

# LABOR DEFENDER

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**Black and  
White Unite**

**To Free the  
Scottsboro Boys**



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# LABOR DEFENDER

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## NRA BREEDS FASCISM

Recent fascist tendencies in the United States are shown not only by the growth of openly fascist organizations but by the whole trend of the NRA. Anti-trust laws, that is laws against "restraint of trade," have been practically suspended by administrative proclamation; industrial control by trade associations has been encouraged without disguise; and strikers are practically outlawed in certain of the code agreements. Leading industrialists and capitalists are serving on NRA boards and councils.

Not only in the economic field but in the political field also there has been increasing centralization of government, with a closer tie-up between industry and the state. The National Emergency Council was set up by President Roosevelt, December 6, 1933, to enforce the provisions of NRA codes and of the AAA.

The Swope plan was put forward November 1, 1933, by Gerard Swope, president of Morgan's anti-union General Electric Co., a member of the NRA industrial Advisory Board, of the National Labor Board, and chairman of the Business Advisory and Planning Council. The plan was immediately endorsed by General Johnson who stated that such industrial groups should be set up "in order to have peace and equity . . . with the strike and lockout absolutely eliminated." The Swope plan advocates transfer of the NRA administrative function from the government to the trade associations of employers, organized in a national chamber of commerce and industry to be located in Washington. Large corporations thus organized would "work out, nationally, better methods of promotion and maintaining good and continuous relations with employees," that is, in order to prevent strikes.

In *Barron's Weekly* (December 4, 1933), a magazine for capitalists, Iver C. Olsen summarized "Lessons from the Italian Example," a comparison of Fascist and NRA programs, in which he hailed Mussolini's rule as making strikes illegal: "The Fascist regime has entirely eliminated the possibilities of its planning being disrupted because of labor opposition. Unions are not permitted to interfere with the internal organizations of industry and strikes and lockouts are forbidden."

The I.L.D. defends the rights of workers to organize into unions of their choosing, the right to strike and picket; the right to fight against NRA slavery. Join and build the I.L.D. in the struggle against fascism.

## SCOTTSBORO--THREE YEARS

Three years ago, on March 2, nine Negro boys were arrested in Scottsboro, Alabama. Falsely accused, they were "tried" in the courts of class justice, tried under the rules and laws written by the ruling class. They were found guilty. Eight of them were sentenced to be burned to death in the electric chair. They have not burned to death, because the International Labor Defense took over their defense, organized white and black workers, not only in the south, not only in the north and west, but also in Europe, Asia, Africa, West Indies, Cuba, Central and South America, until from every part of the world there rolled forth the thunder of the workers' voices, **THEY SHALL NOT DIE.**

The death sentence imposed on the

nine innocent Scottsboro Boys, exposes the class struggle in its cruelest form. The ruling class had torn from its face, by the I.L.D., the mask of fairness it often wears, so that all could see its true features. Nine innocent boys to be burned to death, so that those in control of our factories and finance, could be assured of a continual flow of workers to be exploited at starvation wages.

Step by step, the I.L.D. continues the struggle for the Scottsboro boys. Mass protest, in the factories, in the streets, in the press, in the schools, in the homes, the struggle must go on. The workers organized under the International Labor Defense, understand and are aroused. From all parts of the world their voice thunders. **FREE THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS.**

## To Women Members of the I.L.D.

April 1934 will mark the 17th anniversary of the entrance of the United States into the World War—the war that was to end all wars and make the world safe for democracy. Millions of Americans lost their lives in that world carnage and as a reward their families received Gold Stars to hang in their windows. Other millions were maimed and crippled for life still other millions came back to find starvation and unemployment. Those who had profited from the war, waved little flags to welcome "our boys" home but put No Help Wanted signs on their factories, mills and mines to greet them.

All over the world the most feverish preparations for the next war are in progress. The press carries daily reports of rearming, ship building, airplane building. The United States is in the forefront of the race for more death machines. The air mail routes have been turned over to the army, hundreds of millions have been appropriated for bigger and better gun boats and destroyers, the life of the militarized Conservation Camps is continually prolonged so that more and more thousands of the young men of this country can be hardened and drilled into cannon fodder.

The provocations of Japan on the peaceful borders of the Soviet Union assume a more threatening aspect every day.

In the face of these war preparations one of the foremost tasks before the American working class is the organ-

ized struggle against war and fascism. The International Labor Defense, the only working class defense organization, the shield of the working class in all its struggles against oppression and for its most elementary rights, pledges itself to defend the workers, farmers, intellectuals, students all those who are energetically engaged in the struggle against war. The International Labor Defense has already taken an active and leading part in the struggle against fascism. It has come to the aid of the victims of German and Austrian fascism. Materially and morally organizing protest demonstrations, sending delegations to consulates, solidarity greetings, exposing the role of the fascist butchers.

The I.L.D. especially calls upon its women members to support the International Women's Congress Against War and Fascism that will be held in Paris July 28, 29 and 30 of this year. The call for this Congress has just been received in this country. The American League Against War and Fascism is organizing district and regional conferences that will elect delegates to the Paris Congress and mobilize American women for the struggle against war. The women members of the I.L.D. must be active in organizing these conferences and making it possible to send a large delegation of working women, farm women, Negro women, teachers, etc. to Paris to join their forces with the women of all countries to build an invincible barrier against war.

# Angelo Herndon -- a Leader of the Unemployed

## TELLS HIS OWN STORY

I was born in 1913, in Wyoming, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati. My father, who was a coal miner, died of pneumonia when I was very small. My mother struggled with the aid of some relatives, to give me a college education. I was always waiting eagerly for the time to come when I could go out to work, for the family was very large, consisting of eight people.

When I was twelve years old, my brother Leo and I quit school, although mother tried to force us to continue. When I was 13, we left home. Our first stopping place was Lexington, Ky. With the help of some older people, we were able to get work in the coal mines. We started out as coal loaders, getting 42 cents per ton, although the older miners got more. After we had worked for about nine months, our wages were cut from 42 cents a ton to 31 cents. We got disgusted and quit work.

We had some relatives in Birmingham, so that was our next destination.

I went to an employment bureau, and paid \$3.00 for a job. After two or three days, I was told that a job had been found for me, out of town. I was to get \$3.50 a day as a laborer in helping to construct the Goodyear Tire Company building in Gadsden, Ala. I gladly accepted the offer.

Upon my arrival, I found that wages were only \$1.75 per day. A group of us started back. But after a long discussion we decided to stay on. We were to stay in a company tent colony and pay 75 cents per night.

The first day, I operated a concrete mixer. After the day's work was done, the boss came around and told us that if we would work that night, we would get \$3. We agreed to do it. That night my job was setting steel and pouring concrete.

The next day, we were given till 12 o'clock to sleep. Then we returned to work. We continued doing this till Saturday. When the time came for us

to get our pay, we noticed a squad of policemen and guards at the pay office. As we formed in line and marched to the pay window, all of us who came from Birmingham were told to get out of line, as we didn't have anything coming to us. Everything had been taken for transportation, food and sleeping quarters. We were completely stranded. That night we hiked back to Birmingham.

After a few more jobs in mines I began to look for any kind of work I could find. One day a friend and I, in search of work, happened to come across some handbills stuck to a post. We snatched one off.

Later, after looking all over town without finding work, we set our for home. I took the handbill out of my pocket. I saw the startling headline: "Would you rather fight—or starve?" I called my friend. We both sat down and began to read that handbill. Near the bottom, we saw the announcement of a meeting called for 3 o'clock in the heart of the town, by the Unemployed Council. It was almost 3 then, and I said to my friend that we had better hurry to be there when the "fight" started. All the way I said to myself: "It's war. It's war. So I might as well get in it now as any other time."

We got there just a few minutes before the meeting started. A white worker began to speak, saying "Fellow-workers." He went on to tell us how the Negro workers were being treated, and how the unemployed white and Negro workers must stick together to better their conditions.

I knew very little of what this man was talking about. The next speaker was a Negro worker. He spoke along the same lines as the white worker.

Below: Workers' homes in the heart of Atlanta, Ga. Herndon led the workers' fight against such miserable conditions.

Right: This unemployed Negro worker sitting at Lincoln's feet realizes as Herndon did, "We'll have to fight to get our rights."

After the meeting, the speakers appealed for membership. I went right up and gave my name.

The next meeting was held in Capitol Park, a Jim-Crow park. About 500 Negro and white workers were present. The same two speakers were there that I had heard at my first meeting. From the park, we marched to the Community Chest, where 100 cops greeted us. When I saw this, I was a little shaky. They stood at the door and let only about twenty Negroes in. I happened to be included in this number. After we were seated, one of the white officers from the Community Chest began to speak. He said that, as far as the Negroes were concerned, the solution to their unemployment was to go back to the farm.

The next speaker was a Negro, robber of the Elks and editor of the Birmingham Reporter. And that was when I began to see the true role of the so-called Negro leaders. He opened his speech by saying: "White brothers and black brothers, don't be fooled or misled by some foreigner from a thousand miles away, that you don't know anything about. The Negro has plenty of friends in the South. All he has to do when in need is to go to his Southern white friends. The white labor speaker has tried to get you to accept social equality, but we don't want social equality, nor do we need it."

When I left the meeting my blood was hot enough to cook.

In June, 1930, I was elected a dele-

The I.L.D. Defends Workers Rights.



Support Unemployment Bill (HR 7598)



gate to the National Unemployment Convention to be held in Chicago in July. About a day or two before the delegates left, the Kluxers began to raise a cry about social equality. They distributed red hand-bills throughout the city. One was placed at my door. The bills read: "Drive the Communists back to Russia and the North, Alabama is a good place for good Negroes but a bad place for bad Negroes."

The day after I arrived in Chicago, I was treated to the sight of a demonstration in Union Park. After the city had given the workers the right to use the park, this right was withdrawn at the last minute.

Nevertheless, the demonstration was held. When a worker attempted to speak, police clubs began to fly right and left. Workers resisted the attacks of the police sluggers. A number of workers went to jail and others went to the hospital. About an equal number of sluggers also went to the hospital. When, that night, I read the distorted accounts of the demonstration in the capitalist press, I began to see the truth of what the speakers had been telling me in Birmingham. In



Above: Herndon must not go to his death on a Georgia chain gang like this one. The I.L.D. calls on all workers to demand an end to chain gang torture. Below: Herndon led the fight of white and Negro unemployed workers like these. Unemployed workers rally to the support of your leader: Angelo Herndon.

fact, the demonstration alone was a better education than I could have gotten otherwise in fifty years.

When I returned to Birmingham, I came an organizer of the miners.

Conditions in the mines were worse than horrible. The company had gunmen patrolling the highways, watching the miners. We had just started talking to the miners when some of the gunmen came up, and we were bound for the jail. This was my first experience in jail.

We were charged with vagrancy. Bail was fixed at \$3,000 each. After we had been in jail about seven days, a group of gunmen came to take us to a little company town to be tried.

In a few minutes we were in the courtroom. Within another few minutes, we had been sentenced to twelve months hard labor on the chain gang, and to a fine of \$500. But we carried the case to the circuit court and were acquitted.

