

**LABOR**

**10c**

# **DEFENDER**

● AMERICA'S ONLY LABOR PICTORIAL ● PUBLISHED BY THE I.L.D. ●

October  
1935



In This Issue: Congressman  
**VITO MARCANTONIO**  
**ON THE BREMEN "INCIDENT."**

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# VIEWS of the MONTH



*John Macdonald, Mooney witness who twice declared he lied against Mooney and Billings in 1917.*



*Ethiopia's defenders on guard.*



*Norman Thomas addresses Terre Haute Strikers.*

*Prison sentences because they asked for bread in Kansas City. The charge against these four workers was "rioting."*





# LABOR DEFENDER

Official Organ of the International Labor Defense

Editors . Wm. L. Patterson, Sasha Small

Associate Editor . . . . Louis Colman

## HALT THIS MURDER

**F**ROM behind evasions, vague promises, delays, emerges the true purpose of Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight of Alabama to railroad the Scottsboro boys to a swift death in the electric chair.

Silence was the only answer for months on the question of the new Scottsboro trials. Even today the only definite information is the statement that the "SCOTTSBORO TRIALS WILL BE SET IN DECATUR PROBABLY THE FIRST PART OF NOVEMBER."

But this vague information is accompanied by the fact that Knight intends to try all nine boys at the same time. To clear the tracks for the railroading, Knight is ignoring the fact that two of the boys are minors and must be tried in juvenile courts, that hearings in their cases and in the cases of Olen Montgomery and Willie Roberson for the setting of bail were promised as soon as the State legislature adjourns.

Most significant of all however, is the statement carried in the Birmingham News which reads; "*Refilling of the Morgan County jury boxes with the names of Negroes clears the way for a further prosecution of the cases. The belief is that, with the placing of Negroes on the jury rolls, no further grounds will be left for another United States Supreme Court reversal.*"

The open cynicism of this statement speaks for itself. The presence of Negro names on the jury rolls need not necessarily mean the presence of Negroes on the jury that will try the boys, and Morgan county is willing to go that far to assure the legal lynching of the Scottsboro boys. Jackson County, of which Scottsboro is the county seat, brazenly announces that no Negroes have been added to the jury rolls in spite of the Supreme Court decision—and Jackson county is where Victoria Prize swore out new warrants against all nine of the boys—the basis for new trials against them.

The vagueness of the date has only one purpose. Knight is seeking to prevent the storm of protest which mounted to international proportions before all the other Scottsboro trials. He thinks he can hold back the tide by trickery. He must be defeated in this attempt. The silence he hopes for must be broken by a million voiced cry of protest directed against Knight himself and against Gov. Bibb Graves, Montgomery, Alabama, denouncing this new legal attempt to lynch the Scottsboro boys and demanding their immediate freedom.

**T**HE Supreme Court of the United States reconvenes on October 7. On that day it will have before it a petition for a re-hearing in the case of Angelo Herndon. It will also find hundreds of letters and telegrams and resolutions demanding that it grant a re-hearing in the Herndon case.

There is one other means of underlining this demand in unmistakable terms. Nothing will be more emphatic backing for such a demand than one million signatures on the Herndon petition lists.

On September 15, 223,187 signatures were in the office of the Herndon petition committee. We know that many thousands more are affixed to petitions which are still in the hands of individuals and organizations circulating them.

*Don't hold on to your petition lists. Get them filled and rush them in to the Herndon Petition Committee, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, without delay. One million signatures by October 7.*

**M**ARTIAL law reigns in Terre Haute, Indiana. Every civil right has disappeared. National guards patrol the streets and all picket lines are forbidden. But the same spirit of solidarity which tied up Terre Haute 100% in the 48-hour general strike last month, is making heroic ef-

forts to break through the terror. New arrests are reported daily. The International Labor Defense has voiced its protest and lent its efforts to fight the terror every step of the way. When Powers Hapgood, one of the leaders of the Socialist Party, Lee Vernon, S. P. organizer, and Aaron Gilmartin, secretary, Labor and Socialist Defense Committee, were arrested, we immediately organized a barrage of demands for their release.

We greet the heroism and determination of the workers of Terre Haute and in response to the call of Max Schafer, vice-president of the Central Labor Union and secretary of the Terre Haute Socialist and Labor Defense Committee, pledge our whole-hearted support to this struggle.

**T**HE Federal Parole Board came, saw and "referred the matter back to Washington." Last month this body met at Northeastern Penitentiary where Charles Krumbein is serving an 18 month sentence for a technical passport violation. Though Krumbein was eligible for parole early in August the board delayed hearing his case in Washington until it met inside the penitentiary and now that it has heard his petition for parole—it sent it back to Washington which denied the parole!

This is clearly a manouever to keep Krumbein, beloved leader of thousands of New York workers in jail—cut off from his work and the labor movement to which he gave every moment of his life. We call on all members and friends of the I.L.D. to add their voices in a storm of protest addressed to the Federal Board of Parole, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. demanding the immediate favorable action in the case of Charles Krumbein.

**O**CTOBER 1935 marks the first anniversary of the heroic armed resistance of the Spanish masses against fascism. Hundreds gave their lives in this struggle. Tens of thousands were arrested and imprisoned. Many are still facing trial. THE LABOR DEFENDER feels that no greater tribute can be paid to the memory of these heroes and heroines than is expressed in the words of Henri Barbusse:

*"The finest tribute which we can render to the heroes of Spain's Red October, is to contrast the nobility of their aims with the bloody cruelty of the reaction, to draw the attention of the whole world to both, and to stubbornly defend, with all our might, the revolutionaries who are in the hands of the anti-Spanish government."*



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# GALLUP'S LAST ROUND-UP

By PHILIP STEVENSON

(Special to the Labor Defender,  
from Santa Fe, N. M.)

No modern cause celebre offers a clearer example of the anti-labor violence of the supposedly "impartial" and "democratic" capitalist state than does the Gallup case, in which 14 defendants face death or long prison terms on framed murder and other charges.

The story of Gallup, beginning in 1933 when National Guardsmen did their best to break a strike called to enforce the government's own guarantee of the right of collective bargaining—continuing through the trouble of April 4, 1935, when 600 workers were illegally "rounded up," third-degreed, beaten, jailed without warrants, for the death of a sheriff, while not one person was held for the death of two workers—and still in progress today in the form of an official terror which has abolished every civil and constitutional right for workers—is a story of close collaboration between:

1. The Gallup ruling class, composed of (a) the coal operators and their hirelings, gunmen, foremen, straw bosses, etc., and (b) members of the notoriously corrupt "Gallup ring" of the Democratic Party, including state Supreme Court Justice Zinn (recently found guilty by the Bar Association of gambling with funds entrusted to him for the payment of delinquent taxes, yet still a member of the Court), State Senator Clarence Vogel (whose wholesale evictions of working-class leaders precipitated the April 4 trouble), and ex-Gov. A. T. Hannett (reactionary boss and lobbyist, who defended Vogel when Vogel was bounced from the Gallup City council for protecting prostitution).

2. County officials, notably Sheriff D. W. Roberts (who admits having killed two workers on April 4) and his gang of deputized thugs.

3. The state of New Mexico, through its National Guard in 1933, and in 1935 through its state police under the authority of state's Attorney-General Patton who is also a prosecutor in the Gallup case.

4. The federal Department of Justice, represented by its employee, Deputy U. S. Marshal Mollica, who has taken a leading part in the illegal "round-ups," unwarranted arrests and interferences with civil rights since April 4.

5. The federal Department of Labor, through its employees of the Immigration Bureau who have already deported some fifty Mexicans from Gallup and threaten to deport some seventy more, among them defense witnesses in the case.

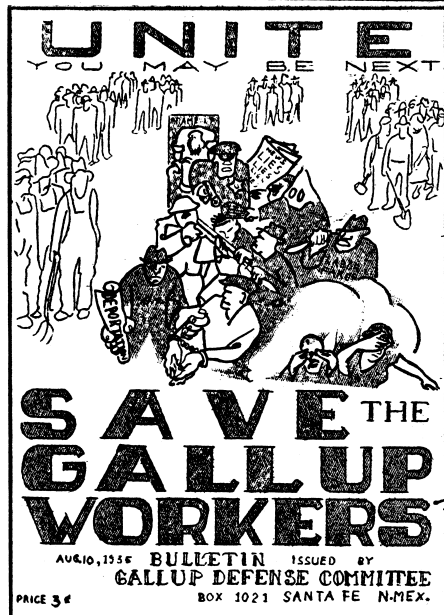
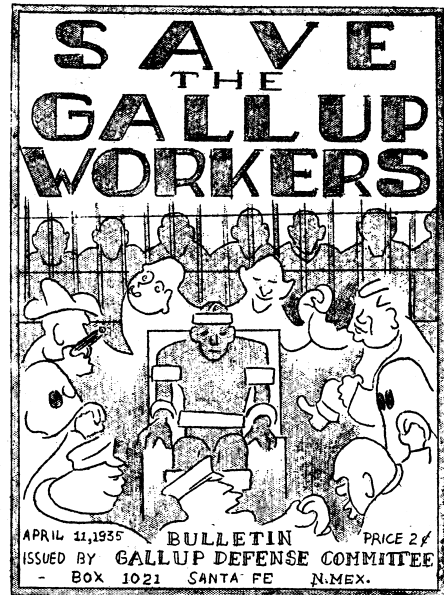
6. The state machinery of "justice"—from the Supreme Court to Justice of the Peace Bickel of Gallup.

7. Relief officials of the New Mexico ERA who have used relief, and the threat of cutting off relief, to terrorize workers into docility and stifle defense activity.

The meaning of this collaboration is plain enough to hit every worker square between the eyes: The American ruling class pretends not to "believe in" the class struggle, but in practice it proves itself expert in maintaining a united front of armed, political and economic power against the working class.

Ever since April 4, relief officials have beaten down relief standards till today a family of 5 in Gallup receives \$10 a month, or 2c per meal per person, with no allowances for rent or fuel.

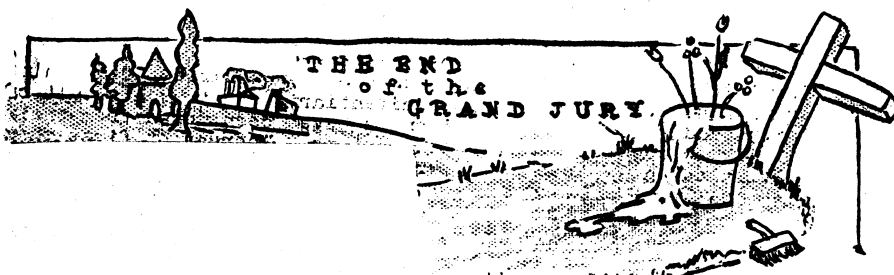
On July 14, the Gallup unemployed called a mass meeting to protest relief



The illustrations on these two pages are reproduced from the Gallup Defense Committee Bulletin.

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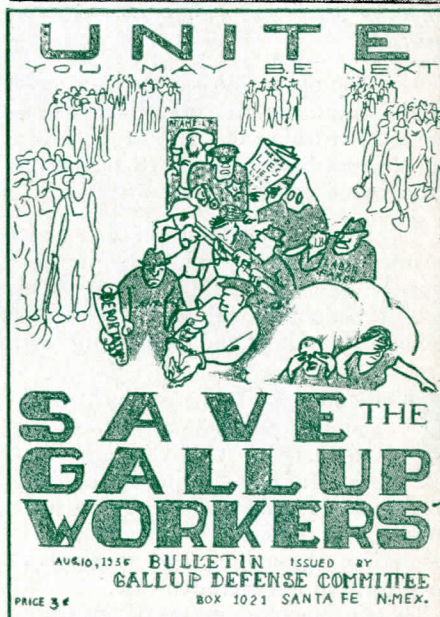
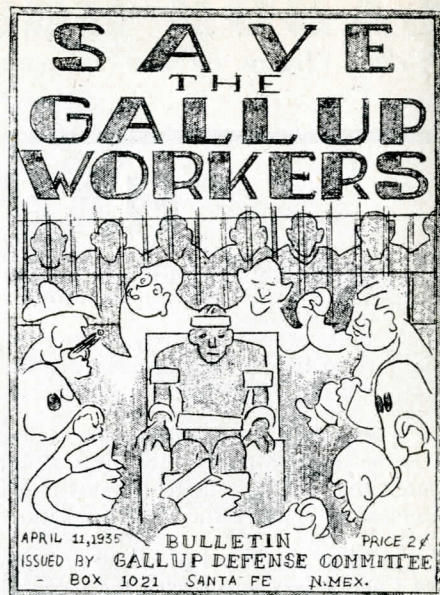
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Gallup have been forced again, as in the strike of '33, to go underground and meet in secret. But their amazing courage remains undaunted. They do meet. And when, recently, they are denied access to one of their leaders who was held incommunicado in jail, they got themselves arrested on minor charges in order to penetrate the jail!

The condition of the families of the Gallup defendants is desperate. Early in August it was found that the wife and two children of Juan Ochoa, outstanding working-class leader held without bond, had been four days without food. Augustin Calvillo's family was in similar straits, and the youngest child, born only three weeks before Augustin's arrest, was seriously ill. Emergency relief was rushed by the Santa Fe Gallup Defense Committee and protests lodged with the state ERA, which promised immediate action. But it took a week of pressure before either family received its

tradition of Ku-Klux-ism) to Santa Fe county. No one was prepared for the openness of McGhee's hostility. Not only did he monotonously overrule the defense, but he would allow no explanations of the attorneys' grounds for objection, and even once shouted "Sit down!" when defense attorney Wirin attempted to finish his statement.

He denied the motion for the change of venue, in the face of affidavits and exhibits proving the existence in San Juan county of a secret vigilante organization dedicated to stamping out radicalism and "un-Americanism" by violence (several of the Gallup defendants are radicals and Mexicans), and in spite of the fact that the county seat, Aztec, a village of 800 with a single tiny hotel, cannot possibly accommodate a trial involving 14 defendants, many attorneys, and scores of witnesses.

