime the most needy cases will have to be taken care of. Many are at starvation point. They will need support for at least the next two weeks. Make out your contributions to the Miners' I. W. A. and send to D. A. Edmunds, 523 Market St., Kingston, Pa. or direct to the national office of the International Workers' Aid, 1553 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

### TO ALL ANTHRACITE MINERS!

Open Letter to the Tri-District Convention

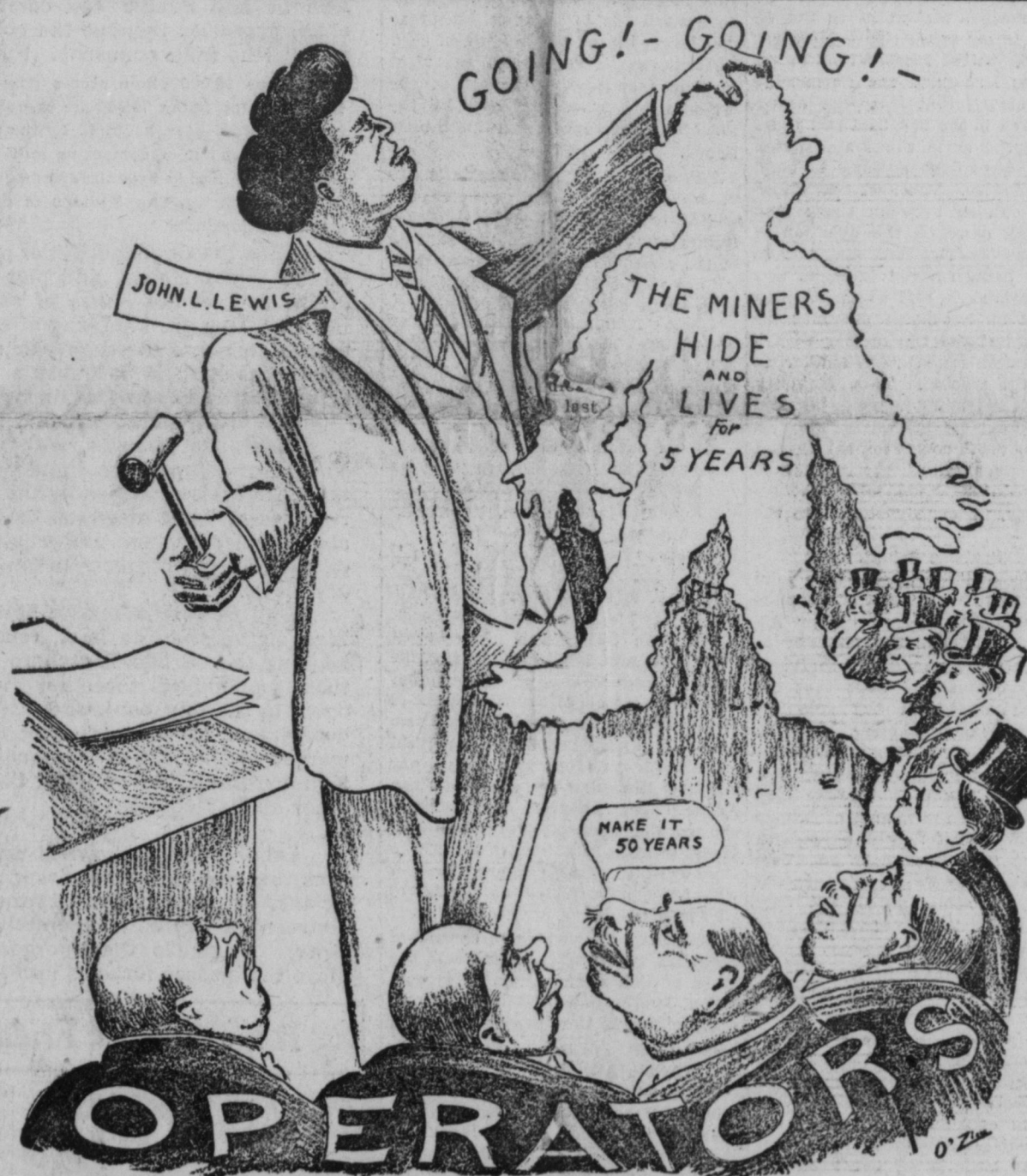
Six months ago we anthracite miners mobilized at the Tri-District Convention in Scranton and endorsed the demands for—

- 1) A ten percent increase in wages with \$1.00 per day for day men;
- 2) No arbitration or conciliation boards;
- 3) The check-off in the anthracite.