Before the battle of the share-croppers in Camp Hill, on July 16, 1931, I was sent into the Black Belt to do

work. I was in Camden County, home of the present governor of Alabama. It was a very difficult situation for me to work in, but I did what was possible. After being there a few days, I discovered that someone I had had confidence in, a preacher and teacher, had reported me to the authorities in Selma, Ala. A lynch-mob began to form rapidly. It was composed of landlords and country business men. I had to beat it.

I was then sent to New Orleans as representative of the Trade Union Unity League. There was a strike of 7,000 longshoremen. During the course of my work among the strikers, I was arrested and charged with violation of the federal injunction, with inciting to riot, with being a dangerous and suspicious person, with distributing circulars, without a permit, and other charges. I was held for four days, and then released.

(Continued May Day Labor Defender)



# California vs. Fruit Pickers

It is no longer necessary for workers to confine themselves to condemnation of Fascism in Europe. We have at hand in several of our Southern California Counties remarkable examples of American Fascism. The bigotry, arrogance, intolerance, brutality and persecutions in Imperial Valley are almost equalled by the recent events in Riverside County.

A review of the case against the workers Ambrose, Salas, Winters, Stewart, Rosenbaum, Guerrero, Ramirez and Olsen well illustrates this fact. At the request of workers from Riverside, certain of these defendants went to that town to hold a meeting of the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union. Upon arrival, Salas and Ambrose were arrested while making arrangements for the opening of the hall. Winter and Stewart were arrested as they sat in their car near the hall.

Rosenbaum, a metal painter, employed in San Bernardino by one concern as there was no work available, was in Riverside to see a former employer and was arrested while passing the location of the proposed meeting. Hailing from outside of Riverside city, and being near the proposed place of meeting was all Riverside authorities needed to clap him in jail and sentence him to nine months.

Ramirez and Guerrero, Mexicans who speak and understand very little Eng-

lish, were found by police officers talking together on a street corner in Riverside. They had in their possession certain literature concerning the proposed meeting of the C. and A.W.I.U. On these facts, they were each convicted on two counts of vagrancy and sentenced to three months in jail.

Previously, Guerrero had been charged with distributing leaflets and although he contends he pleaded not guilty, a guilty plea was entered in the minutes and he was sentenced to 100 days in jail.

The constitutional rights of all these defendants were repeatedly disregarded and denied. Justice Moore, claiming to be fair-minded and unbiased fixed bail on Olsen at \$500, on Ramirez at \$1500, and on each of the other six defendants at \$2500 each. He refused to reduce the bail upon request made, refused to accept property, or anything but cash. He further illustrated his fairness by the sentence of 18 months for Salas and Ambrose; 15 months for Winters and Stewart; Rosenbaum 9 months; Ramirez and Guerrero 3 months.

These defendants were convicted, not of a breach of the law, but because they were attempting to organize a workers' union. The facts do not support a conviction on any count and an appellate court should reverse the convictions.

The persecution complex of the pro-

secutor and the attitude of the judge, was shown by the instruction given and refused. The judge instructed the jury that unless these defendants were actually employed in the citrus industry, they had no right to organize a union and no right to ask others to join a union or to call a strike. He further instructed the jury that these defendants did not reside in Riverside County and came into the County to organize a strike; then they were vagrants.

The District Attorney, however, reserved himself, the niche of honor (?), and stamped himself as the bigoted, intolerant, Ku Klux member he is reputed to be, by addressing the jury in the final argument substantially as follows: "If you do not convict these defendants, there are men right behind that rail (pointing to persons in the courtroom) who will ride out at night to see that these interests are protected, and I will ride with them."



.....These deadly weapons were seized from Imperial Valley strikers by police armed with guns and tear gas.

# Centralia General Strike

by Jan Wittenber

With the coming of the NRA, the A. F. of L. coined a vast gold mine among the unorganized workers. Centralia, Ill. was no exception. At the Johansen Shoe factory the 500 workers were organized into the Boot and Shoe A. F. of L. Union. This factory is under the control of the chamber of commerce, created by money collected from the workers. While Negro workers made up a good part of this money not a

single Negro is employed. A business man explained to me that "This was an all white factory".

In January the bosses had instituted such terrific measures of speed up that many of the girls dropped in nervous hysteria. Particularly vicious in driving the workers were a foreman and a forelady. The workers decided to strike demanding the discharge of these two. By noon of the strike the bosses informed the workers that the foreman had resigned and they returned to work. Within a day he was again employed by the company. The following week they struck again. This time they formed groups to visit other organizations. Before noon all organized labor laid down their tools except a few non-union barber shops who tried but were unable to secure business in face of mass picketing.

One U.M.W. of A., local went on strike. The sub district president arrived in time to prevent the other local joining. Men went into the mines with tears in their eyes in face of the woman and children who picketed the mine. They virtually struck on the job and at the end of the day decided to ignore the previous vote. This made a solid sympathy strike.

It was impossible to purchase gas. The only open shop was the municipal lighting plant and serious considera-

tion was given to closing it down. Taxi cabs were stoned by workers for which several arrests were made. Bread trucks coming from other towns were stopped at the City limits and turned back.

The sub district president of the U. M. W. of A. carried a revolver in a holster which he attempted to use in intimidating the miners. They dragged him to the city jail and demanded that his gun be taken from him and forced the police magistrate to fine him \$100. After this he was run out of town.

The I. L. D. branch spoke at a strike meeting and showed the need for the unity of Negro and white on the picket line. At the offset this proposal was booed but received support from quite a number of workers. City police looked the other way at the picket line. State police sensing the strength of their unity made no effort to interfere. I. L.D. comrades were in the forefront of the picketing. They have taken the name of Euel Lee branch.

We now have five I.L.D. branches in Franklin County, the seat of concentrated terror in southern Illinois. Altogether we now have over 15 branches in the coal fields. I managed to lead single handed the rest of the sections in the membership drive. In Pana, Ill., we have the president of a P. M. of A. local and the secretary of another. Out of these branches about six are mine branches, one of them a U. M. W. of A.

Pennsylvania coal miners picket line. NRA terror has tried to smash their unions.





*"The farmers learned their lesson now, as every one can see"... This picture illustrates these words from the fighting farm song. No scab produce got past these pickets, and no injunctions against eviction fights is going to stop the farmers from battling for their land.*

## FARMERS FIGHT INJUNCTION

Seventeen farmers of Sisseton, South Dakota, leaders in the fight against evictions, who have prevented 36 evictions since August 1933, are under arrest, charged with rioting. They face a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison. All are out on bail at the present time.

Sisseton is in Roberts County, in the middle of the draught area that struck South Dakota last year. The farmers there have no feed for their cattle, no provisions or supplies.

One of them, Henry Nieland, a homesteader, who has farmed his land for 30 years was robbed by the Northwest Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee. This company owned the mortgage on the Nieland farm and so they bought it at a foreclosure sale. Then they threw Nieland off.

The son of a rich farmer was moved on to the farm by the company. When the United Farmers League heard of this case, they organized a mass delegation that went to the Nieland farm. The new "tenant" met the militant farmers with two drawn revolvers. The farmers disarmed him and put Nieland right back on his farm.

Warrants were immediately issued against 17 of the farmers. They were charged with rioting and taken off to jail. The United Farmers League which has organized half the farmers in Roberts County raised the bonds to release the imprisoned farmers whose families are absolutely destitute. Two of those arrested are 63 and 64 years old. One had to be taken to a hospital from jail because of his weakened condition.

"Listening to the radio, we heard President Roosevelt say that there would be no evictions during the 'depression', particularly during the winter months," one of the arrested farmers told Arthur Le Suer, one of the attorneys, retained by the International Labor Defense to defend the farmers, "and here we are facing 10 years in

prison because we refuse to allow ourselves or our neighbors to be kicked off the farms we have been slaving on for years."

A partial list of those arrested follows: Bert Hanson, (wife sick, 5 children), Julius Walstadt (wife and 6 children), William Rieck (wife and 1 child. No feed, no coal), Henry Hackberth, Hugh Wiley (six children) Henry Nieland and Louis Rieck, J. M. Hanson.

The Minneapolis International Labor Defense calls on all other districts and sections and all other workers organizations to support the farmers fight by sending protest resolutions demanding the freedom of the 17 arrested to Rom Berry, governor of South Dakota at St. Pierre, S. D.

In addition a blanket injunction against the United Farmers League, the Unemployed Council, 91 individuals and "all other people whose names are unknown who are members of the said organizations" was issued by Judge Babcock of the Circuit Court, Aberdeen, S. D. It is one of those complete documents that forbids everything and threatens the lives of the fighting organizations of impoverished farmers and unemployed city workers. It forbids, "mass or mob action, interference with lawful evictions or foreclosures, organizing members, collecting funds, encouragement or sympathy for the aims of the organizations, use of any building public or private for holding meetings, sale of literature, disregard or disrespect of the laws of the state or the United States," and many other things besides. The militant farmers have already begun to smash this injunction by mass violation at large mass meetings.

This injunction is a grave menace to the struggles of the fighting farmers for their land and the International Labor Defense calls on all workers and farmers to rally to the campaign to smash this and every other injunction that any boss court anywhere may issue.

## Socialist Mayor Attacks Workers

In Bridgeport the possibilities are enormous for building the International Labor Defense and through defense struggles to thoroughly expose the social-fascist Mayor, Jasper McLevy. Some weeks ago a Greek ship discharging cargo in Bridgeport was tied up because the crew of Greek seamen went on strike against intolerable conditions. The Socialist administration immediately came to the defense of the ship-owners and caused the arrest of five Greek seamen on charges of mutiny. The mass campaign around these cases put the International Labor Defense on the front pages of Connecticut newspapers for over a week. An I.L.D. attorney was sent from New York to conduct the cases in court. A clean victory was scored. The arrested seamen were released and the City administration was compelled to pay their expenses to Norfolk, Virginia to which port their ship had since sailed. Yet out of this splendid action no organizational gains for the I.L.D. can be recorded.

At the present time, the unemployed movement in Bridgeport is attaining mass scope. Early in March a demonstration of 2,000 city workers hired to shovel snow, and organized into an independent protective association, staged a militant demonstration before City Hall to demand immediate payment of wages. The City Hall was locked and surrounded by armed police. The demonstration gained in militancy and eventually forced the Socialist Mayor, McLevy, to make an appearance. He attempted to address the assembled workers but when they heckled him with their demands he gave orders to the police to break up the demonstration. Several workers were badly beaten, and several were arrested—Sam Krieger, Charles Sparrow and John Campolucci. The evening of that same day another demonstration almost as great was again held in front of City Hall with another attack by the police acting under the direct orders of the Socialist Mayor. The I.L.D., particularly the Tom Mooney Branch got on the job and when 6 workers who were arrested for distributing leaflets were brought to trial the judge was forced to admit that they had violated no ordinance. When the other 3 workers arrested as a result of the demonstration were brought to trial, the courtroom was jammed. Witnesses were not allowed to enter the courtroom. Because of hostile attitude of the guards, judge, etc., the three workers asked for a postponement until adequate defense could be supplied by the I.L.D. It was granted. Mayor MacLevy will be subpoenaed as a witness and he will have plenty of explaining to do to show how a Socialist mayor uses police clubs against unpaid unemployed workers who demonstrate to demand their rights.