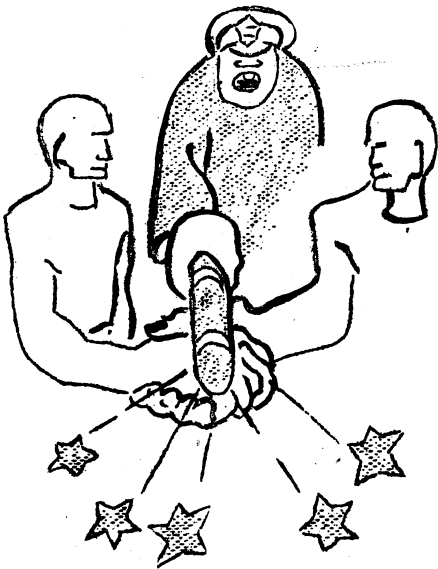
McGhee also set an early trial date, Sept. 30, although the defense has had no real opportunity yet to prepare its case. The first time defense attorneys went to Gallup to investigate, they were threatened by drunken armed thugs (one of whom is now an honored member of Gallup's police force!) The second attempt resulted in the kidnapping by armed vigilantes of Robert Minor and defense counsel David Levinson. Judge McGhee remained unmoved by these facts and refused a postponement of the trial.

His hostility was most clearly exposed, however, in his closing remarks. He began by complaining the case had already had "too much publicity" (though the defense's side has been consistently suppressed by the press

associations). He forbade the attorneys "on either side" to make any statements to the press concerning the case, what they expected to prove or disprove, etc. He announced that taking pictures in or near the courthouse during the trial would be forbidden (to which attorney Wirin replied that none of the defense attorneys were running for office in New Mexico!), and threatened to "investigate and punish" attempts "by either side" to distribute "propaganda" on the case in San Juan county.

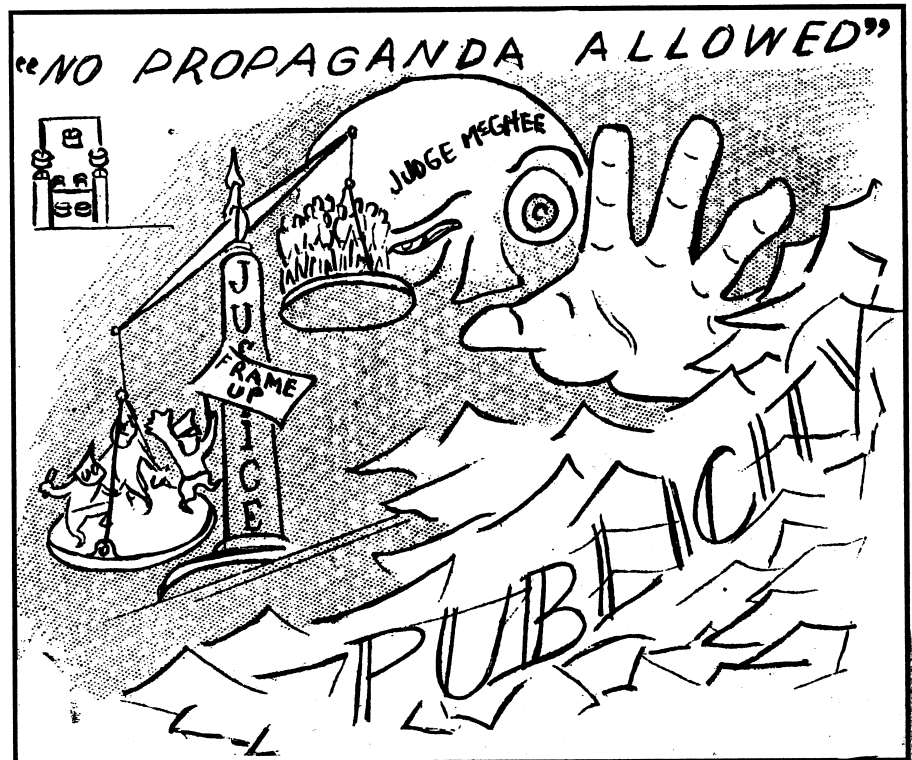
In plain language this means that San Juan county's present prejudice against the defendants is to be carefully preserved. It means that the *Bulletin* of the Gallup Defense Committee, the only publication to present the facts of the case in New Mexico, will be considered as "propaganda" and suppressed, while the *Gallup Independent*, propaganda organ for the Gallup coal operators and the nearest daily newspaper to San Juan county, whose attacks on the defendants have been consistently violent and voluble, will continue to circulate freely in San Juan county as it has in the past!

With such a prosecutor-judge, in such a remote, narrow and prejudiced locality, the danger of convictions for the innocent defendants has greatly increased. To hostile local, state, and federal officials of our "impartial democracy," add now a hostile judge and jury, and it can be readily seen that one thing, and one thing only, can insure the acquittal of the Gallup workers—an avalanche of mass protests to Governor Clyde Tingley, Santa Fe, N. M. and demands for their unconditional release.



first relief order—and then at the starvation rates quoted above. (Editors note: The Prisoners Relief Dept. of the I.L.D. is now sending regular monthly relief to all the Gallup prisoners and their families. This helps a little—but does not solve their serious problem.)

The Gallup defendants were saddled with another rabid prosecutor when District Judge James B. McGhee was appointed to try the case in place of Judge M. A. Otero, Jr., who was disqualified in June (presumably because of his Spanish ancestry and liberal reputation) on the affidavit of the District Attorney and his co-persecutors of the Gallup workers. Except that he came from an anti-Catholic, anti-Mexican district on the Texas border, little was known of Judge McGhee until Aug. 26. On that date he heard a defense motion for a change of venue from San Juan county (next door and similar to Gallup, with a long-standing



# "YOU CAN KILL ME—

As I write this I am the most hunted man in Alabama. In the city of Montgomery the police have arrested Charles Tasker and James Jackson for "investigation." The investigation consists of trying to make these men reveal the whereabouts of Albert Jackson, secretary of the Share Croppers Union. But their efforts are in vain. This is only one chapter of the terror facing the striking share croppers today.

On Monday, August 19, when the strike of the cotton pickers started in Lowndes County against the J. R. Bell plantation, demanding \$1.00 a hundred pounds cotton picked, instead of the .40c which share croppers are receiving today, Sheriff Woodruff was right on the job. Sheriff Woodruff talked "sense" to the men, arguing with them, pointing out why they ought to go back and continue under the old terms of starvation. But nobody went back. He cornered one striker, Willie Witcher.

"I don't care to listen to strike-breaking talk," was the answer he got and Witcher walked away. Sheriff Woodruff was standing in front of Bell's Store watching Witcher go his way home. Woodruff shouted at the top of his voice ordering Willie Witcher to stop. Willie stopped, asking, "What do you want?" Sheriff Woodruff's gun barked five times in answer. The deputy who stood beside him fired too. Willie sprawled in the dust of the road, his fingers clawing the dirt. But Sheriff Woodruff hadn't had enough. He sprang into his car, rushed it to Witcher's side and smashing him over the head with his pistol butt, yelled, "I'll kill you—you black son of a bitch!"

And Witcher replied, "You can kill me—but you can't scare me." He was carried to the Haynesville jail instead of the hospital.

In desperation Sheriff Woodruff personally organized a band of vigilantes. All are deputies or landlords from the vicinity of Calhoun and Haynesville. They raided six strikers' homes, pulled them out of bed, rode them miles away and beat them unconscious leaving them to die. The gang waited at the home of Ed Knight, a union member, all night. Before daybreak they broke into the house, smashed his furniture and



One of the Alabama Share Croppers now on strike.

left a note telling him they would kill him when they found him. The same gang killed Jim Press Meriwether in cold blood, deliberately, without a word exchanged between them. They saw him walking down the road alone, unarmed him and shot him dead.

For having a membership card in the Share Croppers Union, Willie Grove and two other Negro workers were arrested early this week. They were released only because the charge was too bold-faced. But for Willie Grove a charge was trumped up—the charge of breaking into a store—the store of one of Sheriff Woodruff's gang, Calhoun.

The Montgomery Advertiser lined itself up with its keeper—the bosses. It screamed lynch-inciting editorials of "terror," of "Communist rebellion," appealing to landlords and police for protection, written by the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for anti-lynching editorials, one Grover C. Hall.

But still the strike goes on. We ask the support of every justice loving person who believes in and wants to guard his own civil rights. We need the support of all who are opposed to Hitler's tactics, of all who believe in the right of the worker to a decent living.

Please send protest telegrams, letters and resolutions to Governor Bibb Graves, Montgomery, Alabama, President Roosevelt, and Sheriff R. E. Woodruff, insisting that all workers arrested in connection with the strike of the Share Croppers Union be freed at once, that all terror against the strike cease at once, and that the workers be given

# BUT YOU CAN NEVER SCARE ME"

By ALBERT JACKSON

Secretary, Share Croppers Union

their constitutional rights to organize, meet and strike and picket.

In the protest to Governor Graves and President Roosevelt insist that Sheriff R. E. Woodruff and all Deputies involved in terror against the workers be removed from office at once.

These protests cannot be delayed. The officials and the government must be made to see that the strikers have the sympathy and support of every class conscious worker in the United States. Every letter is a vote that the strike go on till every demand is won.

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## From A Missouri Labor Defender Reporter

We are writing you in regard to the Seven Arrested Miners at Columbus, Kan.

We are setting up Defense Committees in each local of the Central Service Local Unions of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union.

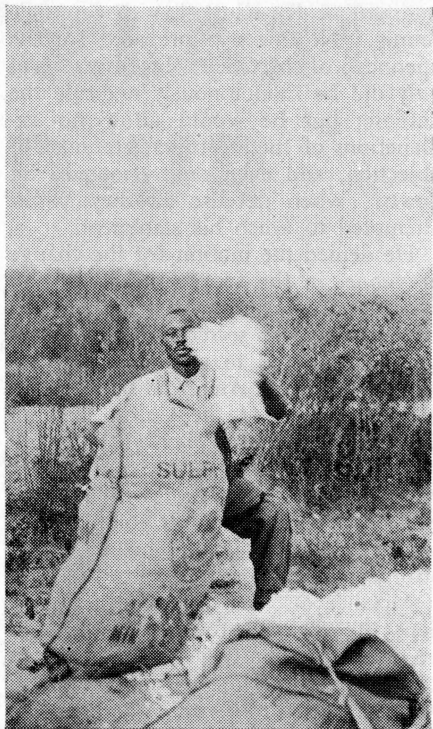
Mr. Roy Wisdom, R. I. Galena, Kan., who is a member of the Board of the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Int. is handling all funds collected for the defense of the arrested miners.

The particulars of the case are:—

Nineteen miners, members of the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union were arrested on the frameup charge of dynamiting; also breaking and entering. Will send you copies of the indictment.

Please publish this in the Labor Defender and send us 20 copies.

Yours Fraternaly  
Wiley Templeton,  
Joplin, Mo.



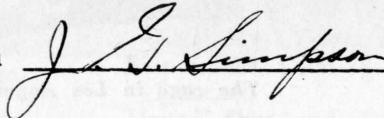
*One of the Alabama Share Croppers  
now on strike.*

Seattle, Wash. U.S.A.  
September 11, 1935

To Whom It May Concern:

Authorization is hereby given to the International Labor Defense to retain counsel and act in behalf of my son, Lawrence Simpson, an American citizen and seaman, who is reported held in Germany following his arrest on the S. S. Manhattan in Hamburg, Germany, June 28.

Signed



*Wesley Randall*  
Witness

*Simpson's father retains*



*Congressman Marcantonio*

# A MODERN BOSTON TEA-PARTY

## The "Bremen Incident"

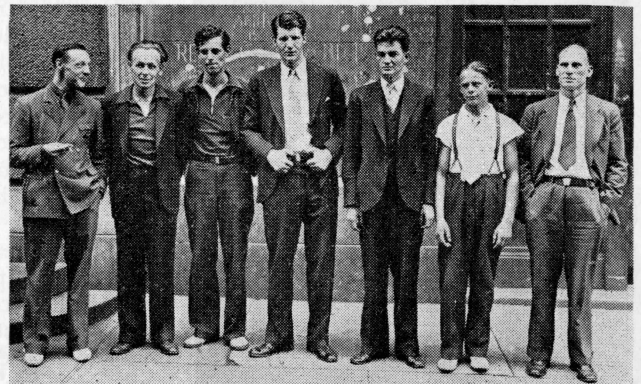
By Congressman VITO MARCANTONIO

The tearing down of the Swastika on the Steamship Bremen by enraged New Yorkers is comparable in the annals of American history with the Boston Tea Party and John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry. The men arrested that night when this happened will long live in the memory of liberty loving Americans. Their names will be still remembered when the most brilliant stars of Hollywood are forgotten. This so-called incident has caused the Secretary of State to go out of his way in expressing his regrets to the government of Messrs. Hitler and Company. This supine apology on the part of the officialdom of our nation will bring to the State Department no credit when the history of this episode is written.

The tearing down of the Swastika on July 26, 1935, has caused the unmasking of the Hitler regime, for lo and behold, today we read in the press of the nation that the German flag has

been decreed to be no longer her national emblem, and that in her place and stead, there has been substituted the Swastika. The Nazis can no longer hide behind the German flag. They have now been forced to raise aloft as a challenge to civilization the Swastika, symbol of cowardice and ignorance. The Bremen incident has caused this unmasking. I am proud to have played my little part in this far-reaching event.