After lengthy conferences the operators turned down these demands and we entered into the strike to enforce them with all the enthusiasm born of the conviction of the justice of our demands. John L. Lewis and the whole administration supported our demands and we miners

(Continued on page 5.)

**SOLD! FIVE YEARS AND NO WAGE INCREASE!**



Republished by request from a recent issue of The DAILY WORKER.

### Defend the Zeigler Miners!

STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS (COMMUNIST) PARTY OF AMERICA

Eight out of the thirteen defendants in the framed-up trial of the Zeigler miners have been convicted and face sentences ranging from one to fourteen years in prison. The conviction was based upon the fraudulent charge of assault upon D. B. Cobb, sub-district vice-president of the United Mine Workers, who is one of the most corrupt officials in the American labor movement. This conviction, affecting as it does the most militant and progressive leaders of the miners in Southern Illinois, comes right upon the heels of the shameful betrayal of the strike of the anthracite miners by John L. Lewis and the official machine. The frame-up is a part of the great conspiracy to wreck the United Mine Workers of America as an organization fighting for the improvement of the conditions of the miners, and its transformation into a servile instrument of the bloated

coal operators. Railroad Progressives to Jail. The leaders of the Miners' Union, with their treasonable policies, have done worse than nothing to defend the interests of the miners. They have worked hand in hand with the operators to sell out the rank and file of the union. They have betrayed the demands of the anthracite miners. Now they have succeeded, in conspiracy with the ku klux klan and the coal operators, in railroad to jail eight of the most active progressives in the Illinois union. The men who are financing the prosecution of the Zeigler miners are the men in control of the notorious Farrington machine. The most active leaders in the prosecution were D. B. Cobb, sub-district vice-president and Lon Fox, the sub-district president; Farrington had assured them of his support from the beginning. Miners Fight Coal Barons. The crime of the defendants was that they insisted upon the Zeigler miners getting a decent wage by getting a correct weight on the coal they mined. The officials of the

union upheld the Bell and Zoller Mining company, as against the miners. They carried on a fight against the menace of the ku klux klan, and the officials joined with the klan against the rank and file progressives. The miners of Zeigler insisted upon their rights to vote for the progressive officials and for militant policies to fight the boss, and the machine—steadily stole their elections. The conviction of these eight miners is of the gravest concern to the American working class as a whole, and to the organized workers in particular. The entire labor movement of America is on trial and not only the Zeigler miners. Their fight is the fight of all the workers of this country. Defend Zeigler Miners! The miners of this country must intensify their fight for the progressive movement in the union. The workers of the entire country must come to the aid of the defendants. The International Labor Defense, a non-partisan working class organization which has been in charge of the case for the defend-

(Continued on page 4.)

### ANTHRACITE STRIKERS REPUDIATE BETRAYAL OF THEIR DEMANDS BY JOHN L. LEWIS AT PHILADELPHIA

(Special to The Daily Worker)

SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 14—The date of the Philadelphia betrayal of the striking miners by John L. Lewis will always be known in these regions as "BLACK FRIDAY."

On that date, Friday, February 12, the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, when patriotic spellbinders were indulging in extravagant praise of the "freedom" enjoyed by the inhabitants of the United States, the head of the United Mine Workers of America, who should defend the interests of the membership of that union, signed the pact that is designed to make the 158,000 anthracite coal miners slaves of the corporations for the next five years.

The strikers were stunned; they could not for a time believe it possible for even Lewis to so completely surrender everything they fought for so long. They could not believe that the same man who, at the tri-district convention in this city, when the demands of the strike were formulated and who said the demands were all too inadequate, could so ignominiously betray them.

Then, when the full meaning of black Friday dawned upon them they perceived that the betrayal was deliberate and well-timed. The long drawn-out strike and the refusal of Lewis and Cappellini to call out the maintenance men and make the strike general was being repudiated in the anthracite fields. The demands originally advocated by the progressive miners and the Communists in the strike region were becoming the demands of the rank and file. The general grievance committee meeting in Wilkesbarre had gone on record to pull out the maintenance men, thereby making the strike effective.