# Three Years of the Scottsboro Case--Some Highlights

by Joseph R. Brodsky

*Mrs. Roosevelt visits Porto Rico, colony of Yankee Imperialism and calls on the natives. Sometimes the ruling class uses hypocrisy to enforce misery like this.*

My first memory of the Scottsboro case is the time when I went down to Scottsboro to arrange for the hearing on a new trial. It was the first time anyone directly connected with the I.L.D. as an I.L.D. attorney had appeared in Scottsboro. A few days before some photographer had been there and a mob had advised him to get out. They asked him "if he was that son of a bitch Jew lawyer." This was of course a beautiful introduction for me.

After the motion was argued I was immediately surrounded in the courtroom itself, "Come on you son of a bitch, we're waiting for you outside." A newspaperman saved that situation by making a pretty speech to the crowd "That's what brings us into disrepute" and so on. He took me through the back door. A crowd was waiting on the steps of the court house and when they spotted me they came towards me. Before they could say Jack Robnson we were in a car and off. That was my first introduction to a Southern Court.

My first visit to the boys had preceded that. Before I was to appear in court we wanted reassurance that the I.L.D. was handling the case and not the NAACP. To make sure, on my trip down I stopped at Chattanooga at the office of Chamlee (who was a friend of Claude Patterson, Haywood's father and had accepted the retainer from the I.L.D. to stay on the case) and saw the parents of the boys. They all said they wanted the I.L.D. to handle the case so we arranged to bring the parents to Kilby Prison. The arrangement was made, with great difficulty, with Judge Horton, to have them see their boys.

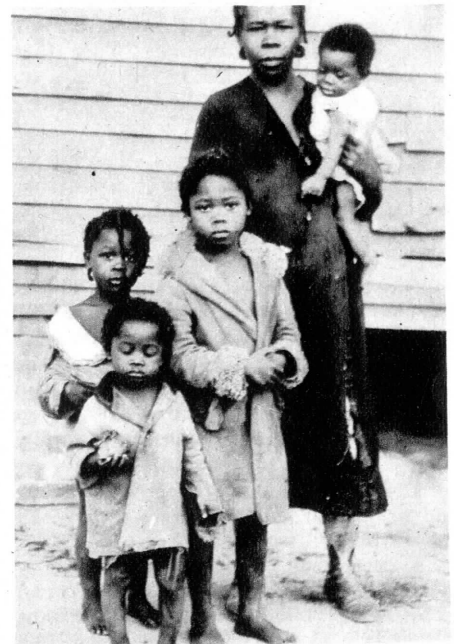
I went in first to see the boys and talk with them. When I told them they were going to see their parents, that their parents were there, they were sceptical. They had had many previous promises, but since their arrest had not only not seen their parents, or any of their friends or relatives, had seen no newspapers, had had no idea of what a furor and fight was going on in their behalf.

When I walked into the jail I was searched. I don't know what they expected me to do, especially after I got into the Death Cell. The impression is still very vivid. I walked through a long corridor. Half way down are stairs at the head of which is a solid steel door. It slammed behind me. The sound was not encouraging. The cell block is about 40 feet long and 30 wide with cells on both sides. The boys were two in a cell on each side. The bars are covered with a heavy steel mesh through which it is very hard to see, and as soon as we entered and started walking, they lay down on their backs on the floor—the mesh did not reach the bottom—to get a glimpse of who was coming in.

I had never seen them before and their youth, especially 14 year old Roy Wright, impressed me. Although I'm pretty hardboiled, the situation affected me and I started to talk to those boys. They had been sentenced April 9th and this was May. The only encouragement had been to see a few of the prisoners led to the electric chair which was almost within their view. I told them about the I.L.D. and told them to keep up their courage because outside the workers, black and white were carrying on the fight for their freedom. That if they stick with us the united struggle of all workers would win them their freedom. At this point the warden interjected, "Stop! You can't come in here and stir up these Niggers!" But the boys got the point. When the parents came in they rushed to the bars and tried by all means to greet their children, kissing them through the bars, through the steel mesh. The deputy warden snapped off, "Stand back." It was heartbreaking to see them there, trying to kiss each other through the cold steel.

At the hearing we raised the questions of inclusion of Negroes on the jury, and the question of change of venue. In spite of the argument and proof that the counsel had been browbeaten and cowed, that the jury was prejudiced, the motion was denied.

Next was the Supreme Court of Alabama where we went to argue the appeal. The Chief Judge, Anderson, opened the proceedings by waving a telegram in my face: "This court has been flooded with telegrams and protests. This is an outrageous attempt to browbeat the court." Attorney Thomas E. Knight appeared on the scene for the first time to argue against the motion and used the same argument as the Chief Judge. The courtroom was jammed. The protests had their effect. A Negro reporter fought to get in—and he won. The courtroom



*Negro share croppers family. The Southern ruling class uses lynch terror to enforce misery like this.*

was on a level with the street. Outside the Negroes of the city had collected. As you argued you could see their faces plastered against the windows all around. And I argued the case in a loud voice, loud enough to be heard outside.

The Judge sitting at the end of the bench interested me very much. Every time Attorney Knight spoke, he listened carefully, smiled, nodded his head. I asked the clerk who he was and the clerk said "Thomas E. Knight, Sr." I said "No, I mean the judge on the bench, not the Attorney." He said "That's right, he is Thomas E. Knight, Sr., father of Thomas E. Knight, Jr." That was a pretty picture. The Attorney General argues a case before his

father, Judge in the Supreme Court, who smiles indulgently at his sonny boy, and thinks his son is o.k. The appeal was denied.

The U. S. Supreme Court—for the first time in the history of that highest of high courts, that sancto sanctorum of Justice, which opens promptly at 12, where the court attendants are not dressed in uniforms but in afternoon formal clothes, cut-aways, striped grey pants—in the first time in the history of this Court of Courts, workers came and demonstrated. Ah! It was a shock. Impossible. Standing on the steps of the Capitol—Wm. L. Patterson of the I.L.D., Mother Mooney, whose son was also a victim of capitalist “justice,” Chamlee, the Democratic Baptist, and myself, and hundreds of workers demonstrating.

The argument was made by Walter H. Pollack, constitutional lawyer. It

was a brilliant presentation. There was an obvious attempt on the part of the court to make it an ordinary case. We were preceded by some sort of bootleg case. After the argument, the court sat silently, asked no questions, then called “Next Case.” There was a rustle in the courtroom, his Honor, Judge Hughes showed signs of confusion and turned a bit pink. And for the first time in history the court clerk wrapped lightly on the desk for order in the courtroom. The decision was reversed.

The motion for change of venue was then brought before Judge Hawkins in Alabama. He said he would be fair. We wanted to have the trial in Birmingham, but he sent us to Morgan County, the next door neighbor of Scottsboro.

When we came back for retrial, we met Callahan. The Southerners didn't want Horton, so they gave us Callahan. He's a beaut. I never met his equal.

Well, after the guilty verdict, Callahan thought he'd play a nice trick. He said we had 30 days for appeal, but the court had expired and of course we didn't have that time. But we had 12 lawyers and 3 printing plants working day and night and we got that appeal ready in time!

So once more we'll go before the Alabama Supreme Court and have the pleasure of meeting Thomas E. Knight, Sr. who will listen to the arguments of his son, Jr. And after that the U. S. Supreme Court again. There has not yet been a decision on the question of Negroes on the Jury.

We must remember that although the I.L.D. has kept those boys alive for 3 years, that they're still in jail, still in danger. There is a great danger of the people forgetting this, of forgetting that they are still in jail oppressed and terrorized. The protests must go on.

## Labor Defense--Renegade Style

by Wm. L. Patterson

The I.L.D. was born and has grown in strength and influence in the heat of the American class struggle. It has followed the course of struggle on every front. It was in Gastonia with the textile workers, supporting their bloody fights; it was in the forefront of supporters of the struggle of the textile workers in New England. The I.L.D. was in the fight with the Kentucky miners; it was the bulwark of strength for the agricultural workers in California. The struggles of the coal miners of New Mexico, Utah, East Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Illinois were reinforced by its presence.

The I.L.D. has been a rock of fortitude to the share-croppers of Alabama. Every Negro worker and toiling slave on the land breathes freer because of the activities of the I.L.D. The 13th, 14th and 15th amendments may yet live, because of Scottsboro and the relentless struggle of the I.L.D. The Southern landlord lynchers have learned to curse its name, and to dread the presence of its organizations. The I.L.D. has been with the farmers battling in the middle west. Its name has become a symbol of struggle, even for

hundreds of thousands who have not yet found the way to its ranks.

The Boriches, Berkman, Pauls, and Emil Gardos' and hundreds of other foreign born workers, link up the name of the I.L.D. with the fight against deportation, chauvinistic terror, and for the right of political asylum.

The I.L.D. has grown strong and will continue to grow strong in the struggle, supporting those who fight against the vicious program of the NRA and the codes; the criminal syndicalist laws which are now existing in more than 26 states; the struggle for the recognition of the political status of class war prisoners. The honest elements among intellectuals and the middle class will accept its leadership in the fight for complete democracy, and the enforcement of the constitutional rights of the American working class and the toiling Negro masses.

Around the defense of the German and Austrian victims of Fascism, and the magnificent fight for the lives of Dimitroff, Taneff, Popoff and Torgler, the International Labor Defense has given to the American working

class a new understanding of the term—international working class solidarity. Its determined defense of the three Mexican boys in Brighton, Colo., adds a new page in the history of the struggle for the rights of national minorities.

This is a part of its record that the I.L.D. throws back into the face of its maligners and slanderers. This is only a part of its record that the I.L.D. places beside the destructive program, the founders of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense are seeking to institute on every front of the class struggle. These befrienders of political prisoners tell us that the American Civil Liberties Union is ineffective because it refuses to “recognize the realities of the class struggle,” and that the N.A.A.C.P.; the American Jewish Congress, suffer from the same weaknesses. With what splendid Marxian analysis do these befrienders of the working class confront us. It is solely because the American Civil Liberties Union; the leadership of the N.A.A.C.P.; the leadership of the American Jewish Congress recognize, with the utmost clarity “the realities of the class struggle” that they seek to penetrate the ranks of



Dimitroff and his comrades in Moscow. The International Red Aid, of which the I.L.D. is the American section, was able to accomplish this great victory against fascism. International mass protest is one of the mightiest weapons in the hands of the class.



the working class, and turn their attention away from the consistent class struggle program, under the leadership of the vanguard of the liberation movement of the working class. Gentlemen, the leadership of these organizations understands, "the realities of the class struggle" no less than you. But they are more clever. Pray why do these friends of the workers seek to alienate them, by lumping rank and file and leadership of the N.A.A.C.P. and the American Jewish Congress together? Hundreds of followers of the corrupt leadership of both of these organizations are sincere fighters of the workingclass, confused by the illusions the leadership has created.

The I.L.D. with its slogan of class against class on the field of defense, is linked indissolubly to every class struggle organization. The class struggle organizations are strengthened by its prestige. The reformist leaders of trade unions, and so-called defense organizations find their position undermined and weakened by its existence. Its position on the battle front of the working class, is a key position. Its front of struggle is never a quiet one. The speed with which advances are being made on every front, is in part determined by the coordination of the program of the I.L.D. with the program of the fighters of these sectors. The sectors are under the command of the general staff of the working class—the general staff is the Communist Party.

