

# Hitherto Unpublished Facts in the Mooney-Billings Case

By SAM DARCY.

THE history of the McDonald confession in the case of Warren Billings and Tom Mooney is a history of the heroism of militant workers and treachery of social fascist and A. F. of L. officials. In view of the facts in the case, the attempt of the bourgeois press to make A. F. of L. officials "the heroes of the occasion" is ridiculous.

It was not Ed Nockels of the Chicago Federation of Labor who obtained the original confession. As for McGrady, Broening and the other A. F. of L. satellites who are now on the bandwagon, these were silent partners to the frame-up. The confession was obtained by two militants, Jack Johnstone and Leon Josephson, at present members of the Communist Party and International Labor Defense. It was a member of the reactionary A. F. of L. clique in Mooney's own local of the Molders Union, who prevented that repudiation from becoming an effective weapon for the immediate freeing

in his speech in Toronto, Canada, on July 18, where he stated:

"If the government of Canada and the United States want to remain secure, they must join with organized labor in finding a solution of unemployment, for there is nothing so disastrous to the social order as unemployment, which provides a fertile field for discontent and even revolution."

The capitalist class and the fascist leadership of the A. F. of L. see that the workers begin to learn, that unemployment is a direct outgrowth of the present capitalist system, therefore, to abolish unemployment means to abolish the system that breeds it. This orientation of the working class is precisely what they want to prevent.

## The Workers Will Decide.

The working class, just as it is the determining factor in the outcome of imperialist war, so is it also the determining factor in the outcome of the economic crisis of capitalism. Capitalism naturally tries to solve the economic crisis by capitalist means and prevent the economic crisis from turning into a political crisis of capitalism, which in turn can create a revolutionary situation. The decisive factor in this situation, however, will be the working class. It will depend upon the readiness of the working class and the fighting capacities of the Communist Parties. Therefore, in order to prevent the working class from a revolutionary solution of the crisis, it has to resort to its usual method of doing everything in its power to crush the working class.

To achieve this, capitalism must first of all annihilate the revolutionary leader of the working class—the Communist Party. This is precisely the aim of the Fish investigation Committee. So long as there exists a Communist Party, the bourgeoisie does not feel safe in a period of war and crisis, because the Communist Party will not cease to train and mobilize the working class for struggle for their immediate class interests and for the proletarian revolution. It will exploit every opportunity to achieve its aim. These opportunities at the present time are very favorable. The bourgeoisie is conscious of this fact. This, therefore, explains the reason why there is such a concentrated struggle against the Party and the other revolutionary organizations of the working class. By means of terror, they aim to isolate the Party from the masses and thereby get a free hand in an unlimited exploitation of the working class and preparations for war.

of the victims of this most outrageous and atrocious frame-up.

In the winter of 1921, Mr. Kesselman, a sympathizer of the revolutionary movement who owned a cheap hotel in Trenton, informed Leon Josephson, that he had a boarder in his hotel who, he was certain was McDonald, the state's witness whose testimony convicted Mooney and Billings. Josephson, immediately went to the hotel and convinced himself after seeing the man that the likeness was very strong. He got in touch with Jack Johnstone, then secretary of the Mooney Defense Committee in Chicago. Johnstone came to Trenton.

A plan of strategy was worked out. This called for Johnstone being presented as a local character to McDonald by Josephson and Kesselman. Johnstone was to make friends with McDonald and eventually get from him the truth about his testimony in the trials.

Weeks passed by. Johnstone ate, slept and otherwise stayed with McDonald constantly. The task, however, proved harder than was first anticipated. McDonald was ready to talk about every city and state that he was in but California. Johnstone carefully played the part assigned to him. He presented himself to McDonald as a desperate character who was thoroughly acquainted with the police and their ways from long personal experience. But McDonald did not exchange the confidence.

Finally, with the help of Frank P. Walsh, a story was printed in the newspapers as originating from San Francisco which told of McDonald's perjury and warned that unless the truth were told the perjurers would suffer the consequences of their deed. Johnstone pretended to run across the item accidentally. He showed it to McDonald and casually asked him if he was the man in the case. He also told McDonald the story of an imaginary strike in Toronto over which he (Johnstone) got into trouble with the police. But, he explained, he was able to get out of the situation because he knew how to handle himself with the police. And he was sure he could help anyone in a similar predicament.

McDonald "came through." In a burst of confidence he told Johnstone the entire story of the frame-up.

Johnstone impressed upon McDonald the seriousness of the crime he had committed and urged him to correct it immediately. After further discussion it was agreed that Johnstone go to New York and arrange a conference with Frank P. Walsh. A short while later in the presence of Walsh, Nockels—who came from Chicago for that purpose—and innumerable reporters, photographers, etc., McDonald told his now infamous tale.

But the work was to be at least partially negated by the treachery of the A. F. of L. and socialist party. Representatives of the Mooney Defense Committee of Chicago went to Gompers. They explained to him that they had obtained the confession of perjury from McDonald and asked him for two thousand dollars to help cover the expenses in carrying the case through. Gompers, a leer on his frog-like face, answered:

"You obtained a confession? Confession is good for the soul." He then turned on his heel and walked out.

(To be concluded)

March from factories, shops and mines directly after work on August 1st to the demonstrations against war and unemployment. Rally your shop mates under the slogan: "Not one cent for armaments; all funds for the unemployed!"