

Negro Workers Roused to Action on Gastonia; Pledge Aid for Defense and Relief

SAYS OTTO HALL, I.L.D. DELEGATE TO CLEVELAND MEET

Police Fail to Break Protest Meets

"The response among Negro and white workers to my talks on Gastonia in 27 principal cities of the East and Mid-West was excellent," declared Otto Hall, Negro worker and organizer for the International Labor Defense, upon his arrival in New York yesterday. Hall, who was on a special tour for the Gastonia Joint Defense and Relief Committee covered cities as far apart as Boston and Louisville, Ky.; Philadelphia and Omaha City.

"One of my best meetings, from the point of view of organizational results and evidence of radical solidarity, was the meeting in Sioux City, Iowa. About 500 workers—Negro and white—attended the meeting. The police tried to break up this meeting, but the workers in the hall prevented them."

Aroused Over Gastonia.

Hall reports that Gastonia had roused more of mass feeling among the Negro workers than any other recent event. When he told of how white textile strikers, members of the National Textile Workers Union, saved him from lynching at the hands of Manville-Jenckes hirelings, there was always enthusiastic applause.

In Wheeling, West Virginia, Hall spoke before a large group of Negro members of the National Miners Union. A group of Negro miners, members of a glee club, volunteered to go on a tour and raise funds for the defense.

Workers Protect Speakers.

Besides pre-arranged meetings in public halls, Hall spoke at many street meetings and picnics. Police attempted to break up many of these meetings, but in Philadelphia the Negro workers gathered at the meeting prevented the police from interfering. In Kansas City the meeting was broken up by police before Hall arrived, 20 workers being arrested.

Hall was present as International Labor Defense representative at the Cleveland Convention in which the Trade Union Unity League was formed. Among the delegates there were 64 Negro workers from the basic industries, who promised to carry on an active campaign for the Gastonia prisoners.

PARTY LIFE

Our Struggle Against the Right Danger

In our Finnish Daily in Astoria, Ore., "Toveri" there appeared in its issue of August 26 on page 6 a report about a picnic of a fraternal organization at Tongue Point, Astoria, Ore. This local correspondence is in sharpest contradiction to the principles of the revolutionary class-struggle. The statements reported show a pure and simple bourgeois standpoint on the part of the first speaker, "Brother" Thompson, and a liberal pure and simple trade-union standpoint mixed with half syndicalist phrases, on the part of the second speaker, K. K. Hakola, member of our Party and member of the Board of Directors of the "Toveri." Not a single word of comment did the editors make on the standpoint expressed by either of the two speakers. Comrade Hakola in his speech did not, as it was his Communist duty, attack or criticize the first bourgeois speaker, "Brother" Thompson. He only mentioned the working class character of the fraternal organization; but in the same breath he denied its class-interests on the political field. This impermissible action by a Party-member should immediately have been refuted by the "Toveri." The complete failure to do this shows a very serious shortcoming of the editorial board of the paper.

A few quotations from the speech delivered by "brother" Thompson shows its character:

"These festivals are Fall-festivals without any other fundamental principle than brotherhood and love. If the brotherhood takes upon itself to carry out principles of some political group, our days of greatness will be counted."

Here we have the hypocritical bourgeois "neutrality" proclaimed, the negation of the class-struggle, the principle of collaboration reflected in the phrase: "brotherhood and love" covering the fact of capitalist exploitation and bourgeois political maneuvers. Mr. Thompson states that the brotherhood must not "carry out principles of some political group" but already in the next moment he declares:

"... as American Finns we are duty-bound to act in support of the government of this country."

This is nothing else than the main "principle of the political group" called the capitalist class. His political "neutrality" is nothing else than capitalist political propaganda. This whole talk against "some political group" is directed against the Communist Party, the Class Party of the workers.

dead benefit society is now greater than ever before"—leaving out the Party demands for social insurance and fostering illusions among the workers about the sick and dead benefit societies. To strengthen these petty-bourgeois illusions he added: "the society as an organization is not politically partisan"—i.e. he confirmed the hypocritical statement by the previous speaker about the political "neutrality" of the society, a direct lie to the workers present. But not satisfied with this he goes further and proclaims: "If this mutual aid society wants to succeed in its efforts it has to remain purely a mutual aid society"—a statement directly playing in the hands of the previous capitalist speaker.