The Communist Party is the party of the working class opposing organized and armed capital. It is the proletarian vanguard. It unites the toiling masses in the mass organizations. Will our friends of the "fighting

phrases" deny there must be unity in the proletarian struggle?

You gentlemen tell us yours is the defense organization of the working class. Pray tell us whose political philosophy you will follow? In the class struggle there is a rigid division of labor. The tasks of the Communist Party is to guide the mass organizations of the working class toward a single end, that of the liberation of the proletariat. This is the task the Communists in the International Labor Defense seek to achieve not arbitrarily or mechanically, but through persuasion and the correctness of their position in the struggle of class against class. Toward what end will you gentlemen guide your organization?

The court house is a fighting front in the class struggle. The I.L.D. demands a consistent revolutionary struggle be carried on there. It demands that this struggle be coordinated in every particular, with the tremendous class struggle developed in the streets. Both phases of struggle are of a definite political character. Whose politics does the I.L.D. follow in the development of these struggles? It can follow only a line of struggle of the political party of the working class. For it there can be not other line.

The I.L.D., small as its forces are numerically, is yet a political defense organization, protecting the interests of the masses. Its ideological roots go deep into the American working class.

Your attempt to split the ranks of the working class defense organization is no surprise. Your warnings and betrayals are not accidental. They inevitably flow from your class position.

Gentlemen—you run like mad hounds

of the ruling class from one organization of the working class to another, seeking some link through which to penetrate. You will find no place through which to push successfully your demagoguery and your slanderous lies. Go back to the kennels of your bosses, from which, you never should have emerged. Your crudities destroy all of your potency. Your bosses have allotted you tasks beyond your poor powers to perform.

In you, the rulers of America have chosen poorly. Confused parlor radicals, seldom prove leaders of the class struggle. Universities spew them out by the thousands. Your "gallant and learned" Sydney Hook, Marxian par excellence, graduate strategist of the cloistered halls of ruling class universities, because he has not yet learned the theory of the class struggle; has not yet learned that "theory out of touch with the revolutionary practice, is like a mill that runs without any grist."

Other renegades associated with you from the ranks of the Lovestoneites and Cannonites show that consistency in unprincipledness has been their most treasured virtue. Your vicious renegade leadership will be smashed under the iron heel of the American working class. Your organization died aborning.

The I.L.D. stands for everything that is vital and honest on the defense field. The I.L.D. is linked up unseparably in the support of every honest organization of the working class on every front of defense struggle.

Gentlemen—you are presumptuous. Little men should be mindful of their stature. Hew to your last, remember the gnat could not swallow the camel.

## AN I.L.D. BRANCH WRITES TO DIMITROFF

It was with the greatest satisfaction and immense joy that we, of the "George Dimitroff" branch of the International Labor Defense, learned of your release, together with Comrades Taneff and Popoff, from the "Nazi" jails of Germany. And how happy we were to hear of your safe arrival in Soviet Russia, the fatherland of the workingclass, the pride and joy of the class-conscious workers of the world. The importance of this great achievement of your liberation from "Hitler's" Germany, of perpetuating this immense task to its successful accomplishment, has already been fully realized by the world in general. . . The magnitude of this spectacle of working-class solidarity shall reap a rich harvest in proletarian ranks. The mass protest and mass demonstrations instituted by the International Labor Defense all over the world, and the courage and perseverance of the United Front that was formed demanding the unconditional release of your comrades and yourself will stand as a lesson of workingclass Unity not to be dismissed from our program of militancy.

And you, George Dimitroff, stand as a colossal emblem before the proletariat of the world. Your name carries with it an especial significance. Your display of supreme sacrifice, of fortitude and bravery, and your strength of mind and your courage to manifest your convictions despite all the odds against you, has endeared you in the hearts of the toilers throughout the universe. The speeches you dared to make in the Fascist courts, under such extenuating circumstances, have set an example to your comrades in all countries that will long be remembered.

Over your name great battles for workers freedom will be fought. And the task of freeing Comrades Torgler, Thaelmann, and all other political prisoner comrades will be continued with even more energy and greater sacrifices.

In consideration of your heroic deeds, our branch of the International Labor Defense has been named "George Dimitroff" in your honor, and we ask you to accept an honorary membership. Also should you have occasion

to visit the United States of America, we ask you to pay us a visit.

We will greatly appreciate an early reply from you as we feel that a letter in your own hand over your signature will be a valuable document to us. May we ask, if possible, that you enclose a small photograph of yourself.

Comradely yours,  
George Dimitroff branch of  
International Labor Defense,  
New York, N. Y., U. S. A.

### LABOR DEFENDER READERS I.L.D. MEMBERS

Fill out this blank and send it to us. It will help our work. Do you work in a factory..... What kind.....  
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What articles or features in the Labor Defender do you like best? .....

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# On The I. R. A. Front

*(The I.L.D. is the American section of the International Red Aid. Altogether there are 70 sections in every part of the world. It was under the banner of our parent organization that Dimitroff was freed, that the Scottsboro campaign became international.)*

## CANADA

Congratulations, Canadian Labor Defense League, on your great victory in forcing the acquittal of your national secretary A. E. Smith. Neither Section 98 nor frame up sedition charges will be able to smash your mighty mass organization. We of the American I.L.D. are glad that we were able to help your fight and demonstrate our international solidarity by forcing your immigration officials to admit Leo Gallagher to participate in the defense of Smith. Long life to the C.L.D.L.

## CUBA

We greet the Congress of the Defense Obrera Internacional (Cuban I.L.D.) which will take place in Havana early in May. Despite the bloody terror of the strike breaking Mendieta government which is carrying out Wall Street's dictates more efficiently than Machado or San Martin, and despite the fact that their organization has been driven underground, our Cuban comrades are continuing the defense fight of the Cuban masses. We hail their heroic congress and pledge the international solidarity of the American I.L.D.

## SOVIET UNION

Greetings from American class war prisoners reached the Soviet Union in time to be read at the historic Fourth Congress of the MOPR (Soviet I.L.D.) which opened on Paris Comune Day, March 18th. The 10,000,000 members of MOPR sent their delegates to lay plans for more intensified work in building international solidarity with the victims of White Terror in all corners of the globe.

## LUTZK, POLAND

Fifty seven Ukrainian workers' and peasants' leaders, members of an oppressed nationality within fascist Poland are awaiting sentence from the Polish Court at Lutzk. Many more were arrested in 1933 but were tortured to death in prison. Their crime? Attempting to set up a workers' and peasants' government in their own right as Ukrainians. The 57 survivors carried through a heroic defense in court. They refused to accept indictments written in Polish and refused to speak any but the Ukrainian language in the courtroom. When they repudiated "confessions" obtained under torture, the prisoners and their lawyers were beaten by police right in the courtroom and were returned to solitary confinement for 7 days.

Delegations organized by the I.L.D., Ukrainian Toilers, Polish workers organizations have called on the Polish consulate in New York City and forced him to listen to their protest. A delegation was organized to visit the embassy in Washington. Many protest cables have gone to Lutzk. All workers organizations are urged to continue the protest to rescue these brave fighters for the right of self determination of a minor nationality from the clutches of Pilsudski's murderous government.



1. Cuban workers demonstrate against Mendieta imperialist terror.
2. English workers marching against hunger.
3. Soviet farmers pledge 8 hectares of their collective farm to MOPR. All proceeds go to the victims of white terror in capitalist countries.

# More Lessons from Austria

"On every hand bitterness grew among the workers at the way Dollfuss lorded it over Austria. The bitterness of the workers grew constantly stronger against the too patient policy of the leaders of the Social Democratic Party."—Otto Bauer.



"We have not let ourselves be slaughtered defenselessly by these bloodhounds. . . . Tell the comrades, young and old workers how the Austrian proletariat died the death of heroes. I am not afraid of these bloodhounds' court martial. If it must be I'll die sincerely and proudly." From an Austrian worker's letter. It speaks for all these men.



"The representatives of the party leadership sought to pacify the indignant workers, and sought to hold them back from the beginning of the struggle."—Otto Bauer. (This picture is a silent witness to the result of such betrayal).



These children are waiting for their parents. Some will never return from the barricades or from Dollfuss concentration camps. Buy I.L.D. Austrian defense stamps. Help these little victims of fascist terror.

"But the anger of the masses had already reached such a high pitch that the warnings of the party leadership did not help any more."—Otto Bauer. (These 2 dead Heimwehr soldiers prove this anger.)



# BUILDING THE I. L. D. IN BOSTON

by *Donald Burke*

(District Sec'y I.L.D.)

The time to throw our energy into the fight against fascism is right now. The American workingclass must learn that lesson from the Austrian and German workingclass, must rouse themselves, smash every effort to take away their rights, expose the role of the Socialist leaders and Liberals, who pave the road for fascism.

In Eastern New England District we have had several experiences which show that our district, as well as every other district, must be conscious of this danger, bring it to the organized and unorganized workers, point out the real meaning of fascism, expose the murderous Hitler, Dollfuss, Mussolini, and other fascist agents of world-imperialism.

We must show the workers, patiently, concretely how fascism was helped, nourished, protected and born out of the treacherous policies of those who pose as the leaders of the workingclass, the social-fascists. This becomes a special task for the I. L. D. districts, for we go before the workers as the American section of the International Red Aid, the workers revolutionary world wide defense organization, fighting everywhere against capitalist terror.

The I.L.D. has prestige. It has fought militantly and well against the jailing and torture of strikers, unemployed, foreign-born, and the Negro people. We have won many of these fights, and while the workers may know of some of these victories, there must be more popularization of our victories. The methods of struggle, self defense, exposure of the police and



*Boston police arresting an anti-fascist fighter. The I.L.D. forced her release.*

courts, protests, meetings, demonstrations, stoppages and strikes—these methods of defense must be taught to the workers. This must not be the property of I.L.D. functionaries, limited in number and contact with the masses, but brought into the mass organizations and into the factories, among the unemployed, and the Negro masses.

In our district we have a large number of independent unions. The workers in these unions are ready to listen to us, they have tasted capitalist terror. Our job is to show them what has happened in Germany, how fascism has smashed the unions, outlawed strikes, slashed wages, brutally murdered thousands of militant workers and workingclass leaders. At the same time we must expose the day by day process of the development of fascism thru injunctions, compulsory arbitration, the interference of the NRA Labor Boards, the statements of Johnson, and of Roosevelt, and the actual terror against workers under the NRA.

We of the I.L.D. must not fail at the

same time to make clear to the workers in these unions, the role of the social-fascist elements in their own ranks, and especially their leaders, in blinding them to the growth of fascism. We must expose such fakers as Walsh and Boyle who sold out the Norwood strike, and have prevented militant protest of the Ford Hull Forum with the support of the American Civil Liberties Union, under the slogan of "free speech", invited a Nazi agent to speak under their auspices. Five thousand Boston workers answered by demonstrating in front of the hall. Five were arrested, sentenced by Judge Carr to serve three months in jail. The I. L. D. answered by the Public Trial of Fascism and its Agents in Boston. We indicted the liberals, the police, the court and the fascists, showing step by step the role the liberals and the agents of "Democracy" were playing. The result—case nolle pressed on appeal! The exposure, plus preparations for self-defense and carrying the struggle against fascism into the court, forced their release.