*Five of the Bremen heroes: George Blackwell, Vincent McCormack, (Robert Rhodes), William Bailey, William Howe, (John Wilson), Tony Alvis. Those named in parentheses were only indirectly involved in this case.*





# IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE

AROUND the country with  
the HERNDON chain-gang  
cage

By DONALD BURKE

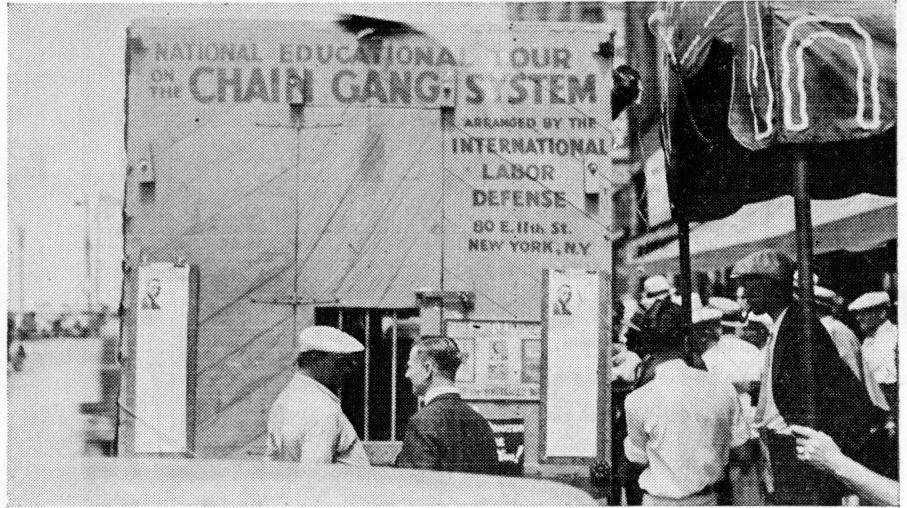
Who was in charge of the tour

Wherever we stopped on our journey which has already covered more than 10,000 miles bringing an exact replica of a Georgia chain-gang cage right to the front door of the American people, the same thing happened. Frowns, gasps, shaking of heads and troubled murmurs, "It's hard to believe, it seems impossible, isn't it awful."

Ever since we left New York on July 4, we have been the center of attraction of large and sympathetic crowds which gather immediately wherever we stop. People walk all around the cage, then come back to read our photostatic reports, clippings and to look carefully at the actual photographs of chain-gang tortures mounted along the sides. They are amazed, astounded—all except those who have themselves been victims of chain-gang torture some time in the past. We came across scores of these—Negro and white alike. All hastened to assure us and the rest of the crowd that our cage was just like the real thing. Some of them exposed legs and arms to show us scars left by shackles—scars that have never healed though the chains were removed ten or fifteen years ago.

Farmers, miners, city workers, cowboys, steel workers, Negro and white, they gather around to look and listen to our explanation of what they see, to the story of Angelo Herndon and the reason why we are touring the country with this exhibit. And everywhere, there is the same reaction. They begin

**Support the Herndon Defense Fund by  
buying these stamps!**



*The cage in Los Angeles.*

immediately to relate what they see and hear about Georgia to their own experience and misery. The farmers start talking about the way they are being foreclosed and run off their land. The miners remember the company thugs and the bullets they rained on the picket lines during strikes. The city workers think of their own special forms of terror and jim crow persecution. Then they believe what they see and always there is the question, what can we do to help.

I wish I could put down here all the spontaneous speeches made by people in the crowds who came to our meetings. Most of them didn't even realize they were making speeches—they just spoke straight from their hearts, simply, clearly and beautifully explaining why saving Angelo Herndon from the hell which they only saw a sample of was their business and concern. They realize that victory for the lynchers who want to send Angelo Herndon to the chain gang, will mean victory for the forces of reaction that are denying them relief, trying to smash their unions, trying to take their land, keeping them oppressed and divided.

But our road was not smooth and our going was not easy. In almost every city and town through which we passed we clashed with the police. In some places they just tried to break up the meetings and rush us out of town. In others they dug up all sorts of ordinances and laws which we could be accused of violating. In Denver the police announced way in advance, their decision to prohibit the truck to enter the city and to arrest the occupants of the truck. They were baffled by the permit which was forced from the governor to exhibit the truck at the foot of the capital steps. They sent a motorcycle escort to bring us to the steps without stopping anywhere else in the city. The action of the Denver police was the 11th serious attempt to

interfere with our progress. But we got over 200 signatures after our meeting, including the signature of State Representative Frank O'Toole who remarked, "When I sign this it means that 40,000 people are signing it."

On the South Side of Chicago we got 500 signatures in two hours. In Minneapolis a group of strikers came to get petition lists to take on the picket line.

In Rock Springs, Wyoming, the local meeting of the United Mine Workers of America adjourned to the windows of their meeting hall to listen to our meeting down on the corner which was carried to them by our loudspeaker. They sent their contributions to the collection which amounted to \$17, much of it in large silver dollars dropped into the hats.

In California we had our most serious interference from police and vigilante groups. They tried to stop us with technicalities. They sent the Red Squad after us. They sent police to break up the meetings around the cage. But in each case we were protected by the determined crowds which refused to disperse—and our meetings were continued.

The most significant thing about our tour is the deep impression it is making on all who see it. Even those who stop out of sheer curiosity, ready to scoff, stay and listen, examine the chains and instruments of torture, look at the bunks, and come away impressed with two things—first, an appreciation of what the I.L.D. is doing to acquaint America with what faces Angelo Herndon if he is permitted to go back to the Georgia chain gang, and second the necessity of adding their voices to the protest against his infamous sentence.

Our chain gang cage replica is leaving thousands of new friends for Angelo Herndon behind it all over the country—and more than that—new friends and members for the I.L.D.

# UNITED FRONT for HERNDON GROWS

The total number of signatures for the freedom of Angelo Herndon in the office of the Herndon Petition Committee on September 15, 1935, was 223,187. The signatures came from 47 states—all states except Nevada—and from the District of Columbia.

They came from five foreign countries.

The following public officials signed the petition:

## U. S. Congressmen

J. H. Hoeppel, California  
Byron N. Scott, California  
Usher L. Burdick, North Dakota  
Gardner R. Withrow, Wisconsin  
George Schneider, Wisconsin  
Thomas R. Amlie, Wisconsin  
Marion Zioncheck, Washington  
Fred Hildebrandt, South Dakota  
John Lesinski, Michigan  
C. G. Binderup, Nebraska  
Vito Marcantonio, New York

## State Senators and Representatives

Frank O'Toole, Colorado  
Al Tronzo, Pennsylvania  
Homer Brown, Pennsylvania  
James H. Stevens, New York  
C. R. Olsen, California  
Lee E. Geyer, California

## Mayors and Judges

Hugh McNair, Pittsburgh  
Dr. Frederick C. Roberts, Easton, Pa.  
John A. Gordon, Barre, Vermont  
David Turrets, city magistrate, Pittsburgh.  
Justin Wise Tulin, judge, Domestic Relations Court, New York  
Hubert T. Delaney, tax commissioner, New York City  
Richard E. Carey, assistant district attorney, New York City

The following organizations and individuals are involved in the Herndon Campaign, securing signatures or supporting the mass defense movement:

## Trade Unions

Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids—5,600 members. (Are circulating 1,000 petitions in their locals).  
Laborer's Union, Washington, D. C.  
Laundry Workers Union, Washington, D. C.  
Departmental Lodge, AFGE, Washington, D. C.  
American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.  
Marine Cooks and Stewards Local, ISU, San Francisco, Cal.

United Mine Workers of America—Pennsylvania Locals  
A. F. of L. Summer School, Berkeley, Cal.—85 students  
Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union, Local 1, N. Y.  
International Ladies Garment Workers Union, (several N. Y. locals)  
Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, Local 52, Gary, Ind.  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, Local 463, Philadelphia.  
United Mine Workers of America, Local 2353, Yukon, Pa.  
Ship Scalers, Local 38-100, I.L.A., San Francisco.  
United Shoe and Leather Workers, Local 50, Philadelphia  
Home Relief Bureau Employees Association, N. Y.  
Share Croppers Union  
Southern Tenant Farmers Union

## Trade Unionists

Harry Lundberg, President, Pacific Coast Maritime Federation  
E. A. Dietrich, International Longshoreman's Association, Local 38-79, San Francisco.  
Earl King, Secretary, Maritime Engineers Union  
A. Phillip Randolph, President, Brotherhood Sleeping Car Porters and Maids  
William Saunders, Ornamental and Iron Structural Workers Union  
Mrs. Haze, Secretary Cleaners and Dyers Union, Local 18233, Philadelphia

## Prominent Individuals

Henry P. Payne, Grand Master Masonic Order of Pennsylvania  
Miss Cleona Maurice Donan, Assistant Secretary Urban League  
Edward O. Tabor, Pittsburgh, Interracial Commission  
Hobson Reynolds, Pennsylvania State Legislature  
Charles Houston, Washington, D. C.  
William Pickens, N. Y.  
Simon B. Osby, Jr., NAACP, Springfield, Ill.  
Roscoe Dunjee, Editor Oklahoma Black Dispatch  
Walter White  
Roy Wilkins  
John P. Davis  
I. L. Mollison  
Mary McLeod Bethune—21st Spingarn medallist  
C. A. Franklin, editor Kansas City Call  
Father Divine  
Mrs. Eunice Carter  
Dr. Kelly Miller Jr.

Dr. E. D. Roberts  
Wm. H. Davis, editor, Amsterdam News  
Mrs. Vivian Mason, Harlem Home Relief Bureau  
M. Levi, Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan  
Alice Stone Blackwell  
William Allen White  
Ex-Senator Brookhart  
Reverend H. E. Thorpe, Pittsburgh  
Rev. J. S. Hatcher, Pittsburgh

## Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union  
American Youth Congress  
American Moslem Brotherhood, Detroit  
American League Against War and Fascism  
American League of Ex-Servicemen  
Autocrat Club, New Orleans  
Bulls Club, New Orleans  
Canadian Labor Defense League  
Communist Party  
Church League for Industrial Democracy  
Consolidated Tenants League, Harlem  
Civic Pride League, Cleveland  
Defensa Obrera Internacional (Cuban I.L.D.)  
Epic League, Los Angeles  
Elks—local organizations  
Father Divine's Peace Mission  
Industrial Workers of the World  
International Workers Order  
Icor  
League of Colored People, England  
League for Industrial Democracy  
League of Struggle for Negro Rights  
Masons—local organizations  
National Bar Association  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—locals  
National Association of Colored Women (100,000 members and affiliates)  
National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners  
Non-Partisan Labor Defense  
National Student League  
National Unemployment Councils  
Revolutionary Policy Publishing Ass'n.  
Russian National Mutual Aid Society  
Socialist Party  
Save Angelo Herndon Committee, Pittsburgh  
San Jacinto Club, New Orleans  
Universal Negro Improvement Association—locals  
Utopian League—locals  
Workmen's Sick & Death Benefit Soc.  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Young Communist League  
Young People's Socialist League

# 1,000,000 SIGNATURES BY OCTOBER 7

# TERROR'S General Headquarters

Stand on one of the high ridges overlooking Birmingham and look at the teeming industrial city with its furnaces, foundries, coal tipples and myriad smokestacks. Look across to the peaceful green-covered hills beyond. It is beautiful but you feel no pleasure in its beauty. On the contrary, the more beautiful it appears, the more a sense of bitter tragedy gnaws at your heart. Because you know that here, this city spread out before you, is the general headquarters of a brutal Southern terror which beats, lynches and murders workers, which enslaves and insults the Negro people, which tramples liberties like a mule's hoof in a clover bed, which stifles everything progressive and raises high the blood-stained banner of reaction.

Even if one were to deal with only the most recent period, the terrorist crimes against the workers and the Negro people throughout the South the list would be far too long to print here. However, taking the Birmingham section alone, we find the record of arrests, beatings and murders for the past four months an appalling one.

## MAY

**Robert Wood**, district secretary of the International Labor Defence, kidnaped in Birmingham by thugs, beaten and thrown into a creek on the outskirts of the city.

**Blaine Owen**, a Communist Organizer, kidnaped and beaten by the same gang.

**Saul Williams**, a Negro worker, kidnaped and flogged.

**Blaine Owen and Henry Johnson**, a Southern white worker, arrested in Dallas county in connection with the cotton choppers' strike; locked in the Selma jail and then released into the hands of a waiting gang of landlord "vigilantes" who beat them and applied fire to their bare flesh.

Six Negro sharecroppers, members of the Share Croppers Union, arrested in Dallas county, jailed and beaten. (One is still in jail.)

**Willie Foster**, Negro worker of Birmingham, arrested in Selma while investigating the arrest of the croppers, turned over to the vigilantes and beaten to death.

**F. Winton**, Negro I.L.D. organizer of Birmingham, arrested in Selma turned over to the "vigilantes" and beaten.

## JUNE

**Walter Brown**, militant Negro trade unionist, framed on a charge of "rape" and sentenced to 20 years.

**Robert Wood and Beth Mitchell**, I.L.D. organizers, arrested on a charge of violating the Birmingham Downs literature ordinance; charged with "changing name to conceal identity." The latter charge is still pending.

## JULY

**Robert Wood** attacked by a group of company thugs lying in wait to kidnap him. Wood escaped but was badly beaten.

**Robert Wood, Nora Elliot, R. F. Hall and Jack Kelly** arrested on charges

By **BILL MOSELEY**

(Special to the Labor Defender from Alabama)

of violating the city literature ordinance. Elliot and Kelly have since been released. Wood and Hall face a prison sentence unless the charge is defeated.

**Sam Childs**, Negro ore miner and militant trade unionist, murdered in cold blood by TCI company thugs.

**Joe Binney Johnson**, Negro share cropper of Hale county, a leader in the choppers' strike of the Share Croppers Union; taken out by a gang of landlords and killed.

**Tar and feathers for militant workers in California — terror is not confined to the South!**



## AUGUST

The writers' delegation of the National Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners fired on five times en route in their automobile from Birmingham to Montgomery. Three of the delegation were arrested in Birmingham, finger printed, "mugged" and then released.

**John Harvy**, Negro youth and leader of the Young Communist League, kidnaped in broad daylight from the streets of Birmingham and beaten unconscious.

**Jim Press Meriweather**, Negro farm worker, leader of the S.C.U. in Lowndes county, murdered by a gang of landlord "vigilantes" formed by the sheriff during the cotton pickers' strike. Three women and six men were beaten by this gang. They hanged Meriweather's wife with a rope thrown over a beam in her cabin but released her before she strangled to death.

**Willie Witcher**, Negro leader of the S.C.U. in Lowndes county, shot and jailed when he refused to pick cotton for 40c a hundred.

**Willie Grove**, Negro farm worker of Lowndes county, and two other members of the S.C.U., arrested, held in jail and beaten for membership in the Union.

**Charles Tasker and Ed Jackson**, Negro workers in Montgomery, arrested in police raids during cotton pickers' strike; ridden out on highway by deputy sheriffs and ordered never to return to Montgomery.