The coal barons knew such a move would defeat them; would beat them to their knees before the solidarity of the miners. Rather than permit the union to get beyond his control Lewis capitulated to every demand of the operators. Like others of his type in the labor movement he will destroy the unions rather than permit them to become effective instruments against the employers. All these things are now fully understood by the miners, and with the few remaining days until the tri-district conference is called for Tuesday they are rallying to endeavor to repudiate the agreement and rebuke the infamy of such arch-traitors as John L. Lewis and Rinaldo Cappellini.

Condemn Settlement.

Delegates to the general grievance committee of District No. 1 of the United Mine Workers of America, representing some thirty local unions with approximately 15,000 members, meeting in Wilkesbarre last night, unanimously condemned the betrayal of "Black Friday" and denounced the mine workers officials for their conspiracy with the operators to drive the strikers back into the black holes beneath the earth to slave for wages so meagre that even Lewis himself admits their utter insufficiency to maintain a decent standard of living.

Sentiments expressed by every delegate taking the floor showed bitter resentment against the sell-out of the miners and a determination to fight to the last ditch against the ratification of the Philadelphia agreement. All of them referred to the fact that the five and a half months' struggle of the miners has resulted in their

(Continued on page 2.)

### JURY FINDS 8 MINERS GUILTY IN 10-DAY TRIAL

Argue Motion for New Trial on March 26

(Special to The Daily Worker)

COURT HOUSE, Benton, Ill., Feb. 14—Eight out of the 13 defendants in the now famous Zeigler trial were convicted by verdict of the jury on the frame-up charge of "assault to murder D. B. Cobb," the sub-district vice-president of the United Mine Workers' Union of Franklin county.

Five of the defendants, Matt Cernoevich, Charles Corbishly, Marlon Soyat, William Bartash and Pete Blazin, were found not guilty and immediately released.

Move for New Trial.

The attorneys for the defense, Ferguson, Morgan, White and Ward, immediately made a motion for a new trial, hearings upon which have been granted for March 29. Those convicted were: Henry Corbishly, leader of the progressive miners of Zeigler, Frank Corbishly his brother, Stanley Paurez, Ignatz Simich, Martin Simich, Mike Karadich, Eddie Maliski and Steve Meanovich.

The convictions followed a ten-day trial during which the defense completely exposed that it was a frame-up against the miners on trial, many of whom were not even on the scene when all the trouble took place at the meeting of the Zeigler local union.

(Continued on page 2.)

### Fight Just Beginning

Statement of the Trade Union Educational League.

THIS latest betrayal of the miners by the Lewis administration brings out more clearly than ever the class-collaboration policy and imperialistic role of the bureaucracy. The position of the striking miners was becoming stronger. The strike had attracted world attention, the British unions were demanding from their leaders that Welsh anthracite be not transported to America.

Gradually the entire American labor movement was being drawn into the struggle. Tens of thousands of dollars had been sent to the striking miners. The joint grievance committee in conjunction with the International Workers' Aid were setting up relief stations to take care of the miners and their families. Relief committees were being organized in every large industrial center. These preparations would have in a very

(Continued on page 5.)





Organization Meetings

Workers (Communist) Party

Social Affairs Resolutions

Some Problems in Connection With Party Reorganization

THE city of New York is now completely reorganized on the basis of shop and street nuclei. Yet we can not say that reorganization has been completed.

called. Some of them find it impossible to attend at all. This class is particularly a problem in the New York district where almost every comrade in the I. L. C. W. U. and the Furriers' Union is engaged in administration work directly of the union, where the left wing is in control, or must indirectly carry on administration work in order to overcome the sabotage of the right wing machine in the union.

the capacity of functionaries in the old branch are incapable of properly attending to their work because the center is now not the street but the shop. The sale of literature in the shops, the methods of carrying on propaganda, in the shops, the coordination of the work of the nucleus, division of labor so that every member is drawn into the work of the party, all these problems are the order of the day.

7. Whenever an important campaign is undertaken by the party all the functionaries are called together and the campaign discussed both from the point of view of the political policy involved and the organizational steps to be taken by the different party units in order to carry on the campaign successfully.