Other victories in self and mass defense, such as the release of the 12 workers arrested picketing against job discrimination, must be used to make it a mass organization, by building branches of individual members, and at the same time draw in as affiliates, large numbers of trade unions and other workers organizations.

Join and build the I.L.D.



*Here's an example of I.L.D. strike activity that should be followed by every district, section and branch. Only mass action like this will prove the correctness of the I.L.D. mass defense policy to workers. Only in this way will we be able to build the I.L.D. in shops, mines and mills.*

**Send Your May Day  
Greetings to the  
Labor Defender**

# Lynch Law in Oregon

by Dawn Lovelace

The I.L.D. won its first concrete victory in the defense of Theodore Jordan, 28 year old Negro worker condemned by the Klamath County Circuit Court to hang; convicted on framed-up testimony and confessions obtained by third-degree torture; and made the victim of discrimination, race prejudice and brutality equal to anything the South can produce. The Oregon Supreme Court, while the militant protests of the workers grew in volume and strength, granted the petition for a re-hearing.

Oregon is far away from the lynch mobs in Alabama and Maryland. But terror rides the saddle, beating down the unity of black and white workers here as there. A few years ago, the K.K.K. was strongly organized here, and is now supplanted by the Silver Shirts. The American Legion is organized into a state-wide, determined vigilantes committee. Portland has a police chief who was schooled as a regular army colonel and as warden of the penitentiary, and who is turning loose a reign of terror against unemployed workers unprecedented in this city.

The I.L.D. has been waging a fight to save Jordan for more than a year. On June 3, 1932, F. T. Sullivan, white Southern Pacific dining car steward, was found beaten over the head at Klamath Falls. He died the following October 15. On June 4, Jordan among several other Negro workers, was arrested. All were released except Jordan, who was held, tortured, questioned and forced to sign seven different confessions—all of them conflicting. One of his major tormenters was Harry Chandler, Southern Pacific "Dick" who had threatened to "get" Jordan, and had caused his arrest and conviction in two previous instances. Even the Supreme Court, in up-holding the lynch-decision, commented on this fact: "The circumstances in the present case are peculiar in that the same officers that obtained the confessions in the present case were responsible for previous convictions, and the defendant claims there had been a continued persecution of him by Chandler."

During the trial, the widow of the murdered man was present in the court-room, with her little girl playing before the jury, and being fondled by jurors during recess. Also throughout the trial, Radio station KFJI in Klamath Falls was making "round by round" broadcasts of the trial, assisting the newspapers in arousing a lynch spirit among the people. By the time the jury was ready to consider the case, a mob of about a thousand hysterical citizens had gathered outside the court-house, determined to lynch Jordan if the death sentence was not granted.

Jordan was sentenced to hang—the first death sentence in Klamath Falls in more than two decades, where more than 20 murder cases have been tried! Every bit of evidence used to convict Jordan was circumstantial, except the "confession" which was tortured from him, until, as he stated: "I would have signed seventeen confessions to avoid any more torture." He was kicked in the groin so that he is injured for life. A "lie-detector" was strapped to his wrist—a crude electric contrivance with exposed wires which seared his



*Not Nazi storm troopers. American police slugging a worker. The I.L.D. fights against police brutality.*

wrist, leaving permanent scars. Threats were made at the point of a gun. That is how Negroes are lynched in Oregon!

At first the N.A.A.C.P. made a gesture of appealing Jordan's case, publicly announcing however that it was a concession and a big kindness on their part. Weeks passed, and no steps were taken toward an appeal. Jordan became alarmed and called for the I.L.D., which with Goodman, militant legal battler for the workers, handling the legal end of it, stepped in just in time to save Jordan's appeal rights. The N.A.A.C.P. leadership then began a campaign of attack and slander against Jordan and the I.L.D. obstructing his campaign at every turn.

On November 9, last, the Oregon Supreme Court sustained by a vote of five to two the lynch verdict and sentence of the lower court. Even in writing the affirming decision, Judge J. Bean says: "We do not commend the procedure in the present case, but fail to see how the rights of the defendant were prejudiced." In other words—it was not a fair trial, but what of it?

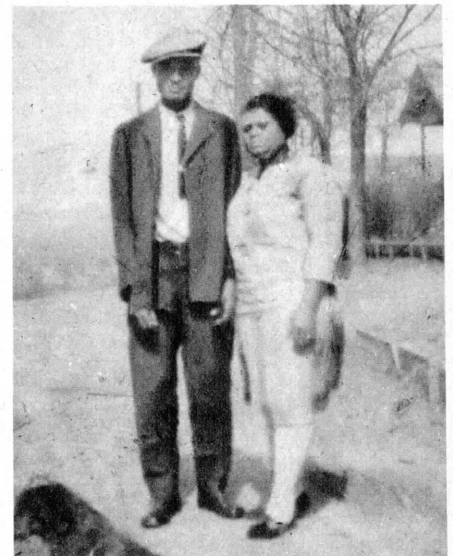
Recently Jordan told a man who visited him: "It is clear to me now just how large and important the struggle in the defense of every individual Negro in my position, or in the position of the Scottsboro Boys is! I didn't realize at first why Chandler and Gillenwaters and the other officials of the 'law' hated me so. I couldn't understand why they wanted to harm me. But I see now. It is all a part of the same vicious campaign that put Tom Mooney behind the bars and that is torturing Negro workers to death in the South, and is causing men like Rolph of California to come out in the open with their brutal fascist assertions. I know that as an individual I am not important—what happens to me as Theodore Jordan is happening to thousands of workers, Negro and white, Jewish and gentile, and will happen to millions if we don't all rally around every case."

The I.L.D. and the Jordan Defense Committee, composed of workers and sympathizers determined to smash the fascist lynch terror against the Negroes, appeals to workers everywhere to intensify their protests against further persecution of Theodore Jordan.

## Betrayed by the N.A.A.C.P.

Emanuel Biddings is a Negro sharecropper of Roxboro, N. C. Last year he worked on shares on the tobacco farm of T. M. Clayton. All summer Biddings worked planting, hoeing and tending crop. Clayton was typical of the Southern white landlord. No tenant ever stayed on his farm more than one season. If the tenant came with clothes on his back, and a chair and a bed and an extra pair of overalls, he moved off with the clothes on his back one season more ragged and with nothing else left.

(Continued on Page 23)



*Willie Peterson and his wife. One of the victims of NAACP betrayal. The I.L.D. is now carrying on the fight to save him from lynch law.*

# We Welcome Mrs. Wright

by Sam Stein

"We welcome Mother Wright. We welcome Mother Wright." thundered 1,000 Negro and white workers who greeted Ada Wright, mother of Roy and Andy, two of the Scottsboro Boys as she stepped off the 125th Street station of the New York Central Railroad.

Lifting Mother Wright to their shoulders the workers paraded through Harlem's streets shouting, "The Scottsboro Boys Must Be Freed." They were greeted by workers from the tenements who waved to them in solidarity. Time and again radio police cars, sirens screeching, sped into the paraders in an attempt to break up the militant parade. The ranks remained solid to the dismay of the police who were lustily booed by the bystanders, Negro and white. A speakers stand was set up on 125th and Lenox Avenue in front of the I.L.D. Harlem Section office. While Griffin, Negro leader of Brownsville was speaking, 3 automobiles packed with detectives, and 3 radio police cars swooped down on the demonstration. Oscar Ames, detective, approached Sam Stein, I.L.D. organizer, and demanded a permit for the mass meeting.

"You know as well as I do that no permit is necessary for an open air meeting in New York. We have a perfect right to be here and we propose to stay right where we are", said Stein. As Griffin left the platform, Stein got up and called on the workers to maintain iron proletarian discipline, not to be provoked by stool pigeons planted in the crowd by the police and to crowd close to the platform to protect Mother Wright and the other speakers.

Angered at their failure to provoke



Mother Wright leading the cheering at the Harlem Scottsboro demonstration that was viciously attacked by New York police.

the workers into some rash action the police drove two huge cars right on the sidewalk through the demonstrators. Answering Stein's call again not to be provoked, the workers maintained discipline. This was too much for the police. They sent for re-enforcements. Four emergency squads, 10 radio cars, 18 motorcycles and 6 automobiles packed with dicks, in addition to reserves rushed from 4 police stations to the meeting. They made ready to break up the demonstration.

Mother Wright stepped on the platform at this time and called upon those present to raise their clenched fists and together roar, "The Scottsboro Boys must be freed! The Scottsboro Boys must be freed!" The sea of uplifted fists filled the air. A thousand determined shouts stopped the advance of the cops. Mother Wright spoke and told of her visit to the Scottsboro Boys in jail and called on all the workers to carry on the struggle for the complete release of the boys. She received a thunderous ovation as she stepped off the platform.

As Nat Bruce, assistant secretary of

the N. Y. District of the I.L.D. rose to speak, Oscar Ames the detective, again questioned Stein about the permit. He repeated the meeting was orderly and no permit was necessary according to the laws of New York, and that the meeting would go on as it had a right to.

Suddenly the police hurled gas bombs towards the platform where Mrs. Wright was standing, automobiles with detectives drove right into the crowd with terrific speed, clubs cracked down on the heads of the unarmed workers, women and children were knocked over. Louise Lawrence Young, a young Negro girl, had two teeth knocked out. The workers stubbornly fought back. Policemen fell. 5,000 workers gathered and for two hours fought back the fascist attack of the police. From the tenements the workers hurled flower pots (without the flowers) down upon the police as well as other handy objects of solid a nature.

Sam Stein, white worker, Wm. Mayers, Benny Stomps, Hugh Workman, Negro workers, were arrested. So crowded was the courtroom when their trial came up that the judge postponed the trial twice to discourage the workers from jamming the courtroom. However a sharp eye is being kept on the date of the coming trial and a tremendous demonstration led by the I.L.D. is being planned before the court.

A delegation representing 100,000 workers, headed by Mother Wright, visited Mayor LaGuardia and demanded the instant dismissal and arrest of all police concerned with this outrageous attack.

"Chief Inspector Valentine is heading a police department investigation in the matter," said LaGuardia.

"Why not have Al Capone and the gangster Dillinger investigate themselves," the delegation answered. "This is ridiculous. We demand that a workers' investigation committee look into the matter."

LaGuardia was forced to consent to the placing of an I.L.D. attorney on the investigating committee. No police were present at the Scottsboro demonstration held the next Saturday.



Harlem Booth at the New York I.L.D. Bazaar.

# Loyalty to the Working Class

by Emil Gardos

"You need not mention these things"—said the judge with a tired gesture to the defendant on the witness-stand, who attempted to quote from the Declaration of Independence, the writings of Jefferson and Paine. The Court, in the case of "U. S. vs. Emil Gardos," was not a bit interested in the revolutionary traditions of the bourgeoisie.

A routine trial on technicalities, a trial of "yes and no's," was wanted without any inconvenient references to the Bill of Rights, the inherent right of revolution and the like.