## SEPTEMBER

**Ed Sears**, Negro worker of Bessemer, arrested for having I.L.D. pamphlets in his possession, tried that same evening and sent to jail for ten months.

The reason for this vicious terror is simple enough. If you happen to be a member of the Southern ruling class, a landlord, a big banker, a coal operator, a steel baron, or the agent of the Wall Street financiers who control the Alabama coal and steel industry, you would realize the threat which the organization of the Southern masses offered to your privileged position. The Southern industrialists compete with the Northern industrialists by virtue of their ability to keep wages at the lowest possible subsistence level.

The Southern rulers retain their stranglehold on the political machinery of the state by keeping the masses unorganized and, insofar as possible, unenlightened, and by denying the most elementary political and civil rights—the right to vote and sit on juries—to upwards of half the toiling population that is, the Negro people.

They remind me, however, of a none too skillful tight-rope walker and even they realize their position is precarious. The crisis has reduced them to a frenzy of fear and desperation. They have seen the masses, Negro and white, grow restive, sullen, rebellious, under the whiplash of hunger. They have

(Continued on page 22)

***Tar and feathers for militant workers in California — terror is not confined to the South!***





# HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

By ANNA DAMON

Acting National Secretary, I.L.D.

The shadow of the madman who is the symbol of terror and oppression to millions of justice loving people in every corner of the world, hovers over the lives and freedom of thousands of men and women.

Its blackest fury is ready to be unleashed this month against one man who has been hidden away from the world in the dungeons of Moabit prison in Berlin since March, 1933. He is the

July, when his ship, the S. S. Manhattan, was sailing up the river Elbe to Hamburg, three Nazi secret police got aboard and after a whispered conference with the captain, broke open the locker which held Lawrence Simpson's personal possessions. They hunted until they found a cigarette box filled with stickers denouncing Hitler terror. When the ship docked at Hamburg they were joined by a fourth of their kind and they carried Simpson off with them. Cool, unadorned kidnaping of an American citizen in direct violation of every tenet of international law.

Lawrence Simpson is today in one of Hitler's concentration camps, hidden and guarded, another of the tens of thousands of victims at the mercy of Hitler's murder hordes.

The third man over whom the shadow of the swastika hangs is Edward Drolette. Drolette like hundreds of other American seamen, knew of and was infuriated by the treatment of Lawrence Simpson. Like thousands of American people he knew and abhorred what fascist terror is doing to Ernst

bolize the anti-fascist, anti-Nazi sentiment of millions.

Hitler thought that by throwing Thaelmann into a dungeon and hiding him from the world, he would succeed in causing him to be forgotten. He was mistaken. Hitler thought, that by sending his agents to kidnap Lawrence Simpson, he would stop anti-Nazi agitation and sentiment among American seamen. Hitler thought that his demands for apology to the U. S. State Department—demands which were promptly met—would clap all six of those arrested on the Bremen into jail for good. He was mistaken again.

It was one force, one power that foiled Hitler in each case. It was the might of mass pressure. Hundreds of thousands of reminders in the form of demonstrations before Nazi consulates, wires, telegrams, delegations to Germany, remind Hitler daily that Thaelmann is not forgotten.

The demonstration on board the S. S. Bremen was a smashing answer that Simpson would not be left to rot in a concentration camp. The delegation of



*Ernst Thaelmann*

beloved leader of the German working class—a man who is the symbol of the fight against fascism and war—Ernst Thaelmann.

Another whom it threatens is a young American seaman, 34 years old, who sailed the seas to Germany at least 10 times during these same three years. He saw what Hitler terror meant to the German workers. He saw them tortured and oppressed. He knew about the continued imprisonment of Ernst Thaelmann, the gruesome murder of hundreds of the bravest fighters in the ranks of the working class. And though he was a quiet, unassuming, able seaman, Lawrence Simpson did what he could to fight Nazi terror on board the ships he sailed. He talked to his fellow workers. He gave them literature. He told them about Ernst Thaelmann. He opened their eyes to the causes of the misery they saw in every German port. And so, early in



*Delegation of seamen led by Anna Damon (left) and June Kroll, Anti-Nazi Federation (right)*

Thaelmann and hundreds of thousands of German workers.

Drolette was part of the demonstration which gathered on the docks of New York on the night of July 26 when the S. S. Bremen was to sail for Germany. He was on board the Nazi ship when its murder emblem was torn from the mast and thrown into the waters of New York harbor. Edward Drolette was shot by a detective during the police attack which followed the tearing down of the swastika, critically wounded and arrested.

These three men, thousands of miles apart, separated by stone walls and the Atlantic Ocean, have become symbols not only of fascist terror and oppression—but much more important—they sym-

semen led by the I.L.D. and the Anti-Nazi Federation which called on the State Department in Washington demanding action for the release of Simpson was another forceful reminder.

But most important of all was the smashing victory for mass defense won in the release of five of the six seamen held in connection with tearing down the swastika. The I.L.D. mobilized that mass defense. It backed it up with a brilliant battery of defense counsel headed by Congressman Vito Marcantonio. It packed the courtroom to overflowing every single day of that trial.

But the lives and freedom of these men still hangs in the balance. Drolette, out on bail raised by the I.L.D.,

*(Continued on page 19)*



# THE GRAVES OF LIVING MEN

In four Federal penitentiaries, thirty-four state prisons located in sixteen different states, ninety-two men and women, loyal fighters in labor's ranks, are watching day follow day in endless monotony behind stone walls and steel bars. Their sentences range from one year to life, the vast majority in the upper bracket.

What happens to these political prisoners? How do they live behind the bars? How are they treated?

Every effort is made by the authorities to cut them off completely from the world outside, to keep them in forced idleness or to force them to do the heaviest, most unpleasant and unhealthful work. Petty persecution is the rule for political prisoners in every institution where they are incarcerated at the present time. Whether in California's dungeons, Alabama's chain gangs, or middle western state penitentiaries the common rule seems to be—"Do everything to break the spirit of these damn radicals." The term "radical" is of course, made wide enough to include every man and woman in prison for working class activity, for struggling for the right to live, for being born a member of an oppressed nationality. It's all the same to keepers of America's jails.

Conditions in America's jails are notoriously vile. Of the more than three thousand Federal and state prisons, reformatories, workhouses, farms, chain gangs, county and city jails, over one-third were built 70 years ago, many one hundred years ago. Over-crowding is the general rule. In 1930 when the last statistics were compiled 65.9 of the jails were listed as over-crowded. Air space on the average is less than one-third of what is necessary for good health. Sanitation, medical attention,

educational activity, barely exist. Either the most ruthless back-breaking over-work is enforced or none at all.

These are the general conditions that prevail in all jails in the United States. They exist in every prison that houses a political prisoner today.

In California, where we have 18 political prisoners, five serving life sentences, rotten conditions have reached a particularly savage level. In San Quentin, J. B. McNamara, the oldest political prisoner in the world, 24 years behind the bars, is brutally persecuted. All his books have been confiscated. A manuscript of his autobiography has been taken away from him. He is not permitted to receive even the regulation number of visitors. Those who try to see him are subjected to severe third degree questioning. He is constantly threatened. Shooting of prisoners is a fairly common occurrence in San Quentin which is perhaps the most overcrowded jail in the country.

One of the criminal syndicalism prisoners, five of whom are serving one to 14 years sentences in San Quentin, is seriously ill. He is Jack Crane. He is suffering from stomach ulcers and is getting no medical care, not even a special diet. He has repeatedly asked for milk, which, though not refused, is simply not given to him. He and his four fellow prisoners are forced to work in the prison jute mill, while at least two ex-public officials, sentenced for embezzling public monies and for murder—have soft jobs in the office.

The cells of the political prisoners in San Quentin are constantly raided and their mail is held up.

In Los Angeles County jail, which houses four political prisoners, the same cruel treatment prevails. One of the men, James McShann was permanently

injured in the back as a result of the beating he received when he was arrested. It is imperative that he wear a special kind of support. He is denied the right to wear it. Another of these prisoners, Harold Hendricks, shows decided symptoms of tuberculosis—pain in one lung, continued cough and fever, yet he receives no medical care—not even the right to a medical examination. The warden answers all protests with the cry, "This is my jail." Their rations are cut down even below the regular miserable jail diet. They receive only one slice of bread with the statement, "This is all you get. The I.L.D. or no one else will get you any more." Even in California's "model" prison for women at Tehachapi, our political prisoners are deprived of their mail and news of the outside world.

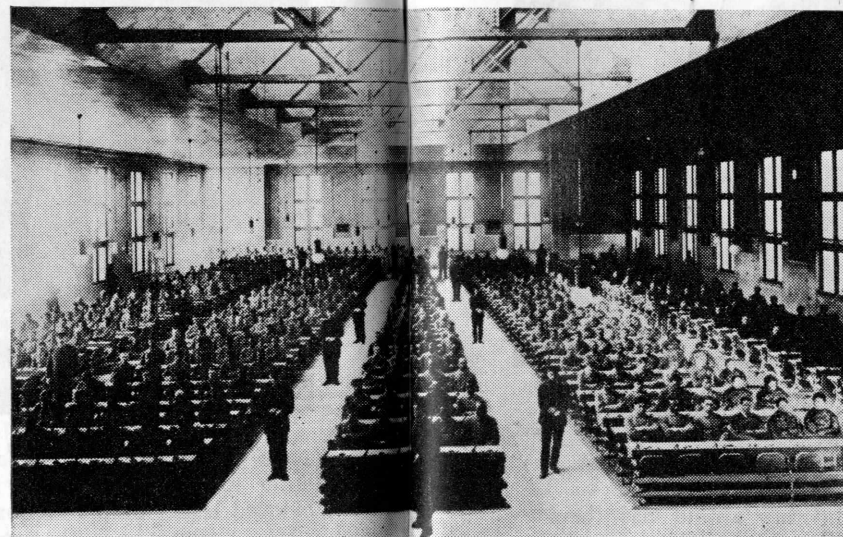
immediate family and limited to certain days, hours, and once or twice a month at the most. Mail is severely censored. Packages of any description are not permitted. In many cases money, sent according to regulations, is withheld from our political prisoners. A weekly news letter compiled by the Prisoners Relief Department of the I.L.D. from the pages of daily newspapers, is barred from many prisons.

Under such a regime, men and women who gave their freedom for their beliefs, innocent victims of race hatred and oppression, victims of the vicious frame-up system are forced to spend their days.

Every restriction is sharpened where it is applied to our political prisoners, every barbarism intensified.

By  
ROSE BARON

Secretary  
Prisoners  
Relief Department  
I.L.D.



Right: The dining room in Leavenworth.

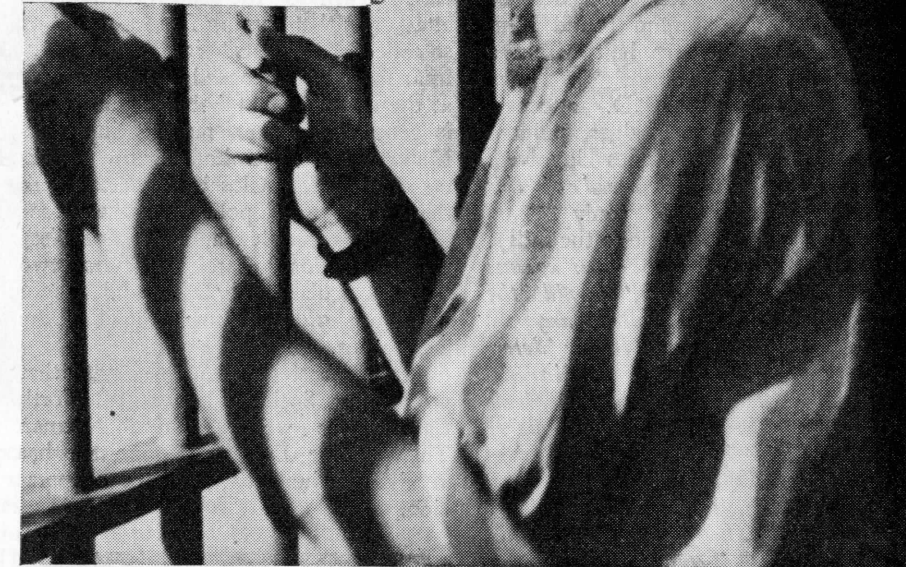
Below: Exercise in San Quentin.

On the chain gangs of the South, open savagery reigns. Fred McMahan, young textile worker serving 18 months on a North Carolina gang, has lost two toes and a finger as a result of the work he is forced to do. Pete Turney in Alabama is brutally treated.

Books, even those sent through the publishers according to prison regulations are withheld from our political prisoners. One jail even refused to allow a standard dictionary to enter. Working class literature and periodicals are systematically excluded except in those few places where a persistent protest campaign has forced their admission.

Even where there is no special persecution, prison regulations are barbarous and cruel. Visits, as a general rule, are confined only to members of the

Right: Photo snapped inside a New York jail.

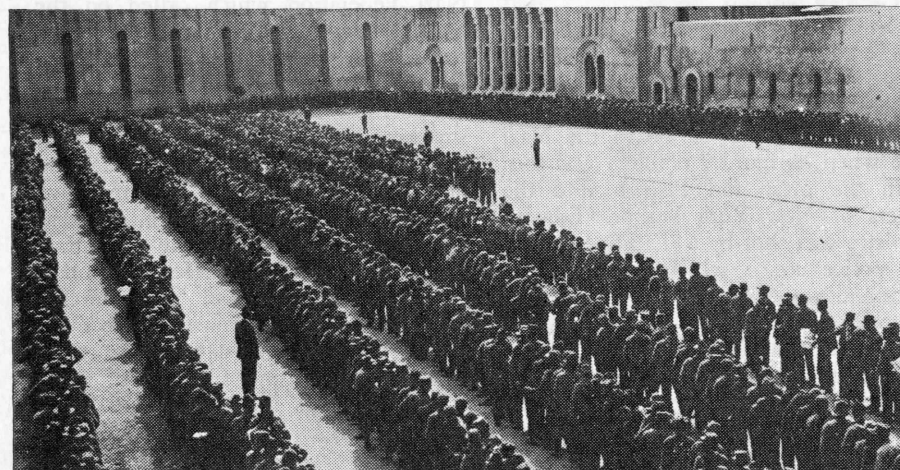


sands upon thousands of the bravest workers are suffering untold tortures in dungeons and concentration camps—they are subjected to hair-raising indignities and torment because they are political prisoners. But they do not have to suffer the indignities heaped upon our American political prisoners—such as being labelled murderers, thieves, and treated as such.