Denying the political character of the sick and dead benefit society at the beginning of his speech he later outlined a political program for the same, a program not at all different from the declaration "duty bound to act in support of the government of this country" of "brother" Thompson. Says Comrade Hakola, playing the role of a liberal bourgeois:

"The citizenship means the giving of an oath to follow the constitution and not to follow a certain group in power. Imperialism, which is served by the American government at its present stage, tramps under its feet the constitution, and when this happens, the mouth of the people is gagged when the people expresses opinions opposed to those in power."

These are words that can be found in any American liberal paper of the "Nation" or "New Republic" brand. Here Comrade Hakola appears in the role of a defender of the American bourgeois constitution against the American bourgeois government.

Under such conditions what does it mean that he stresses the class-character of the organization? It is nothing else than a phrase, under cover of which Comrade Hakola denies the political bourgeois class

character of the sick and dead benefit societies. He mentions the fact that the republican and democratic parties are capitalist parties, but he has nothing to say about the socialist party and its role. And about the working class Party the Communist Party, we cannot find a single word. Under such circumstances the words: "the local is leaning towards the working class" becomes meaningless, when the speech of Comrade Hakola from the beginning to end is leaning toward bourgeois constitutionalism.

We have during the last weeks had too many opportunities to correct political statements made by our papers, e.g. "Freiheit," and other papers on the Palestine question, the "Tyomies" on our relation to non-party organizations and now the "Toveri" expressing social-democratic views on a very important question. This shows that our Party is not ideologically prepared for the Third Period. Our former leadership, Lovestone, Gitlow, Wolfe, and Pepper did not after the Sixth World Congress disseminate in the Party a clear analysis of the Third Period and did not concertize the issues of the Third Period for our Party in America. The Party cannot tolerate this ideological unpreparedness in its ranks. This political confusion is a result of influences from other classes upon the Party. Only through maintaining the strict Communist line can we successfully combat all these and other tendencies imported to us by the agents of these tendencies, the renegades and conciliators. Every paper must be mobilized to fight the concrete manifestation of the Right Danger, showing it head all to often not only in the press. A merciless struggle must be carried on against the renegades and their concealed supporters in the Party. No conciliation, a merciless direct fight against the right danger and against all its expression.

—AGITPROP OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Calling upon "leading bodies of the Party and League to carry on a ruthless campaign against the followers of the renegade Lovestone" and his agents, Sophie Melvin and Clarence Miller, two of those on trial at Charlotte, yesterday issued a statement denouncing Jay Lovestone's robbery at the National Office of the Communist Party.

They are joined in their declaration

the class struggle. Every move, every step of Lovestone, is now directed against the working class in an open and brazen fashion, unparalleled even in the dark pages of renegacy. The actions of the Lovestone "gang" on the question of Gastonia—probably the greatest national issue before the American working class since the war—are calculated to help electrocute the thirteen work-

STATE WITNESS CONTRADICTS AMBUSH THEORY

Charlotte Prosecution Fails to Stop NTW

(Continued from Page One)

that he and Gilbert took no part in the breaking up of the picket line just before they went to the union lot. Hord said that all of them took part in dispersing the strikers. He said, "Nearly every officer in town was there," but denied beating them up or threatening to "shoot the sons-of-bitches."

Had Shotgun.

Hord said he didn't see Beal or Bush at the union headquarters and that he didn't see Mason on his front porch. He admitted that he had a shot gun, which the other officers denied.

Officer Gilbert, another of the state's witnesses with an unsavory reputation testified this morning. He also has a poor memory and defense counsel had to produce court records to prove that he was indicted for drunkenness and assault in 1922 when he had a fight with the chief of police of Maiden, N. C. Gilbert was found guilty on that occasion, and had to pay \$125 costs.

Roach claimed that he could identify McLaughlin and McGinnis as strikers who fired first, although the night was dark, and he admitted he had seen them only once before.