Nevertheless, the trial on March 4th in the Federal District Court of Milwaukee, Wis. turned into a clash between the two classes. On the one side the Communist Party in the person of Emil Gardos and a cool dignified look-

ing former corporation lawyer on the other. The trump-witnesses of the prosecution—a police captain, who arrested the defendant 7 years ago at a mass-meeting of the "Russian Young Workers Society," the record of an alleged testimony of the defendant to an immigration official, which quotes him as stating, that he has "no greater loyalty, than the loyalty towards the working class"—proved that the Communist Party was on trial.

The prosecution, led on by the judge, came armed with quotations from the Program of the Communist International and the Communist Manifesto, whose flaming words about the "specter of Communism" haunting the entire world struck terror to the very heart of these soldiers of King Profit. Their questions on the abolition of private property, on the use of force and violence, etc. were promptly and most embarrassingly answered, on the basis of the strike-struggles then taking place in Milwaukee. But this was not the issue before the Court. This revolutionary worker had "mental reservations" when swearing allegiance to the basic principles of the American Constitution as interpreted by the J. P. Morgans, Sam Insulls, Ralph Easlys—and their mouthpieces on the bench,—hence his certificate of citizenship had to be annulled.

The verdict was easy to anticipate.

It was the expression of the fear of the ruling class to the great class-battles, wave of strikes and farmers revolts haunting the court room like so many specters of Communism. The famous principles of constitutions, the right of asylum for the oppressed of the famous Democratic platform of 1840 were all forgotten. The Court did not remember the hearty welcome given by Uncle Sam for scores of years to the workers coming from abroad to supply the needs of growing capitalism for brawn and brains—it only saw the 16 millions of unemployed, the growing wave of class-struggle on the eve of wars and revolutions, that the ruling class was trying to stop with means of "democracy" or fascism.

The old imperialist slogan of "divide and rule" is in fuller sway than ever. Divide the working class into Negroes and whites, natives and foreign born, better to rule over them all. Enslave the weakest sections first—the Negroes and foreign born—to make better slaves out of the entire working class.

Welcome to the home of the brave and land of the free, when you foreign born workers are needed,—go back where you came from, when bankrupt capitalism cannot dispose of its surplus, when millions starve. The Dies, Craill and other bills, the ravings of the National Civic Federation of the Wolls, Easleys and Fish, the case of Wm. Zazuliak, Jack Schneider, Emil Gardos, the plans of the Ohio Government to deport 10,000 "alien public charges!"—clearly show what is in store for the foreign born.

To be sure, not against all of them. The right of political asylum still remains in full force,—for butcher Machado, for the Russian white guards. While unemployed German workers are being deported, the nazi agents are swarming into the country by the hundreds with the support of the capitalists and their government, including the benevolent smoke-screen of the Dickstein Committee of the US Congress.

The defeat of the attacks against the foreign born workers is part of the life and death struggle against fascism of the entire working class of this country. The Dies bill, the proposed registration and finger printing of foreign born workers, the sword of de-

portation hanging over their head, is just the first step, which will be followed soon, unless the united front of toiling masses will put a stop to it,—by the general regimentation of workers, labor armies, concentration camps of Hitler and Dollfuss. Persecution and deportation of the aliens, doesn't this remind you gentle upholders of human rights (as long as it does not hurt your pocket-book) of the persecution and expulsion of the also undesirable Jews from Germany?

There can be no two ways about it! The general legislative drive against the foreign born, the attacks upon non-citizens and citizens are additional proofs of the growing fascization of the government. The defeat of these attacks means a blow against the danger of fascism.

The ruling class, unable to solve its crisis through "peaceful" means is rush-



*Deportation Drive Grows. Foreign born workers being "sent back where they came from." Native and foreign born workers, unite against Perkins deportation program. Demand the right of asylum for the foreign born.*

ing headlong towards violence without any danger of the U. S. Supreme Court declaring these measures unconstitutional. Without dropping our fight in the court-rooms, in the Congress Committees, utilizing their own constitutions and own laws to expose these attacks, we know that the real decision will be rendered outside the courtrooms or Congress.

Mass pressure, the establishment of a broadest united front on the issue of the protection of the foreign born, involving workers, farmers, professionals, of all political opinion,—will not only prevent the passage of the Dies bill, stop the deportation of the workers and restore the citizenship of Gardos, but will be a strong weapon in the hands of the toiling masses to defeat the growing fascist attacks against their right to live and organize, and will help considerably in the fight for the "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" which can only be won through mass-struggle.

# BUILD THE I. L. D.

*The International Labor Defense Embarks on Three Month Plan of Work to Overcome Its Major Shortcomings.*

By LAWRENCE EMERY

The taxi workers on strike. Railroad workers threaten to strike. Steel strikes. Mine strikes. Agricultural workers go on strike. Unemployed masses fight for bread. Veterans prepare for new struggles. Negro masses rebel against oppression. Farmers revolt.

Everywhere the masses are in motion, struggling, fighting, battling. The bitter reality of hunger and suffering is tearing away the veil of demagogy, lies and hypocrisy surrounding the New Deal. And wherever the veil is pierced, stark terror bursts through. Terror becomes the counterpart of demagogy; deception and fascist violence are the two sides of the NRA medal.

Tremendous class conflicts are shaping up in the United States, as well as in all other parts of the capitalist and colonial world. And every repressive force at the command of the ruling class will be turned against the masses.

These forces are being developed and perfected under the NRA and in the course of the struggles today. Already we can see the main lines of governmental policy gradually shaping into the grotesque form of the fascist swastika. Fascist bands with the avowed aim of "combatting communism" with violence are sprouting up all over the land. Company unions are created wherever possible. A. F. of L. bureaucrats have already donned the robes of the fascist priesthood. Socialist misleaders practice their deceptions by proclaiming the New Deal a new era for the workers. New legislation is fashioned against the working class. Every where there is a systematic drive to deprive the masses of their elementary rights and to smash their struggles with terror and violence.

All of which places tremendous burdens and tasks upon the International Labor Defense as the only working class defense organization.

To the I.L.D. falls the historic job of organizing and leading the masses in militant struggles for their rights, against capitalist terror, in defense of the victims of the class war, in support of the families and dependents of the class war prisoners and in solidarity actions with the victims of fascist terror in other countries.

But the I.L.D. is not keeping pace with the tasks imposed upon it by history. Already its organizational machinery is taxed to the utmost and it creaks under the load. It must be strengthened; it must develop and grow and embrace thousands upon thousands of conscious, militant fighters against increasing fascist terror. It must become capable of rallying the masses in defense of their rights, in defense of their fighting organizations, in defense of their victimized leaders.

The class struggle program of the I.L.D. is correct. Its policies and tactics are correct. This is proved by the innumerable achievements and victories to its credit.

Yet the I.L.D. has not grown in proportion to its achievements nor in relation to the extremely favorable possibilities for its development. The reasons for this have been the subject of long and exhaustive discussions and analyses. The means for overcoming the major obstacles to our growth have been worked out on the basis of collective experience on a national and international scale.

They are now being incorporated in a series of draft resolutions to be placed before the entire membership for discussion in preparation for the coming National Plenum to be held in Detroit from June, 1st. to 4th.

As part of these preparations a detailed plan of work covering a three month period has been worked out, to go into effect April 1st.

This program aims to overcome the planless and anarchic methods which at present mark a great deal of our work and is designed to introduce the strictest check-up and control into every phase of our activity. A series of control tasks are set forth which must make it possible to gauge and measure our progress, at the same time directing it into the proper channels.

This plan of work must be popularized throughout the entire organization, made the property of every member, with fixed responsibilities, and a revolutionary determination to lift the plan from paper and to carry it into practice within the three-month period.

The plan places as the major aim the overcoming of the tremendous fluctuation which keeps our membership at a constant low level, which hinders our work and prevents our growth. The fluctuation is the result of a number of weaknesses, and it is for the eradication of these that the plan must be carried into practice by every member.

First and foremost of the tasks set is the penetration of shops, mines and farms by the I.L.D., recruiting members mainly from native born employed workers by leading them in defense struggles against the attacks of the bosses. The plan calls for the recruitment of three thousand new members in three months; three thousand old members who have dropped out to be reactivated; fifty per cent of all branches in the concentration districts to be reorganized on the group system, with measurable progress in this to be recorded in all districts; a minimum of shop branches to be organized in every district; one thousand Labor Defender subs to be gotten, and the total circulation of the Labor Defender raised to forty thousand; the amount of funds raised for Prisoner's Relief must be doubled everywhere, and this activity made one of the major tasks of the entire I.L.D.; a systematic drive in every district for collective affiliation of trade unions to the I.L.D., the formation of I.L.D. initiative groups in the unions, individual recruitment of union members, and effective I.L.D. participation in strikes around defense issues.

Patronage and patronati work must be developed in every district, and the importance of this work made clear to the membership.

There must be a real campaign of mass literature distribution everywhere.

Serious attention must be given to children's work in all districts.

An energetic campaign of education, with the organization of district training schools, classes, study groups, etc.

By placing these and other tasks on the order of the day, the plan of work shows the path in which the I.L.D. must travel. It lists the steps we must take in order to begin marching to our goal—a mass defense organization, rooted in the basic sections of the American working class, leading revolutionary struggles against capitalist terror!

BUILD THE I. L. D.!



Order these stamps from the National Office. Sell them in your shop. Sell them to your friends.



# Red Front Fighters

by ANNA  
SCHULTZ

Eugene Schoenhaar, one of 12 children of a south German working class family, learned the meaning of poverty and the need at a very early age. His father was a member of the Social Democratic party and his mother worked for this party too. Even while she was pregnant she delivered Socialist newspapers to workers homes in a baby carriage which had the youngest baby in it.

In 1913 Eugene had to leave school and go to work in a machine factory. He had to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and work for 10 or 12 hours before a flaming furnace. The fifteen year old boy learned from his father that the imperialist war that was raging in Europe was a war for the profits of the few, and meant only less bread and lower wages for the workers.

One day in the end of April 1916, Eugene came to the author of this article who worked in the same factory and asked her to bring a small package with her to the factory the next morning and give it to him during lunch hour. In those days examinations were taking place in the factory. The men and boys were getting physical examinations and every effort was being made to find out who was speaking against the war, distributing leaflets against the war. They were always watching for new victims to send to the slaughter house of the war and particularly new fodder for the front line trenches.

Eugene did not say what was in the package. I did not know either, but I soon learned. When I came back after lunch I heard my fellow workers car-

rying on a very heated discussion, some for the war and some against and on each machine I saw a small sticker which had caused the debate. Eugene was working under the banner of Karl Liebknecht. For each sticker read: "War against war."

In the early part of the year 1917 the metal workers in Berlin came out in a mass strike against the war. Eugene helped the Social Democratic Party organize a solidarity meeting. None of the "old timers" dared to speak but the young Eugene jumped up on a wagon and held a fiery, passionate revolutionary speech against the imperialist war.

He was immediately arrested and taken to prison. A short time before the October revolution he was released and he immediately became one of the most active organizers. He became the leader of the Young Communist League of South Germany. From this time on Eugene turns up all over, wherever there is a strike wherever there is relief to be organized, wherever it is necessary to help with advice or with action. He is what Karl Liebknecht once said of the youth: "The flame of the revolution."