This year the annual Christmas Drive for political prisoners and their families conducted by the Prisoners Relief Department of the I.L.D. will have as one of its paramount aims, the fight for the recognition of the status of political prisoners and special privileges for them as such. The main purpose of the drive this year as it has been during the last ten years, is the collection of funds for material relief to the prisoners in jail and their destitute families on the outside. Bravely and without complaint, the wives, mothers and

children of the political prisoners wait until their loved ones are restored to them—in hunger and misery. Relief agencies openly discriminate against them. Most of them are unable to find work. The children face the cold winter with worn shabby clothes, torn shoes, unheated cheerless homes. Every year at Christmas time they receive a substantial check and a large bundle of warm clothes, toys, treats from the I.L.D.

The Christmas Drive this year will be officially launched on November 1 and will close January 1, 1936. Preparatory measures this year will include a New York conference of prominent attorneys and individuals involved and interested in the betterment of prison conditions, to map out a campaign for the recognition of the status of political prisoners. Similar regional conferences will be initiated by the districts of the I.L.D. in different parts of the country.





# DIRTY WORK in Burlington

By DON WEST

Six textile workers, their friends and families anxiously waited for August 27 to come. That was the date set for hearing the Burlington "Dynamite" case before the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Doubtless the five politicians who sat on the Supreme Court bench in Raleigh, N. C., had heard plenty about the Burlington frame-up. The thousands of protests, petitions, resolutions, etc., which have been pouring in from workers, organizations, sympathizers, had disturbed their peace of mind. Anyhow, when the Burlington case came up, there was a tenseness which showed it was of unusual significance. And Major John J. Henderson, defense attorney from Burlington found himself brought to a sharp halt within a bare 30 minutes.

David Levinson, I.L.D. attorney, speaking before these judges, pointed out the clear class issues involved. "Suppose," he said, "instead of this slight injury to the mill (only \$12.00 worth of damage was done to the mill), the dynamite had been thrown against the union headquarters, would the authorities have prosecuted anyone? Would they have imported four 'detectives' from Pennsylvania to 'investigate'? Would a \$1,000 reward have been offered to catch the offenders? Would anybody have been sentenced to ten years, as the defendant, Anderson, has been sentenced in this case?"

The Supreme Court fidgeted. Job holding politicians don't like this kind of straight truth. Levinson spoke for barely 15 minutes. They asked him to stop.

The defense asked for a new trial for the defendants. If a new trial is granted, then the fight goes back to the local court of Alamance County at Burlington.

The fight so far on the Burlington defense has been a grinding uphill battle. The local defense committee, which has conducted the work, and with which I have worked from the very beginning until just recently, has met many attacks from enemies of the working class. Perhaps the most outrageous attack was that coming from a group of so-called "Socialists" in North Carolina, including Leonard J. Green, who at the same time of being a "Socialist" is general organizer, representing MacMahon, for the United Textile Workers of America. Closely connected with the sabotage and police agent work of Green, is Jack Fies, another "Socialist" leader of North Carolina. These two have particularly sabotaged and fought the work of the Burlington Defense Committee.

Let me hasten to say, however, that from most Socialist leaders of North Carolina as well as from Norman Thomas, the Defense Committee has received a hundred per cent cooperation.

Jack Fies took Leonard Green straight to his bosom. Green was a regular red baiter. He was a kind of insane, raving person. He launched slander and lies against the Burlington Defense Committee. He organized a small group of stool pigeons, a Pinkerton detective, and had them INCORPORATED as the Socialist Party of North Carolina. Jack Fies was elected on the executive committee of this new "incorporated" Socialist Party. They would have a Socialist Party that abso-



**Right:**  
Sallie  
Alexander  
a textile  
striker of  
Pelzer,  
N. C., who  
received 28  
gunshot  
wounds  
when thugs  
attacked  
picket line  
on Labor  
Day.  
**Below:** The  
oldest  
woman  
on the  
picket line  
slugged in  
Salem,  
Mass.,  
textile  
strike.



lutely would not help defend those innocent workers.

Just on the eve of the hearing before the Supreme Court, Fies and Green thought they would use their "trump card." At least, they thought that was what it was. They would disclose my identity and turn me over to the police. Some readers may remember that a little over a year ago I was indicted under Georgia's old slave insurrection law, like Angelo Herndon, and had to become a fugitive from Georgia. In order to remain off the chain gang and to keep my identity from the detectives and police, I took the assumed name, Jim Weaver, in North Carolina. By writing and speaking my identity was disclosed and I was put in immediate danger of re-arrest and extradition to Georgia at a time when work on the Burlington Defense was most strategic and in greater demand.

But the other Socialists of North Carolina did not approve of Green and

(Continued on page 19)

# TRADE UNION DEFENSE

## BUILDS THE I. L. D.

By ELAINE BLACK

Organization Sec'y, San Francisco I. L. D.



**Above:**  
Elaine Black  
**Left:** Jack Green and his family. Green was one of the Santa Rosa tar and feather victims.

*This picture was taken immediately after California's terrorists got through with him.*

*"Jackson, Calif.  
July 30, 1935.*

*International Labor Defense,  
San Francisco, Calif.*

Dear Sirs and Friends:

*At a meeting of the strike committee, July 20, it was unanimously voted to send the I.L.D. a vote of thanks for bailing our good Brother Canales out of jail. And also for the highly efficient way the Workman Case was handled by Mr. Anderson. This was the first time that we have had a chance in the courtroom since the begining of the strike ten months ago.*

*Hoping for the continued success of the I.L.D. and their aims,*

*Yours most sincerely,*

*J. A. Franco, Chairman  
Fred Trautman, Secretary  
Local #48 MMSWU."*

On October 1, 1934, the newly organized Mother Lode Local #48 of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, A. F. of L. went out on strike. Vandeleur (one of the betrayers of the San Francisco General Strike) President of the State Federation of Labor and of the San Francisco Labor Council, was in charge of the strike and defense.

In February a reign of terror led by the sheriff and vigilantes broke loose in Amador County. Several members of the local were framed on charges of

possessing "concealable weapons," "rioting," etc. The I.L.D. sent protests and an offer of aid in defending the workers arrested for strike activity. The workers at first tabled the communication. Their minds had been poisoned by the labor fakers.

Over 30 workers had been arrested and only five who were the most militant were not bailed out. Among them was James Workman who was held for \$500 cash bail. The I.L.D. offered to bail him out and he accepted. At the preliminary hearing the bail was suddenly raised to \$2,000 cash, without protest from the attorney retained by the A. F. of L. Workman went back to jail. Vandeleur's press agent, a Miss Logan, told a committee from the National Students League, who went to offer assistance on the picket line—"It will do Workman and the others no harm to stay in jail and cool their heels off!" (Workman has T. B. and continually spits blood. The jail is a hell-hole with no sanitary provisions, light or air, only one small window in the entire basement.)

After visiting Workman a second time and bailing him out again, he

asked that an I.L.D. attorney be associated in his case. The A. F. of L. refused. Workman then decided to have the I.L.D. alone to defend him. After this, one of the A. F. of L. attorneys agreed to be associated with George Anderson (assigned to the case by the I.L.D.). In the meantime Alfo Canales, who was arrested with Workman was sentenced to 1 to 5 years in San Quentin, for having the same weapon that Workman is also charged with concealing. The Workman trial lasted 10 days, brought out the true nature of the frame-up against the strikers, but ended in Workman's conviction. A new trial has been won for him over the desperate protest of the prosecution.

A branch of 43 members, mainly miners and their wives has been formed in the gold mine country. It is called the Canales-Workman Branch. The greater majority of the miners—about 95—and their wives, who subsequently have been arrested on the picket lines (on various charges) have asked for I.L.D. defense. Canales is now out on bail furnished by the I.L.D., after spending five months in the Jackson jail and one month in San Quentin. He has requested that an I.L.D. attorney be associated in his appeal or that the I.L.D. take it over entirely.

In Eureka, 300 miles north of San Francisco, the lumber workers while organizing to go out on strike sent a letter to all organizations asking what they would be able to contribute should a strike start. Our district answered immediately, outlining the role of the I.L.D., enclosing various pamphlets and "What To Do When Under Arrest." The Committee of Action of the Lumber & Sawmill Workers Union answered that the I.L.D. was the only organization that had concretely told them what they could or could not do to help strikers.

The cold-blooded massacre of the unarmed pickets in front of the Holmes-Eureka Mill is well known—3 murdered, 9 wounded—hundreds gassed—160 thrown in jail, charged with rioting; soup kitchens, union and other workers' halls closed.

The union had voted on June 20, the night of the attack, that the I.L.D. be retained by the union to defend the five already arrested and any other members who might be arrested during the strike. Even before we were informed of this action we sent Attorneys Leo Gallagher and Anderson, and three others to Eureka. They were not allowed to visit any of the prisoners, though we have learned that with the exception of about 3, who even at preliminary hearings were represented by nobody, all had demanded that I.L.D. be notified. (Continued on page 16)



# HENRI BARBUSSE

Henri Barbusse was one of the staunchest friends the world wide labor defense movement had. He lent his brilliant pen, his flaming words, his unquenchable vigor to every major defense battle of the laboring masses. He helped mobilize millions for the defense of Sacco and Vanzetti, Tom Mooney, the Scottsboro Boys, Angelo Herndon, Gramsci, Thaelmann, Dimitroff—with all the eloquence at his command.

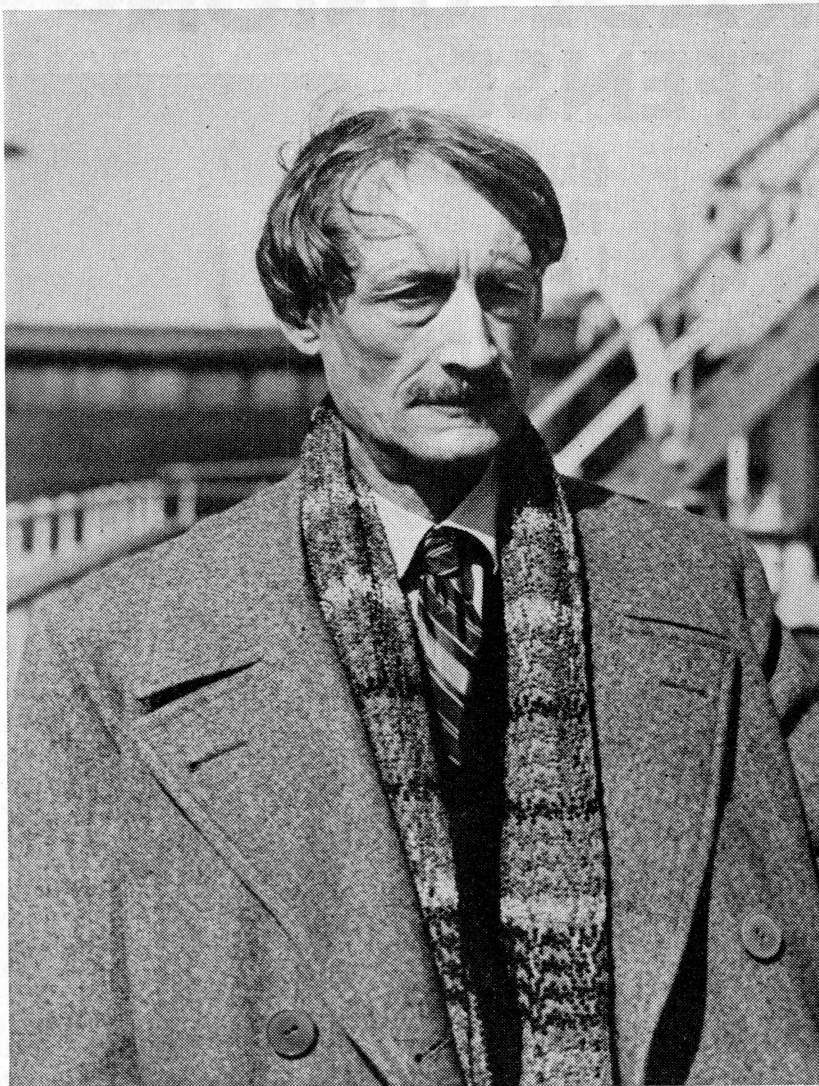
The International Labor Defense lowers its banners to honor the memory of a great artist, a courageous fighter, a bitter enemy of fascism and war. The I.L.D. is certain that his work will live on in the branches of our organization which have already taken his name and in the scores of new branches to come which will be proud to perpetuate his indomitable spirit under the emblem—*HENRI BARBUSSE BRANCH, INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE.*

During the many years that Barbusse was one of the contributing editors of the *LABOR DEFENDER*, its pages carried many of his articles and calls to action. The *LABOR DEFENDER* here reprints two sections of his writings of special significance to the members and friends of the International Labor Defense. The first was written in connection with the necessity of building a powerful defense organization for the working class, the second in a call for international solidarity in support of the victims of Mussolini's fascist terror.

"Do not leave out a single organization, a single group of workers, trade unionists, pacifists—who by virtue of their principles should be with us—not one man, woman, youth who can if they wish—and who must if they can—fight in our ranks.

"Do not wait until they come to you. Stretch out your hands—open wide your arms. Do not allow yourself to be held back by the things which have held us back until now.

"Friends and comrades, we are not only the witnesses of events, we are the judges. More, we are the instruments which create them. We must not be among those who allow themselves to be swept along by the torrent of history. We must be those who



direct its course because we know and understand its irresistible laws. Action and unity."

August 1933.

"Only one thing can make them reply, one thing alone can force them to halt and to retreat. And that thing is

the great avenging voice of the outraged public opinion of mankind. It is with the hope of strengthening our outcry with that of all honest men throughout the world, that I am now making this appeal to the American public."

June 1928.