The Party and the Steel Worker

Within the past few months the party in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania has been making headway among the organized and unorganized workers in the building of Communist shop nuclei in the steel mills. In this they are doing a very necessary and important work for the bolshevization of our party.

should be. We are urging them to organize into the American Negro Labor Congress, to become readers of the Negro Champion, and listen to the speakers of their race who have their real interests at heart. This is all discussed and our plans laid out in the meetings of our nuclei.

CHICAGO STUDY CLASSES MAKE A GOOD START Enrollment Still Open for New Students

'TRYBUNA ROBOTNICZA' SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, MARCH 7 Trybuna Robotnicza, the Polish Communist organ, will celebrate its second anniversary by mass meetings all over the country.

HISTORICAL MATERIALISM CLASS OPENS

Questions for Next Friday's Lesson

H. M. WICKS Instructor

The first lesson of the first semester of the class in Historical Materialism with 25 students was conducted as a lecture last Friday evening at 19 South Lincoln, the instructor explaining the manner in which Marx arrived at the conception of Historical Materialism and a warning of some of the narrow, mechanical pitfalls that await one traveling this road.

The second lesson will be conducted on the question and answer system. Two books will be used as texts: Engel's "Feuerbach," and Bukharin's "Historical Materialism."

1. What, according to the Hegelian philosophy, constitutes that which is real? 2. Explain the economic foundations of the Hegelian philosophy?

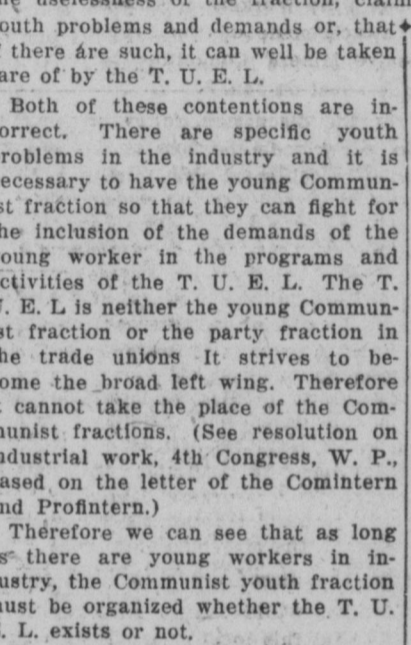
LOS ANGELES PREPARES TO GREET TRUMBULL ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

WITH THE YOUNG WORKERS

WHY A COMMUNIST YOUTH FRACTION?

A DISCUSSION ARTICLE. Young Communists Must Write in to These Columns the Experiences of Their Fractions, Shop Nuclei, Concentration Groups, Etc. The Exchange of These Experiences Will Help the Practical Work of All Our Units.

Comrade Lazarowitz in his opening article to the discussion on the importance of youth fractions, correctly points out the importance of such, and thus disproves the arguments of some comrades who fail to see the value of having a Communist youth fraction in every union.



YOUNG MINERS



Both of these contentions are incorrect. There are specific youth problems in the industry and it is necessary to have the young Communist fraction so that they can fight for the inclusion of the demands of the young worker in the programs and activities of the T. U. E. L. The T. U. E. L. is neither the young Communist fraction or the party fraction in the trade unions it strives to become the broad left wing. Therefore it cannot take the place of the Communist fractions.

Make the Young Worker a Mass Organ.

By RUFUS P. HEATH. WHEN I joined the league last year, the Young Worker was a weekly. It is now fifty per cent dead. Because it is now a semi-monthly. This is a fact, whether we like it or not. It is up to us to look the facts of the case square in the face and act accordingly.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE TRUMBULL-FOURTH YEAR YOUNG WORKER AFFAIR?

A gala affair will be staged by the Young Workers (Communist) League to greet Walter Trumbull on his release from Alcatraz military disciplinary barracks, and to celebrate the fourth birthday of the Young Worker. The affair takes place on Sunday evening, March 7, at Imperial Hall, 2409 N. Halsted street, Chicago.

CHICAGO RED REVEL COMMITTEE MEETS TONIGHT IN DISTRICT OFFICE

The committee in charge of arrangements for the fourth annual Red Revel masquerade ball meets Monday, Feb. 15, 8 p. m., at the district office, 19 South Lincoln street.

Come Ahead Into the Young Workers League