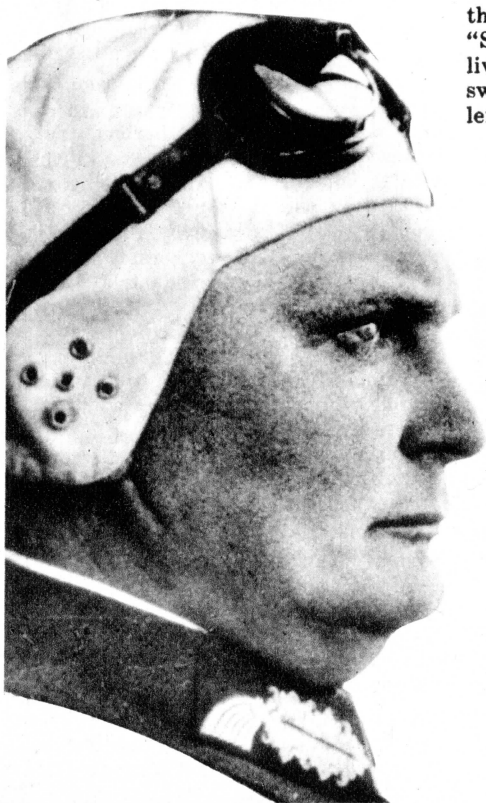
I shall always remember when those betrayers of the workingclass, the Social Democratic leaders and the counter revolutionary students they had organized came to our city in an armored train in January 1919 to crush and disarm the workers. Eugene Schoenharr and the small Spartacist group of young workers he had organized called a meeting in the woods on top of a high mountain and he spoke to us about the necessity of winning the women and the youth for the revolution. He called on us: "Swear that you are ready to risk your lives for our common cause." And we swore. Eugene was murdered by Hitler storm troops a few months ago.

Comrades. Hitler fascism is terrorizing and murdering thousands of our brothers. Workers all over the world, you must learn that the International Red Aid is a mighty weapon in your defense struggles, and we must all join in a united front against terror regardless of race, creed or party affiliations.

10,000 children who were robbed of their parents by Hitler terror are being supported by the Red Aid. Over one hundred thousand workers—the exact statistics of the Red Aid say 174,000 prisoners in Hitler's concentration camps where they can lose every hope of freedom are constantly reminded by notes, cigarettes, etc., that their Red Aid organization has not forgotten them and is working daily for their freedom.

And you, our American brothers and sisters. We must reach every corner of the globe wherever there is a person who has the cause of justice in his heart, to enlist him in the struggle to free Ernst Thaelmann one of the best and finest leaders of the German working class. We mobilized millions and won freedom for Dimitroff and his comrades. We must use even more energy to wrest Thaelmann from the bloody claws of the hangmen who take orders from Hitler, Goering and Goebels.

Every man, women, boy or girl who reads this—join in our ranks, fill in the gaps left by those who have fallen in the struggle against terror in the struggle for freedom.



We  
Forced  
Him to  
Release  
**DIMITROFF**

We Must Save  
**THAELMANN**  
From His Clutches





## NRA DISCRIMINATION

By MARTIN WILSON

Ray Gogan, 19 year old youthful fighter in the Unemployed Council of Stockton, California has been sentenced by Judge Breitenbucher to do 18 months in the County Jail. He was given 180 days for Vagrancy and 180 days and \$265 fine to be laid out at \$2 a day for Disturbing the Peace.

The arrest of Ray Gogan clearly shows the discrimination policy of the N.R.A. Gogan was arrested for leading about 75 starving Mexican workers to the Salvation Army to demand food. These Mexican workers had been refused admission to the Federal Shelter (FERATS) and told they would not be fed there or at the Salvation Army—because they were Mexicans! This is typical of the N. R. A. projects (C.W.A.; C.C.C.; & F.E.R.A.T.S.) discrimination program against Negroes, Mexicans, Filipinos, and other foreign-born workers. The officials placed in charge by N.R.A. came out openly with their discrimination plan, but this group of workers led by Gogan forced the S. A. to feed them and temporarily

broke down this discrimination. As a result, after the workers were fed, Ray Gogan and Herron were arrested and charged with Vagrancy. When the International Labor Defense came to put up the \$1000 bail set by Judge Breitenbucher, the American Legion Prosecutor, Grant placed the charge of disturbing the peace against Gogan and bail was refused on this second charge by this American Legion Judge.

The trial typified the fascist meaning of the N.R.A. slogan "all opposition to the N.R.A. must stop." The Judge refused to issue subpoenas for defense witnesses and those who came anyway were driven away at the Court Room doors by officers with threats of arrest. The Judge had set the trial without consulting the defense attorney and it fell on a date when the I.L.D. attorney was busy. Therefore Gogan called for a worker counsel and was refused; the worker counsel was arrested for contempt of court.

The International Labor Defense is appealing this case to smash the fascist court procedure and to free Ray Gogan.

This case is the beginning of many other N.R.A. Fascist trials, against militant workers. If fighting starvation is undermining the New Administration and striking against miserable working conditions is bucking the N.R.A. codes, then we workers must squash the N.R.A.

## COURTS PERSECUTE UNEMPLOYED

Phil Frankfeld, young leader of the unemployed in and around Pittsburg is out on bail facing a prison term of 2 to 4 years. The Unemployed Councils were very active in all the strike struggles of the steel and coal workers whom the Mellons, the Weirs and other money kings were trying to slug, shoot or starve into slavery with or without the grace of the NRA.

Phil Frankfeld as the leader of the unemployed was a nuisance to the aims of these prominent citizens. So they had him arrested. Why? Because he led the resistance to the execution of a court order for the foreclosure of a mortgage and the eviction of a worker from his home.

The International Labor Defense immediately entered a motion for a new trial and arranged for bail, set at \$2500. The papers were filled out, the judge's signature obtained and as a clerk was writing out Frankfeld's release, a telephone call came from a Superior Court judge telling the clerk to cancel the bond and raise it to \$4,000.

This is how the courts who take their orders from the ruling class, in this case the steel and coal barons, try to behead the workers struggles. Frankfeld is not the only worker being persecuted in the Pittsburg district. Vicious attempts to destroy the fighting union of the steel workers, The Steel and Metal Workers Industrial Union by arresting and jailing its leaders continue in the state of Pennsylvania whose Governor Pinchot is heralded as a Friend of Labor and whose wife marches on picket lines with child laborers and laundry workers. The International Labor Defense calls on all workers to see through this demagogy and expose it, to flood this governor with tens of thousands of protest telegrams demanding the release of all arrested workers.

The I.L.D. defends the right of the unemployed workers to battle for their rights and to force the passing of the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill (H R 7598). It defends the right of the SMWIU to struggle against the slave codes of the union busting NRA.

## Ambridge Murder Hearing

1500 militant steel workers jammed the Senior High School at Ambridge, Pa. to attend the open hearing of an investigating commission whose appointment was forced from Governor Pinchot by the Steel and Metal Workers Industrial Union. On "Bloody Thursday" last October company gunmen killed one worker and maimed 30 others. Sheriff O'Laughlin who led the band of 200 armed thugs was forced to admit that the shooting of the workers was unprovoked.

The fact was also established that the pickets did not arm themselves with sticks until the third day of the strike when they heroically defended themselves and repulsed the attack of 150 armed scabs.

State Senator Craig (attorney for the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation) got so rattled on the stand that he blurted out: "If you are trying to discredit the chief of the company police of Spang and Chalfant for this—I want to tell you that if I had organized this attack, they (the scabs) would have got through."

The local leaders of the Steel and Metal Workers Industrial Union described vividly the harrowing story of workers lying in gas filled ditches. Worker after worker took the stand and showed their bullet torn bodies to the investigating commission.

The investigation proved that the

steel corporations had financed the murder attack at Ambridge. \$24,000 was payed out by the county to hire deputies and the money was returned by the steel companies.

\$9,000 came from the U. S. Steel Corporation whose plants were not on strike. The county itself stood the expense of \$6,000 for machine guns, tear gas, shot guns, hand grenades, riot clubs and revolvers.

The Chairman of the Investigating Commission announced before the hearings began that if Egan, leader of the steel workers appeared, he would be arrested. Egan appeared. Both he and Cush sat on the platform throughout the proceedings.

At the end the police started to rush them. But the workers had arranged a defense corps and rushed them to a fast car that had been prepared in advance to assure safe departure.

Throughout the hearings the workers cheered the union leaders and booed the local government agents.

The International Labor Defense condemns the terror against the steel workers in the Pittsburgh area and all over the country. It leads the defense struggles of all workers against NRA terror and brutality. It calls on the steel workers at Ambridge to build the International Labor Defense right on their field of battle so that their defense shield will be prepared to meet and resist every attack

# YOUNG DEFENDERS CORNER



## A BOOK ABOUT LENIN

*Say, this will never do. If you people all you young Defenders and other boys and girls who see the Labor Defender - don't write or draw for it - it means you don't want this page and if we won't have it any more.*

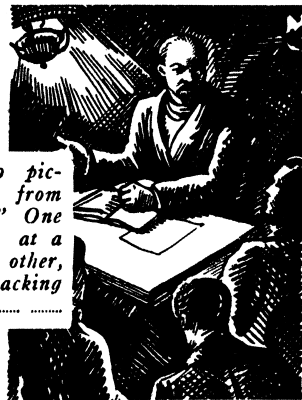
*Shall we stop having a young defender corner? If you want to keep it, prove it by flooding us with stories, pictures, poems and songs - Right away.*

*This picture of Soviet Young Defenders was sent to us, the American Young Defenders by Comrade Antonoff who was deported from the U. S. because he led the Michigan workers' fight against terror. Three cheers for Antonoff and thanks.*

**OUR LENIN.** By Ruth Shaw and Harry Alan Potamkin. With pictures by Bill Siegel. International Publishers. 85c.

Here's a real hero story for all of you. Not one of these namby pamby tales of boys who worked themselves from office boy to bank president, or even about guys like George Washington who was too perfect to be human if you believe all those stories about him.

This is the story of one of the greatest leaders the working class, that means our fathers and mothers, ever had. Lenin—whose real name was Vla-



*These two pictures are from "Our Lenin." One shows Lenin at a meeting the other, Cossacks attacking peasants.*



dimir Ulianov. It tells you how he grew up. Not one of these namby pamby tales of boys who worked themselves from office boy to bank president, or even about guys like George Washington who was too perfect to be human if you believe all those stories about him.

Then we read how when he grew up he followed in his brother's footsteps and taught the workers how to fight against their bosses who were working them all hours for hardly any pay, and the farmers how to fight against the

tax collectors who took what little they were able to raise on their miserable plots of land.

We won't tell you the whole story of his escape from the Tsar's police, his work out side of Russia, his work in Russia after the revolution in 1917 when it became the Soviet Union.

We want you to read it yourself. And here's how you can get this book free—if you can't induce your father to buy it for you or if your father is out of work and hasn't got the money. Get two people to subscribe to the Labor Defender for one year each. It costs 75c a year to subscribe. Send us the money and their names and addresses, together with your name and address and you get a copy of this fine book **FOR NOTHING.** That's easy isn't it. And it's some book.