## Trade Union Defense Builds I.L.D. *(Continued on page 15)*

Out of 55 held to answer on rioting charges, 34 retained the I.L.D., 18 Blaine McGowan, a local reactionary and 3 the American Civil Liberties Union attorneys. The first trial with Gallagher as counsel, resulted in a hung jury which deliberated for 25 hours. Eugene Miller, a militant striker and one of those wounded and 42 other defendants in this trial were dismissed when the prosecution ended its case. The trial of the second group of three resulted in an acquittal though McGowan delivered a red baiting address to the jury, calling for renewed

activities on the part of the vigilantes, announcing that "The reds and the I.L.D. are sabotegers of real unionism!" The membership of the L. & S. W. U. #2563 have time and time again voted thanks to the I.L.D. and condemned the attempts of the reactionary labor bureaucrats to drive the I.L.D. representative and attorney out of town.

A new branch of 32 members active and energetic—has been established. It has adopted the name Kaarte-Edlund Branch in honor of the first 2 strikers killed. Another branch is in formation at Aracta—the Paul Lampella Branch.

# NEWS of the Month

## Sixteen Gold Miners Face Jail Terms in Alaska

By CHARLES CROZIER

Juneau Alaska, Vice President, Local 203 International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, (A. F. of L.)

At least 16 Juneau, Alaska, union men face charges of "rioting with dangerous weapons" in Federal court this Fall, on framed charges resulting from their picketing the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mine in our strike for recognition and better conditions. Most of these men belong to our local, but two are members of Local 38-104, International Longshoremen's Association, which has supported our strike. These union brothers, if convicted, may be sentenced to 3 to 15 years in prison.

We decided to strike on May 22 after four months' of discussion. We had been sending grievance and safety committees to the company ever since we started organizing the Alaska Miners Union early in 1934. Men were working in wet cold drifts under conditions unimaginable; dynamite smoke and gas so thick it is impossible to see more than 6 feet ahead. During the last two years 13 men have been killed and over 100 in the last 7 years. Over a hundred have gone out with broken arms and legs during these last two years. Most of these accidents are preventable. Our demands, the chief one, union recognition, were placed before the company after a vote of 370 to 32 for strike if necessary. The company's answer was, "No."

Every kind of lie and slander was used to break our strike including the formation of a "Citizen's Committee of 25" and the organization of a "Loyal, American, Go-back-to-work" company union.

Immigration inspectors rushed to the strike scene to look for the foreign agitators the company was making so much noise about. The noise suddenly stopped when they found that of the 19 "un-American" union trustees 9 were native born, and all but three naturalized citizens and these three were getting their final papers.

The city council voted to hire 500 special policemen, or as many as needed to protect men wishing to sign up for work. They also passed an ordinance that a congregation of more than five people on the streets was unlawful assembly. The special police and scab association broke this ordinance with a march of 100 scabs on the mine. Opposite the union hall our pickets stopped

the column, and a fight was started by the guards and scabs who used guns, clubs and tear gas against unarmed pickets.

Within a few days after the fight, 43 pickets were arrested. Some were released in a few days, 28 were held for "rioting" but of these all but 16 were released in the preliminary hearings. These 16 face trial and conviction.

The defense is in the hands of the broad Alaska Miners Defense Committee, composed of miners, longshoremen and fishermen's unions. This committee has retained Irvin Goodman, I.L.D. attorney, and Henry Roden of Juneau for the defense. We appeal to labor to help us free these sixteen men and to defend their unions. You can do this by supporting our defense committee in organizing a strong protest against these frameups with resolutions and letters to Governor John W. Troy and District Attorney Wm. Holzheimer at Juneau, Alaska.

## Monticello, Minnesota

By DOROTHY C. MILLER

Members of the Wright County Unemployed Council who were present at their regular monthly meeting August 14, 1935, at the county seat, Buffalo, Minnesota, signed a petition asking for the freedom of Angelo Herndon, 100%. Reino Tanttilla, State Secretary and Organizer of the United Farmers League of Minnesota who was the speaker of the evening, was asked to present the petition which he did, after explaining the Southern situation. A woman who had had the opportunity to hear Angelo Herndon in Minneapolis, when he visited there the latter part of July, told members of hearing him speak and also what life would mean to him if he was sentenced to the chain gang. The sentiment of the entire crowd toward this young Negro and members of his race was voiced by one man who said when asked if he would sign the petition, "Sure, he is a human being struggling like us."

Plans are being made to have an I.L.D. organizer from the Minneapolis district as a guest speaker at a future County meeting of the Council. Monticello local of 16 members has three members who have already joined the I.L.D. There has been no concentrated effort made as yet to sign up new members as the Councils have been very busy with immediate demands and problems. Old issues of the LABOR DE-

FENDER have been given out. The new president of the Wright County Council, elected August 14, Fred Carpenter of Monticello said he intended to join the I.L.D. as soon as possible. This will no doubt encourage others.

Mass pressure on the part of members of the Council made it possible to have a half column notice of this meeting and a good account of Angelo Herndon printed in the Monticello Times, weekly Republican paper published at Monticello, Minnesota.

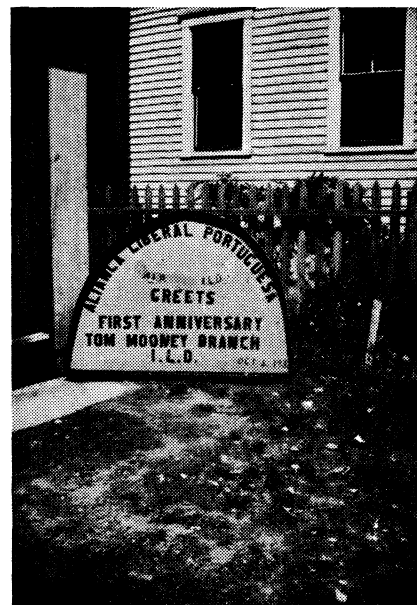
## An Important Anniversary in New Bedford, Mass.

T. Ferrira.

Last September when the general textile strike broke out we decided to form some kind of an organization here. We decided to form an I.L.D. branch, the TOM MOONEY BRANCH of New Bedford. We started to get new members very fast. We ran affairs for the benefit of the class war prisoners and paid regular dues to the district. The most militant members pay ten cents a week to finance our hall so we can carry on the work in a better way.

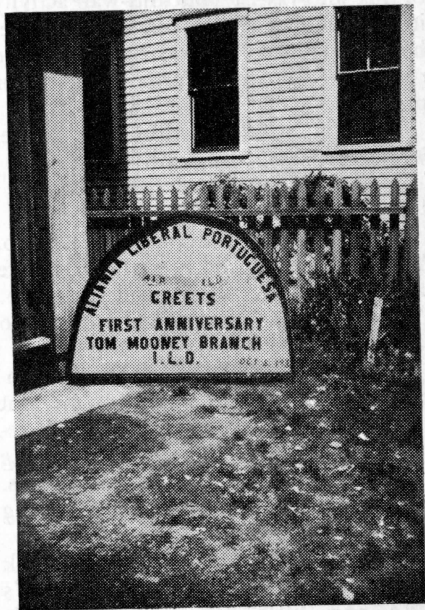
We not only help the class war prisoners in America but also in Portugal as in our branch we have mostly Portuguese members. It will be a year on October 2 that our branch was formed so we decided to hold a celebration and also a membership drive. We have quite a few different speakers and the hall is donated. We have eight organizations helping to make our anniversary a success. We also have 20 slogans to decorate the hall. We are sending a picture and a film of the hall we are occupying.

New Bedford I. L. D. Hall.





*New Bedford I. L. D. Hall.*





*Anti-Nazi protest meeting at Madison Square Garden, New York.*

## **Bulgaria**

Yurdan Luetibrodsky, the militant Bulgarian worker, has been hanged by the Bulgarian government. Just before he died, in the very shadow of the gallows, he poured out his heart in a letter to his father.

The judge of the military court which tried this brave man demanded that he denounce his working-class activity, and call on others to do the same. By this action, Luetibrodsky could have saved his own life. He spurned the offer of the military court, and in his letter to his father, explained why he preferred to die.

Luetibrodsky was a sailor. Because of his anti-fascist and anti-war activity in the Bulgarian fleet on the Danube, he was arrested. He was hanged in the courtyard of the Warna hard labor prison.

This is what Luetibrodsky wrote, while preparing for death:

Warna Hard Labor Prison

Dear Father:

I received your letter a few days ago. You advise me to do everything to save myself from the gallows, and you write: "Do this today. Tomorrow it will be too late."

Don't you understand that this proposal does not mean safety for me, but rather sure death, even though I remain alive? We, the sons of the rising class, must not fear for our own lives. Better dead, than a stinking, living corpse.

"All right," you will say, "but think of Mara and Ilyitch" (Luetibrodsky's wife and little son born after his

father's arrest). What will they do without you?"

I often think of them, father. When I do, my heart is filled with bitterness and my breast with lead. It is torture that forces me to clutch the bars and grit my teeth. I promise myself that in spite of everything, I will bear up; I will preserve my strength and to the last second will remain a fighter.

What right have I to give the enemy a weapon against us all? No I cannot do it! I will perish, but Ilyitch will know what his father fought for, and that he preferred to die rather than to cover himself with shame.

Yes, it is hard to wait moment after moment for death, to get oneself together at the slightest sound, to count steps—they are coming, they are coming, they are coming to take you away. The heart beats almost to bursting. But . . . the steps retreat. Finally the nerves can bear it no longer; one prays for death.

But this does not mean I should be hanged without resistance. Everything possible must be done to save me. Mobilize public opinion against the death sentence!

With the rope around my neck, I call to you: hold your head higher, father; beloved wife; little son whom I have never seen! Though dead, the fighters will live again in the consciousness of the victorious workers. The children will enjoy the fruits of the struggle for which the fathers fell.

YURDAN LUETIBRODSKY.

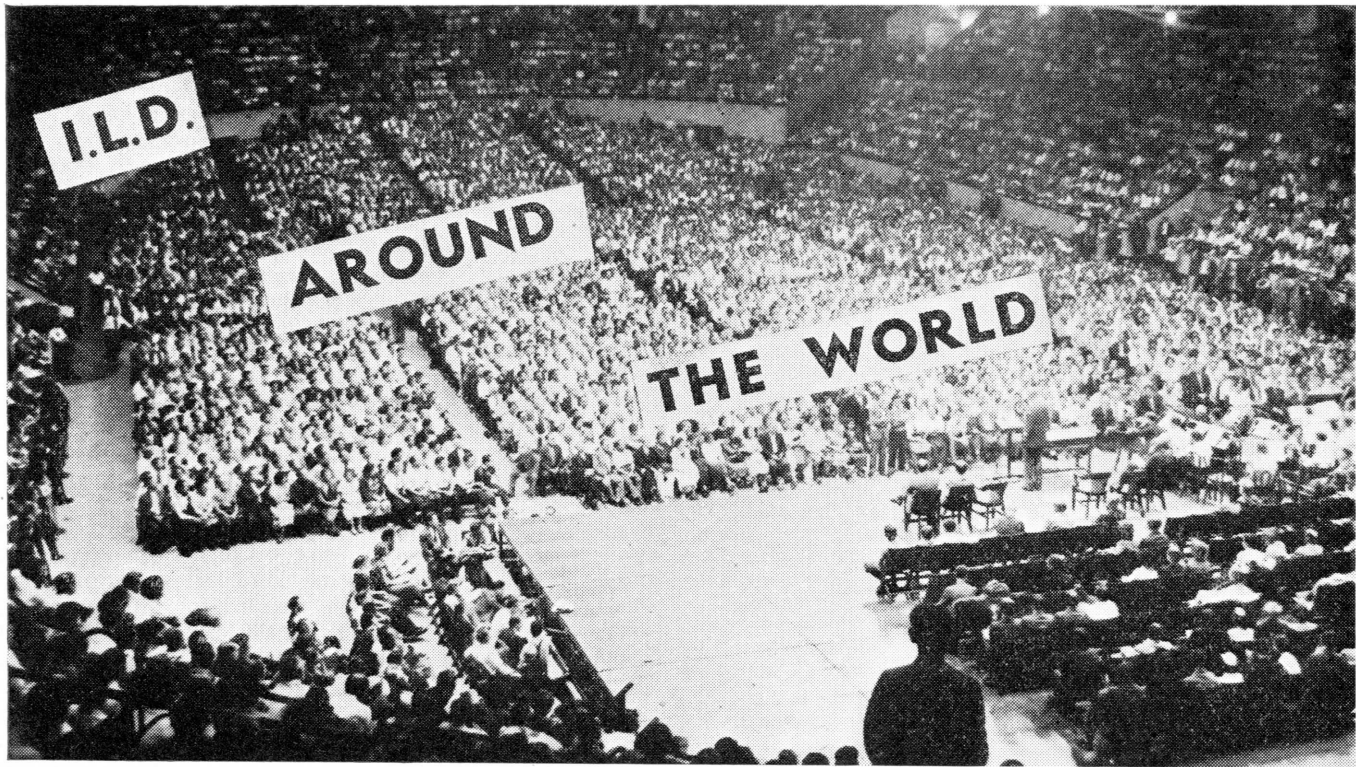
## **Italy**

Italy's graveyards and jails are being

filled with the victims of Mussolini's oppression, tremendously increased since Italian fascism undertook its drive against Ethiopian independence. Workers, soldiers and intellectuals are being arrested by the hundreds for their opposition to Mussolini's robber war against the Negro people.

Military courts have been set up in Italy to deal with all citizens between the ages of 18 and 55, who commit offenses against the war. Young people who absent themselves from pre-military training come before this court. Soldiers arrested for demonstrating against the war—and there have been many such demonstrations—are also tried in special military court. In spite of the efforts of the fascist regime to cover up the facts, in spite of the silence of the newspapers in Italy, it has become known that at least twelve soldiers brought before the court, have been shot.

The International Labor Defense of Italy, which has been working under conditions of the strictest illegality since 1925, has risen to the situation. In its work of relief for political prisoners and their families, it has drawn in new groups of people. In the factories, under the very noses of the employers, it has made collections for the political prisoners. The workers of one large clothing factory sent garments for the prisoners' families. The International Labor Defense of Italy has led large sections of the population in actions of solidarity with the political prisoners, and with the families of those whom Mussolini's courts have murdered.



*Anti-Nazi protest meeting at Madison Square Garden, New York.*

# AMNESTY — for Cuba's 3,000

By FRANK REYNOLDS

Tyrant Batista's lust for power extends behind the gates of the prisons which hide Cuba's 3,000 political prisoners from the world but not from his wrath. Torture, filthy cells, rotten food and forced labor are officially sanctioned. Many of the prisoners are seriously sick, but they are actually carried to their work in loathsome swamps or left to rot in dungeons.

Their number is daily augmented by the Emergency Courts. Constitutional guarantees are nothing but empty phrases to these courts which take their orders from Batista and Wall Street. The Constitution boasts freedom of the press and free speech in Cuba. But even the readers of papers and periodicals which criticize the present regime are thrown into jail to say nothing of

## Hands Across the Sea (Continued from page 10)

faces a prison sentence for "felonious assault"—in spite of the fact that he was shot and wounded. He must be freed. Simpson is still hidden away in a concentration camp. Thaelmann is still in prison facing a trial by ax men sometime in October.

In every city that has a German consulate, the thunder of mass pressure must demand freedom for Ernst Thaelmann. Hitler, arch fiend of fascism, must be made to feel that his swastika is not the banner of millions of justice loving people and that international mass pressure has hands that reach across the sea to defend and protect his victims.

## Dirty Work

(Continued from page 14)

Fies actions. Neither does Norman Thomas. In the September 7 issue of the *Socialist Call*, Thomas writes regarding this group in North Carolina: "A group of alleged Socialists in Burlington, N. C., inspired I suspect by some Chamber of Commerce stool pigeon, has broken off from the Socialist Party and incorporated itself under a state law. According to the reports that have reached me it claims to endorse the kind of Socialism in which I believe. That is wholly false! The leaders of this group have instead, outrageously sabotaged the defense of labor men who are now appealing from a conviction for a conspiracy to dynamite. . . . 'Emphatically I support the Burlington Defense.'"

This is a case in which the right of a union to organize in the South is involved. Every union man and woman should know about it and should be fighting for the freedom of six innocent textile workers.

their editors and publishers. Every section of the population is represented in the ever mounting list of political prisoners—intellectuals, workers, students, peasants, soldiers, government employees. The sentences are savage. The leader of the tobacco workers, Arturo Iser, the student Yayo Galvez and the teacher Fonseca are now serving 30 year sentences!

The army and the police are in charge of the torture program outside the jails. Hundreds of foreign born workers have been deported from Cuba, their homes destroyed, their wives and children left to starve. The total of murders directed by the Batista-Mendieta regime, surpasses Machado's bloody record.

But the wave of protest against this rule by murder and torture mounts daily, led by the heroic Defense Obrera Internacional, (the Cuban I.L.D.) A National Committee for the Amnesty of Political Prisoners was set up as soon as martial law was revoked. Its national offices were raided, its officers thrown into jail for long sentences, its

meetings broken up by soldiers. But new local branches of this organization spring up daily.

Despite the bloody terror an amnesty campaign is under way. It demands complete freedom for all political and social prisoners except the Machadistas (supporters of Machado) whether they are already sentenced or in jail awaiting trial; an immediate end to all persecution; right of asylum for all foreign born workers and political freedom; return of all those deported and exiled; freedom to organize and strike; freedom of speech and press.

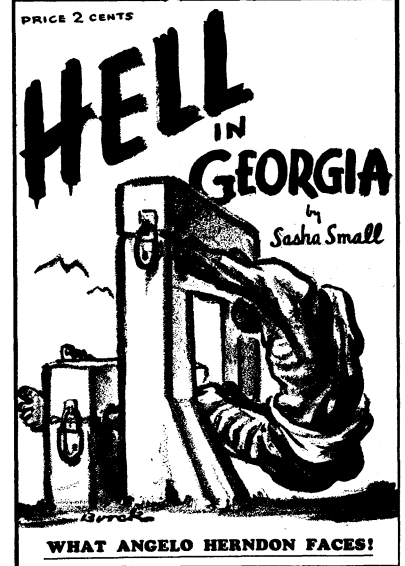
This campaign must have the backing of the people of the United States. The power behind the terror that is oppressing the Cuban masses is the power which directs the shooting of American strikers, jailing of militants—Wall Street. The Cuban prisoners and those who are fighting for their freedom at home, turn to their brothers in North America for support. A storm of protest to President Mendieta and his right hand Col. Batista from individuals and organizations in the United States must answer the cry that rises from Cuba's dungeons.

## Two New Pamphlets:

This pamphlet tells the full story of the new internationally famous "Bremen incident."

"This little pamphlet should be put into the hands of every anti-fascist worker. It is a real guide to immediate action, a lesson in anti-fascist work. It should especially be put into the hands of every seaman sailing under the American flag, to help free Ernst Thaelmann, Laurence Simpson, Edward Drolette, and all anti-fascist victims."

—Roy Hudson



An eye-witness account of Georgia's brutal chain gang system. "A million copies of HELL IN GEORGIA should be distributed throughout the length and breadth of this land. And if conservative, liberal and radical, black and white, combine in the distribution of just such honest portrayals of conditions in this country, it will help a lot to stop Hell in Georgia, and prevent Hell in America."

—John L. Spivak

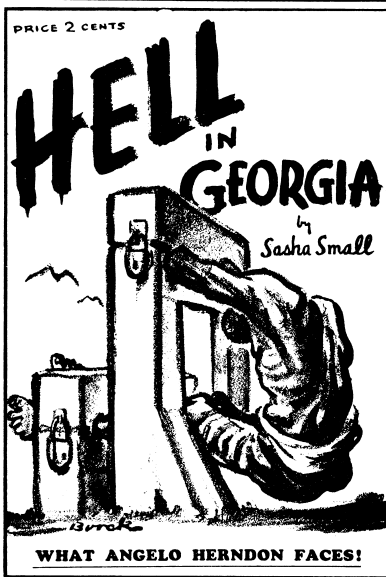


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# YOUNG DEFENDERS CORNER



## A Story

By JULIA SPECTOR

14 Year Old Young Defender

"Hello comrades!" Kate, a young defender 13 years old, leader from the German School called us over. "I'm sure you would like to see our Shutzbund comrades, wouldn't you? They are in Room 15 right now. Come, I'll introduce you to them."

"We sure would like to see them. After all they just came from Austria where their parents were killed in the struggles with the police."

"The Soviet Union is taking care of them now."

"I betcha they're glad they're here!"

Much noise could be heard from Room 15 where the Shutzbund kids were. "Hello comrades!" some of the Shutzbund comrades addressed us as we entered the room. The expressions on their faces were ones of excited joy.

The boys were wearing light gray suits with green trimming. The girls were dressed in light gray skirts or dresses with blue trimming. They were all participating in animated conversations with their newly-made friends. I came up to a boy called Hans.

"Hello Hans," I said, "how do you like our Soviet schools?"

"Oh, they're swell!" he replied with gusto in German, "you know in Austria the kids aren't given half as much help from the teachers as they are here. For instance, Comrade Feldman was assigned to help me in mathematics. That sure suits me!"

"What do you think about the hot lunches we're given every day in school?"

"I never dreamed of having hot lunches in school. They are sure good too!"

"Would you like to be a Young Defender, Hans?"

"Would I? Why I've heard so much

about the Young Defenders that I can hardly wait for the time when I'll become one myself."

"Then just fill this application out."

"Were you ever one before?" I asked him.

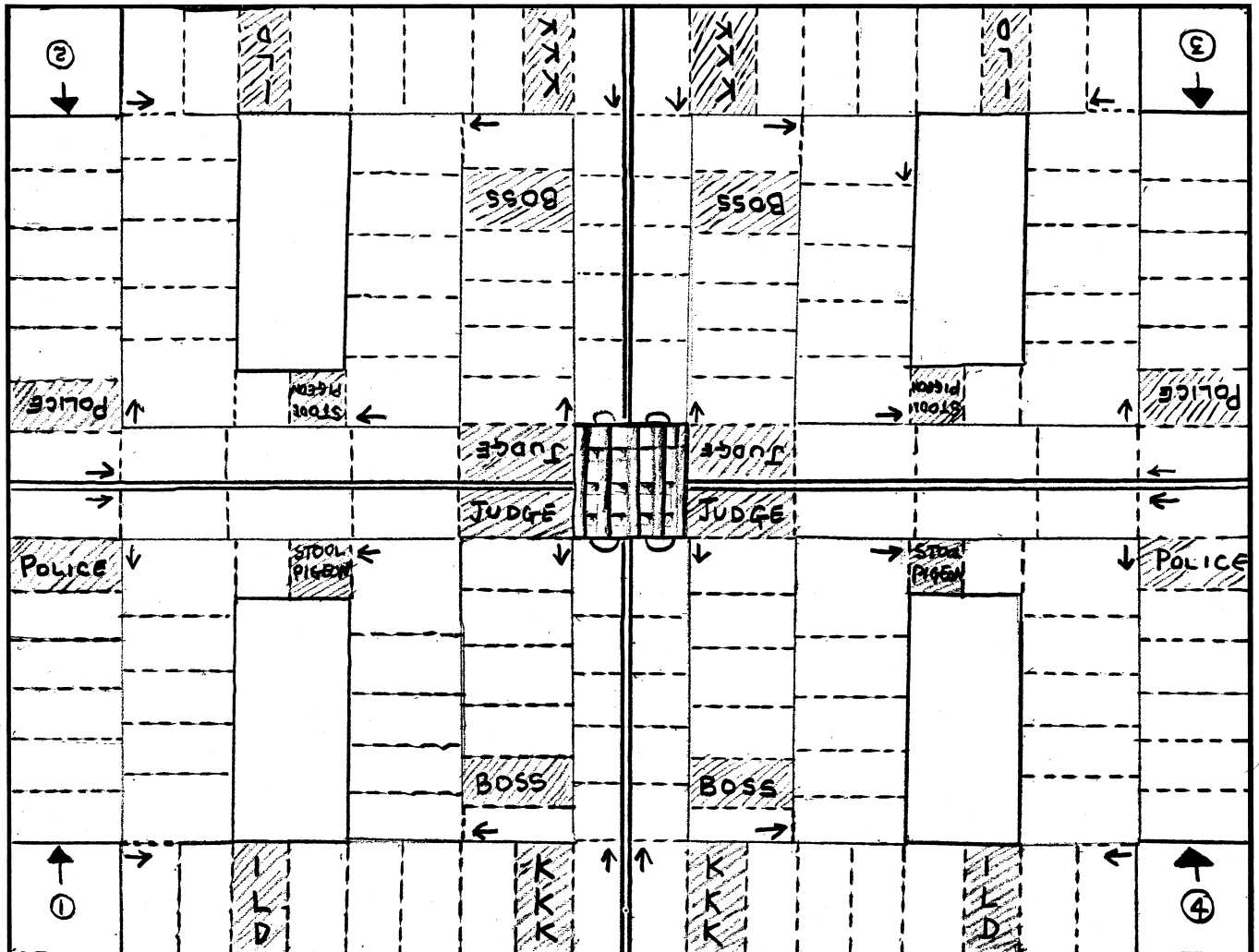
"No, there was no troop around our way. But just when we were leaving for the Soviet Union a troop was being organized."

"Hans, what is your class doing for Nov. 7th?" I asked him a question on the most pressing subject of the day.

"We are putting out a wall-newspaper and . . . but gosh! I forgot all about it. I can't tell you what we're doing because my class is challenging your class in socialist competition. The class that does the most successful things for Nov. 7th and has the best discipline will be awarded the Bust of Lenin. Gee—I sure hope we get it!"

"Well, we're trying just as hard to win! So long."

We departed.





# Voices FROM Prison

## A Letter and the Story Behind It

"Thank you again for the nice check. It helps us over many a rough spot. We are to be evicted tomorrow. My boy and I, and my husband's two young sisters and his baby nephew and niece. Quite a family, isn't it? Well, I think we will look very nice sitting out there in the street, particularly as one of the girls is sick in bed. Now, we are not crying, and we don't want any one to cry for us. We will carry on as workers should and maybe a lot of poor neighbors of ours will see daylight.

"We were evicted a year ago too, when my baby nephew was twenty-one days old!

"Well, hurrah for the working-class and many, many hurrahs for the I.L.D.

Sincerely,  
Your friend,  
Jean Hendricks

"I will send you a letter with our new address."

Mrs. Jean Hendricks is the wife of Harold Hendricks, who is now serving a two year sentence in Lincoln Heights Jail, Los Angeles. Three days after she wrote the above letter she was evicted, along with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Dutton.

When the sheriff's officers came in to evict them, they found Mrs. Dutton sick in bed. But that didn't stop them from setting her out in the street.

About 150 neighbors and friends gathered in front of the house and decided to move the furniture back in. They did. A few hours later the police arrived with a warrant for Mrs. Dutton's arrest. Jean Hendricks and a friend, Mrs. Josefina Goldbaum, who were with her interfered:

"Why pick on a sick woman? Why don't you take someone who is healthy?"

"Alright, we'll take you," the officers replied.

So the police took both of them and also Agnes Hendricks, another sister. At the Montebello Police Station Agnes raised such a row about her sick sister

and the three children involved (Baby Dutton, 15 months old, his 4-year-old sister and Lynn Hendricks, age 6, Jean's son) that they allowed her to go home. Mrs. Jean Hendricks and Mrs.

Home while she was away, searching every nook and corner. Detectives have entered the house at night, breaking in through windows.

This is only one example of what

**This leaflet and the mass defense campaign it launched won the complete freedom of all those under arrest.**

Fellow Workers      Employed      Unemployed

### Workers Evicted From Their Home! Put Into Streets

On Friday, August 23rd, JEAN HENDRICKS (wife of Harold Hendricks, one of the "June 1st vic tims" now serving two years imprisonment under unbearable discrimination, and whose only crime was that of petitioning the county "Charities" for cash relief) CLYDE CHAMPION and JOSEPHINE GOLDBAUM were arrested for their attempt to prevent the eviction of Jean Hendricks and Nell Dutton (who was seriously ill) from their home at 350 1/4 and 350 1/2 S. Ferris Avenue, Belvedere, by drunken cops and thugs.