## I. L. D. Song Let's All Learn It

By **ETHEL WRAY**  
(Cleveland, Ohio)

(Tune: John Brown's Body)

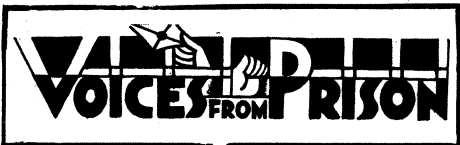
Hark the voices ringing  
Of the grand old I.L.D.  
That will loosen up the shackles  
That are binding you and me;  
Let us fight the battle bravely  
Knowing what the end will be;  
Comrades of the I.L.D.

(Chorus)

Hark the voices of the workers  
Hark the voices of the workers  
Hark the voices of the workers

Workers of the I.L.D.  
We've enlisted in an army  
And to fight for liberty  
We are marching on to victory  
To set the pris'ners free;  
Will you come and join and help us  
In this fight for you and me;  
Comrades of the I.L.D.





## HOW POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE TREATED IN AMERICAN JAILS

The following excerpts from letters from Angelo Herndon, twenty year old working class fighter who was sentenced in January 1933 to 18 to 20 years on the Georgia chain gang for successfully leading unemployed white and Negro workers in Atlanta to demand relief, will give you a picture of how our imprisoned working class heroes are treated in American jails:

"These dirty beasts for some time had all my window nailed down to keep me from getting any air, but since we prisoners have unnailed them, I am now getting some fresh air."

"They won't allow other prisoners to come to my cage and talk. They tell them that I'm bad and dangerous, but the prisoners slip up to the cage and talk with me just the same. They don't even treat the worst criminals this way."

"I have been subjected to the most criminal and savage treatments . . . I am not given any work to do, just lay around in my cell all day and starve, no exercise. We are forced to eat dog meat, and everything else. Not long ago my legs were swollen up as a result of eating the rotten prison food. When I asked for medical treatment, the county doctor gave me some aspirins."

"Since I was released from solitary confinement, I have been very ill. In fact I have been so weak until I could hardly pick up a book weighing half a pound."

"On top of being in the Death House where water and excrement dribbles all the time, with murderers and the like, the low and degenerated dogs have threatened to put in the cell with me, sexual perverts, etc. If you could see the hounds whose brains are in their toes and who have never dreamed of being humans, you would wonder how I am able to go on living. But no matter what the dogs may do, they will never be able to break my fighting spirit."

Letters were sent to Governor Eugene Talmadge, Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, State Prison Commissioner, Warden of Fulton Tower, all of Atlanta, charging them with conspiracy to murder Angelo Herndon in his cell and demanding his immediate release. Already, results have been obtained, two doctors have examined him and we are informed that Herndon is on the verge of a breakdown, that he is suffering from bad eye condition, some rectal muscles are strained and his lungs are in bad condition, possibly incipient tuberculosis. X-ray is necessary to complete the examination. What he needs immediately is rest, fresh air and treatment. And Herndon writes:

"My condition is gradually improving. Let me tell you that the protest campaign against my treatment has certainly had its effects. The county doctor who had refused repeatedly to give me medicine, came around to my cell and gave me some medicine that is doing me a lot of good. The jailers at first refused to order me meals from the outside (although they order them for other prisoners) but today the chief jailer called me out of my cage and 'apologized.' He pointed out that he would feed fish on the first day I sent out the order, and that he didn't 'want to see me throw my money away.' He also asked me if the doctor had given me any medicine, and stated: 'that you can get anything you want from the outside and I will be glad to order it for you, for I want to treat you just as I do all white prisoners and other darkies. But I can't promise to give

## REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS

FROM B.C.

CANADA

1933-4



*Canadian Labor Defense League sends greeting cards like this to class war prisoners. I.L.D. branches send greetings to our class war prisoners. Show them that they are not forgotten.*

you ham and eggs for breakfast.' . . . As soon as the Herndon pamphlet is off the press please mail me a copy. This is the kind of action I like to see. Continue to give it to the hounds till it hurts. This month's Labor Defender (March) was a very good issue, especially the article on amnesty for political prisoners."

Herndon's appeal before the State Supreme Court has been pending for more than five months. The I.L.D. calls for immediate mass action through

**PLEDGE MONTHLY FOR RELIEF OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. ADOPT LONG TERM CLASS WAR PRISONERS. ADOPT DEPENDENT FAMILY. SEND DELEGATION TO INVESTIGATE AND PROTEST PRISON CONDITIONS IN WHICH POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE CONFINED. DEMAND PRIVILEGES FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS. DEMAND RECOGNITION OF STATUS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.**

every district, section and branch, through every unemployed council, every union local in the country to act now. Send telegrams to Charles Evans Hughes, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Washington, D. C., demanding that a favorable decision from the Alabama State Supreme Court on the appeal be rendered immediately. Four protests upon the officials in Atlanta against Angelo Herndon's continued imprisonment and against the barbaric treatment this courageous fighter is forced to endure. On the grounds that Angelo Herndon released will be a "menace to women and children" he has been denied bail. Demand that low bail be set. Go before the mass organizations of which you are a member and demand that action be taken immediately along these lines. Raise money for a pamphlet on Herndon for nation-wide distribution. Send money to the National office of the I.L.D. so that food may be brought to him from the outside regularly.

## THIS LETTER IS ONLY ONE OF MANY

"You were telling me about the trouble the workmen were having. Yes, I read about the trouble in West Virginia, but didn't know of the other. It looks like the big man don't care for us poor people to live. As for our family, I can say we have struggled and suffered trying to live and be honest and are yet struggling and I have come to the conclusion of Pat Henry. I think the poor people has been treated awful bad. You people is the only ones who has ever helped us a penny. I am willing to do all I can for the working people and if my service will be any help to you in any way, I am ready to help at any time I can, for I know how hard it is for me and my child to live since my son was put in prison. Of course, I am getting old. The 29th of March I will be 49 and didn't know what it was to not even get a birthday present until my son was put in prison and I haven't even been able to buy myself a garment of no kind, only a pair of shoes since my son was took away and the money you sent paid for my shoes. I just wear old clothes that people gives me and am glad to have them. You was speaking of things goin up. Our house rent here is \$15 a month and the house aint fit to live in, and we ain't got much to housekeep on either, but we are getting by. We pay 20 a pound for lard and everything else is higher. . . . Maybe you could send me more money and often. I will appreciate what you can send. Let it be little or large, often or far apart, God knows, I need lots more than I can get, but I think there will be a way for us. Thanking you very much for your help and will say if there is anything I can do to help you all out in my section, my hands is yours for help. Ollie Daughtry, mother of Doyle Assad, arrested in Evarts battle during Kentucky coal strike, charged with voluntary manslaughter.

# REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS

FROM B.C.

CANADA

1933-4



## BETRAYED BY THE NAACP

(Continued from Page 15)

All summer Biddings worked, planting, hoeing, and tending crop. He made a good crop last year and stored it in a barn. It came time for the "division" of the crop to be made. Biddings began to move part of his share to his house. In the middle of this work, Clayton came up and began to abuse one of Biddings boys. Biddings came down from the loft where he was working and told Clayton to lay off. Clayton called his wife.

"Come here and hear what I am going to say to this god-damn nigger before kill him." He reached in his pocket for his gun. Biddings, standing in the door-way of the house, reached in, pulled out a shot-gun and killed Clayton. Examination of the wound in Clayton's neck showed that he was standing in firing position as he fell.

Biddings was jailed. To the jail came Philip Escoffery, Negro lawyer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Durham, N. C., who asked Biddings to hire him for his defense. Biddings agreed.

The trial came on. Lynch spirit was whipped up. Escoffery went to the Governor. He wanted protection. The Governor promised it to him on one condition—that the issue of the rights of Negroes should not be raised in the trial. Escoffery went oné better. He raised no defense in the trial. Biddings didn't have any money. Why should Escoffery bother to have to investigate the case. Biddings was sentenced to die.

The International Labor Defense representative in N. C. investigated this case. It was one of four in recent weeks in which Escoffery as defense attorney had secured convictions for Negro clients. Escoffery's sabotage in the defense had added four more to the 20 Negroes awaiting the execution of death sentences following farcical lynch trials in North Carolina.

The facts of the case were uncovered and published by the I.L.D. A storm of protest arose. Escoffery had not even demanded a single exception in the trial on which an appeal to the State Supreme Court could be based and time gained to make a fight to save Biddings' life.

An attorney came from New York to help in the defense. Biddings had already repudiated Escoffery as a betrayer, and formally asked the I.L.D. to take over his defense. Escoffery refused to relinquish his job of assistant hangman. He went into court and obtained from a lynch judge a refusal to permit the I.L.D. attorney in the case. Two days were left for the filing of an appeal which would stay the execution of Biddings under North Carolina law, to permit the filing of a motion for a new trial on the basis of new found evidence. Escoffery, the legal light of the N.A.A.C.P. refused to permit the filing of an appeal, allowed the time to lapse, and his promise to the Governor fulfilled, "withdrew" from the case.

Through manoeuverings of Escoffery nothing now stands between Emanuel Biddings Negro sharecropper who dared defend himself against his white landlord, and the electric chair, but the anger of the white and Negro toilers.

Every effort is being made on the legal side by the I.L.D. attorneys to force a re-opening of the case.

On March 16, eight more were burned and hanged. Of these at least one was sent to his death through the betrayal of the leadership of the N.A.A.C.P. John Downer of Georgia, charged with "rape", the classic frame-up of the South, was "defended" by A. T. Walden, N.A.A.C.P. lawyer and leader of Atlanta. The defense was kept so secret, was so thoroughly sabotaged that it was not until the day before the burning that the masses learned of this betrayal. On the basis of the decision forced from the U. S. Supreme Court by the I.L.D. in the Scottsboro case, a federal judge was forced to hand down a reprieve. Downer had two lynch trials. No basic issues were raised by the N.A.A.C.P. lawyer in either one.

In Alabama, Willie Peterson, tubercular Negro miner and war veteran, betrayed over and over by the lynch lawyers of the N.A.A.C.P. who acted as prosecutors and "defended" both, by his legal lynching, in spite of the a friendly agreement, owes his life to the mass protest which was organized by the I.L.D. all over the country against N.A.A.C.P. leaders' attempts to stifle it, the toilers who forced the concession. The death penalty has been commuted to life imprisonment, but life imprisonment for a man in the last stages of tuberculosis, tortured for two years in dungeons, is a death penalty, which if permitted to stand, can only mean a delay in fulfillment. Peterson must be saved. There is no doubt anywhere, not even in the minds of a single lyncher, of his innocence.

To save Peterson, the fight must be sharpened against the betrayers who form the leadership of the N.A.A.C.P., who have "won" a life-in-death sentence for him, as they "won" the death verdict against Biddings, the electrocution of Downer.



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*a Leader of the  
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*Must  
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Saved  
from  
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on the  
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Chain  
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Send telegrams to Charles Evans Hughes, Chief Justice of  
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Demanding Herndon's im-  
mediate unconditional release.

Write to Herndon, Fulton  
Tower Jail, Atlanta, Ga.