#### "There is no Justice in the Law"

{Quotation from conversation with Justice G. M. Gale, "Justice" Court of Montebello Township.}

These workers, held on the trumped up charges of: "Resisting an officer"; "Refusing to disperse"; "Forcible entry and detainer"; and "Returning to take possession of lands after being removed by legal proceedings," will probably be tried before Justice Gale in his court of law which according to his analysis can give no justice.

This is an attempt to discourage the uniting of Mexicans and native workers into militant working-class organizations for the protection of their economic needs and civil rights, therefore

#### Demand

1. That Jean Hendricks, Josephine Goldbaum and Clyde Champion be given their immediate and unconditional freedom!
2. That the right of workers to organize and assemble for the purposes of protecting human life be maintained!
3. The immediate repeal of all laws used against the poor for eviction purposes!

WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL BELVEDERE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Issued by: District No. 14, International Labor Defense,  
Room 317, 127 So. Broadway, Los Angeles, California  
Telephone: MA-4415 (Read The Labor Defender)

(Tear off and mail)

I vigorously protest the arrest of Clyde Champion, Josephine Goldbaum and Jean Hendricks and hereby demand that they be immediately and unconditionally released!

Name

Street Address

City

108

Goldbaum were jailed on four counts:

1. Unlawful assemblage.
2. Taking possession of property unlawfully.
3. Resisting an officer.
4. Interfering with an officer in the performance of his duty.

They were arraigned the next morning and bail was set at \$500 each.

This eviction was the last of a series of persecutions directed against Jean Hendricks by the Los Angeles police. They have repeatedly broken into her

happens to the families of our political prisoners while their bread winners are in jail. Conditions inside Lincoln Heights jail, where Harold Hendricks, a sick man showing definite symptoms of tuberculosis is serving a two-year sentence for demanding relief for his own family and hundreds like them, are described elsewhere in this issue.

The only regular support which Jean Hendricks gets is the monthly check from the Prisoners Relief Department of the I.L.D. Our resources are still not

#### HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

4 players—1 dice (use a sugar cube)—move as many squares as dice shows. Every time you hit a marked square you must go back to the beginning. The winner sets the prisoner free. If you get into the I. L. D. square you go forward 5 boxes extra.

# Voices FROM Prison

## A Letter and the Story Behind It

"Thank you again for the nice check. It helps us over many a rough spot. We are to be evicted tomorrow. My boy and I, and my husband's two young sisters and his baby nephew and niece. Quite a family, isn't it? Well, I think we will look very nice sitting out there in the street, particularly as one of the girls is sick in bed. Now, we are not crying, and we don't want any one to cry for us. We will carry on as workers should and maybe a lot of poor neighbors of ours will see daylight.

"We were evicted a year ago too, when my baby nephew was twenty-one days old!

"Well, hurrah for the working-class and many, many hurrahs for the I.L.D.

Sincerely,  
Your friend,

Jean Hendricks

"I will send you a letter with our new address."

Mrs. Jean Hendricks is the wife of Harold Hendricks, who is now serving a two year sentence in Lincoln Heights Jail, Los Angeles. Three days after she wrote the above letter she was evicted, along with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Dutton.

When the sheriff's officers came in to evict them, they found Mrs. Dutton sick in bed. But that didn't stop them from setting her out in the street.

About 150 neighbors and friends gathered in front of the house and decided to move the furniture back in. They did. A few hours later the police arrived with a warrant for Mrs. Dutton's arrest. Jean Hendricks and a friend, Mrs. Josefina Goldbaum, who were with her interfered:

"Why pick on a sick woman? Why don't you take someone who is healthy?"

"Alright, we'll take you," the officers replied.

So the police took both of them and also Agnes Hendricks, another sister. At the Montebello Police Station Agnes raised such a row about her sick sister

and the three children involved (Baby Dutton, 15 months old, his 4-year-old sister and Lynn Hendricks, age 6, Jean's son) that they allowed her to go home. Mrs. Jean Hendricks and Mrs.

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sufficient to prevent evictions of families. The funds we get are divided evenly among all of the 92 long term political prisoners and their families. We hope that this brave girl's letter which describes her better than any words, will serve to interest every reader of the LABOR DEFENDER in the work of our Prisoners Relief Department—interest that will express itself in monthly pledges for the support and comfort of those who gave their freedom.

## WHAT OUR Political Prisoners

### THINK of the I. L. D.

#### **In San Quentin**

We are compelled, due to our imprisonment, to use this method of written words to convey to our sympathizers and builders of the future our appreciation. For it is such examples and acts of solidarity as those organized by the I.L.D. in our behalf that improves and strengthens myself as well as many others in that endless push of days.

San Quentin, California  
John J. Cornelison, #37287

#### **In Los Angeles**

We were just informed that letters from you addressed to all of us had arrived but we would not be permitted to see them until we are released as has been the case of all letters from you since May. We all join in expressing our appreciation for the interest and work of the I.L.D. Long live this spirit. We are all fairly well in health. Wishing you much success in your work, we are

Fraternally,  
James G. McShann, Harold Hendricks,  
John Sanders, Joseph Toth,  
Lincoln Heights Jail, Los Angeles, Cal.

#### **In Leavenworth**

Your kind letter and money reached me O.K. and I am very grateful for both. I am doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. It was a criminal shame to send people to the penitentiary on the evidence that was produced against us. It was no trouble to see that the jury was se-

lected on purpose for the occasion. Well, if my sacrifice is of any benefit to the workers, I am glad to make it.

I get a letter each week from my wife. She is in very bad shape being deaf and nearly blind. But she is standing up better than I thought, struggling to hold the home and the children together until I return. Let the workers everywhere know how much we appreciate their efforts to help us and free us.

Tell them that personal letters are



*Charles Krumbein, imprisoned  
Communist leader.  
His letter appears below.*

very much needed and appreciated here and they will reach us. Tell them that whatever happened our spirit will never die. Best wishes to the whole I.L.D.

Harry Snyder, #46468,  
P. O. Box 7, Leavenworth, Kansas.

#### **In Pennsylvania**

The work of the I.L.D. in the Herndon, Bremen and other cases is a joy to read about. Now more than ever does the I.L.D. take on an important role due to increased fascist attacks and infringement of workers' rights. "Build the I.L.D." should be a slogan easy to sell these days. Anyone who will not buy does not know values. One in my position needs no sales talk. We see and feel the need of a powerful workers' defense organization. I send my warmest greetings and best wishes to all the other class war prisoners and thank the entire I.L.D. for their efforts in my behalf.

Charles Krumbein  
Northeastern Penitentiary  
#2739, Box Q, Lewisburg, Pa.

#### **Gen. Headquarters**

*(Continued from page 10)*

been disturbed by the rumblings in the rural districts, rumblings which flared up in Camp Hill, Reeltown, and Lowndes county in open resistance to their greedy oppression. They saw a trade union movement grow from a weak fragment to 140,000 strong in Birmingham alone, Negro and white organized together in many of the unions. They saw the Share Croppers Union become a power in the Black Belt with 11,000 members. They saw the small and middle white farmers in North Alabama joining the Farmers Union and marching shoulder to shoulder with the trade unions on Labor Day. They saw the textile workers of the state come out solid in the great textile strike of a year ago.

The pet measure of the reactionaries, the Street Anti-Sedition law, promoted by both the landlords and the coal operators, was finally defeated in the state legislature, primarily as the result of the tremendous protest from organized labor in the state.

While we know that the brunt of the fight must be borne by us here in the South, we do not wish to minimize the tremendous help which the workers, farmers and professionals of the North and West can give us in defeating reaction in Alabama. The national and international campaigns around the Scottsboro and Herndon cases led by the I.L.D. have encouraged and inspired Southern workers. The protests which flood the offices of state and city officials at each new terrorist crime have frequently tied the hands of these officials or have softened the blow against the Southern workers. Such evidences of solidarity have enabled Southern workers to hold their heads up when things seemed darkest, in the same way that the heroic German workers, tortured in Nazi prison camps, have been thrilled by the expressions of international working class solidarity.

#### **15,000 Quarts of Milk**

The equivalent of 15,000 quarts of milk was raised by the Prisoners Relief Department of the I.L.D. in its Summer Milk Fund Drive for the children of our political prisoners. The total income was \$1513.21. It came from 668 individuals in 30 states and from 44 organizations. The largest single contribution was \$25 and the smallest, 5c.

**Write to These Prisoners!**



# BUILDING THE I. L. D.

## Planning Our Work for the Balance of the Year

By FRANK SPECTOR

National Organizational Secretary

Our National Executive Committee has recently submitted to all the districts a plan of work for the remaining months of 1935. The plan's chief purpose is to so equip our districts and branches organizationally that the numerous campaigns we conduct of international, national and local scope will result in strength to the I.L.D.

Fully aware of the numerous organizational problems that face the I.L.D. today, the N.E.C. selected a few major ones, for the solution of which it now mobilizes all the forces at its disposal. In concentrating upon the most pressing, key problems the N.E.C. at the same time, through this plan of work, concentrates its main efforts upon those districts, in the territories of which are located America's key-industries—coal, steel, auto, packing, transport, etc. with their teeming industrial populations. Yet, the N.E.C. by this concentration does not for a moment propose the neglect of all the other strata of the population, nor of all the other districts. On the contrary, through the successes and experiences gained in concentration districts, we will stimulate the organizational work in the I.L.D. as a whole.

The red-thread that runs through this plan of work is the burning need for making the I.L.D. a broad, non-party mass organization for defense and relief of all victims of the savage terror that the bosses are now heaping upon American labor to crush its will to fight for better political and economic conditions.

To realize this need the plan brings forcibly to the attention of the whole I.L.D. the necessity for combatting every attempt to set up any restrictive condition for individual and collective membership, save those which require of anyone wishing to join the I.L.D. the acceptance of its aims, compliance with its constitution and payment of dues. *There are no other conditions. The I.L.D.'s ranks are wide open to any person—workingman, farmer, professional, intellectual, small-tradesman—in short to everyone, regardless of his political, religious or any other belief.* The I.L.D. eagerly seeks the active part in its work of all of its members. Nevertheless, non-activity is never a bar to membership in the I.L.D. as long as one remains loyal to its class-struggle aims and pays his dues.

The plan calls for the strongest efforts to win for collective membership organizations of toilers and the middle-class *especially trade unions*—and for building I.L.D. City Central Committees, made up of delegates from I.L.D. branches and affiliated organizations, whose collective efforts can mobilize the city's entire toiling population against bosses' terror in all its forms.

The plan sets up concrete tasks by which relief to political prisoners and their families, at home as well as in fascist and colonial lands, shall become *the main duty of every I.L.D. functionary and member.*

The struggle of the Negro and white workers in the South against the fiendish lynch and terror system has the special attention of the N.E.C. at all times—and in the plan of work there are special provisions for concrete aid to our organizations in the South. It likewise contains measures for the immediate improvement in our work for defending foreign-born toilers against the shameless hounding and persecution heaped upon them by the Roosevelt-Perkins "liberal" regime.

The work plan lays heavy stress upon the need for systematic check-up on the fulfillment of decisions made, and upon the need for patient, day-to-day care for organizational details—collection of dues; the timely rendering of audited financial accounting (by branches to the districts and by the latter to the National Office); the vigorous sale of the LABOR DEFENDER and I.L.D. literature; the efficient function of branch executive committees, etc. All that with the aim to give the I.L.D. the maximum organizational stability, to make the branches better fit to recruit into their midst, *and keep*, thousands of new members and make them fully capable to initiate and lead, within their territories, struggles against boss-terror without waiting for directions from higher bodies.

The primary condition for effective I.L.D. work is clarity in our minds as to the role the I.L.D. plays and the special tasks it must perform in the struggles of labor against capital. *These special tasks must never be confused with those of any other labor organization.* In this direction the Plan of Work provided for the organization of I.L.D. study-circles and courses and wherever possible at this time (as already being done

by the New York District) of intensive training courses. Along with this go on preparations, as provided by the plan, for a thorough discussion in all the branches on the role and tasks of the I.L.D. These actions have a two-fold purpose: to make the membership clearly understand the political content of the I.L.D. and to provide them with capable competent leaders in their every day work. To aid the districts and the branches in carrying this through successfully the N.E.C. will publish a series of articles dealing with various questions on I.L.D. organization and policies. For a constant guide to these questions there will shortly be issued an "I.L.D. Hand-Book."

In submitting this plan of work to the districts the N.E.C. has strongly urged them to discuss the plan immediately, to use it as a basis for a district plan of work for the balance of 1935, which should in turn become the basis for a plan of work for each functioning branch. In addition to the plan of work each district and unattached branch received a questionnaire the answers to which would supply the N.E.C. with an approximate picture of the I.L.D.'s present organizational state. This would enable us to conduct a check-up on the results of the application of our plan in the task of building the I.L.D.

At this writing only a few districts have responded. New Haven, Denver, Norfolk. Boston has sent a similar questionnaire on down to the branches. Pittsburgh where the writer spent four weeks, has submitted a full report on its condition plus its plan of work.

The purpose of this article, besides acquainting the broad ranks of the I.L.D. and its numerous friends with the channels along which the N.E.C. is determined to strengthen the I.L.D. organizational work, is also to bring forcibly to the attention of all leading functionaries and district committees the need for the quickest response on their part to the plan of work submitted to them by the N.E.C. Thus far the response has been thoroughly unsatisfactory. The return of filled-in questionnaires must be speeded at once! At the same time there should come from each district without further delay—a plan of work containing realizable control tasks, of such a nature as will move each district in the direction of becoming a powerful instrument in the hands of labor against capitalist terror. The N.E.C. directs an urgent appeal to all I.L.D. members and to all its friends to lend their best efforts in aid to the I.L.D. district committees in the tasks which the plan of work of the N.E.C. has placed before them, that cannot be delayed without hampering the growth of the I.L.D.



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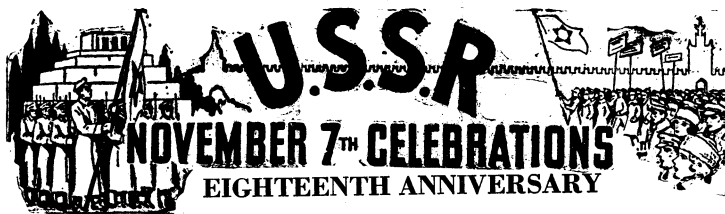
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