Gilbert and Roach each blame the other for starting the assault on Mellon a few hours before the June 7 raid. Gilbert's story contradicts Roach's and Mason's as to who fired first, and the identity of the guard he disarmed. He denied seeing Hord with a shotgun.

Smash "Ambush" Theory.

In the afternoon session yesterday the defense counsel smashed the testimony of two of the state's star witnesses. One of the stories circulated for the past two months by the prosecution is that Aderholt was lured to his death by strikers who telephoned him to come to union headquarters in order to shoot him. This story was branded as a lie by the testimony of Mrs. Grigg, a witness for the state. She

unity has never been greater than today with the imperialist attacks against the Soviet Union now under way in Manchuria and the imperialist attack against the working class in Gastonia (which is an integral part of their plan for attack

lives next door to the headquarters that were raided. She admitted she sent the call to police headquarters when Loray stool pigeons tried to break up the meeting and attacked Miller.

The state failed entirely yesterday in its attempt to implicate specific individuals in the alleged conspiracy to shoot Aderholt, or to produce any evidence that any conspiracy existed.

Roach Under Charges.

Under fire of examination by Attorney Hayes for the defense, the state's witness, Charles Roach, one of the raiders with Aderholt, admitted he resigned from the police force before the raid because of serious charges pending against him. He denied he had been convicted three times for bootlegging, but the defense produced a court record proving his three convictions.

The six state witnesses today were evidently badly coached, as they contradicted one another, besides making statements conflicting with their previous affidavits and testimony under examination by defense counsel before the trial started.

Admit Colony Peaceful.

All, however, had to agree on one important point, that there was no trouble whatever at the Workers International Relief tent colony when the police arrived. Roach was also forced to admit that the raiding party of which he was a member stopped on its way to the union headquarters to break up the picket line. He also admitted that he was not deputized, but was carrying a gun all day. He denied that he was drunk, although he is now under indictment for drunkenness and assault upon a restaurant keeper on the afternoon of the raid.

This indictment has been sidetracked. The United Press correspondent said in a release of August 24: "It is possible that the allegations of the defense are true, that the prosecution is doing all in its power to keep records of the officers who were with Aderholt as clear as possible. The fact that Gilbert and Roach were not tried during the last term of court resulted in much speculation, but the solicitor said that the witnesses could not be found. However, Pedro Mellon, who is the chief witness against Gilbert and Roach says he has not been away from home at any time."

Charlotte Conference.

While the trial is going on the National Textile Workers Union drive leading toward the Charlotte conference is gathering momentum. The conference will be held Oct. 12-13 in Charlotte. With the return of the delegates from the Cleveland conference, organizational work will be extended to new textile mills.

Cleo Tesseur, who was discharged

GASTON DEFENSE FIGHTS ATTACK UPON PROTESTS

Nationwide Campaign Sept. 21-22

(Continued from Page One)

factory and shop collections and during the Ten-Day Drive, Tag Days in many centers.

But all these activities, like the campaign to organize the textile workers of the South, marks only the beginning.

The mounting danger to our comrades on trial admits no let-up. It demands increased effort.

It is for this reason that the Two-Day Drive of September 21 and 22 comes so close on the heels of the Ten-Day Drive just closed.

There are other reasons. The preparations for the historic conference of the Trade Union Educational League, resulting in the organization of the Trade Union Unity League at Cleveland, Ohio, engaged the attention of many militant workers during July and August. They were unable to give their stimulating support and enthusiasm to this drive.

It will be different for September 21 and 22. The object will be to mobilize the widest sections possible of the working class for the two days of gigantic mass collections that will feature this new drive. Mass meetings will mobilize and register workers everywhere. Special literature will be prepared for those, and they still number many millions, who are not yet acquainted with the issues of the Gastonia police attack on the strikers' quarters.

two days, his life threatened, and finally told he would be "taken for a ride." He was taken out of town, threatened that if he returned he would be killed, and released.

At North Belmont there was a good meeting last night. The speakers were Hugo Oehler, southern organizer of the N. T. W. U., taking Beal's place while he is in jail; and Hubert Carrol, with Harris as chairman. The meeting was arranged by the A. F. L. painters' local at North Belmont, for the express purpose of hearing International Labor Defense speakers on the Gastonia case. It was attended by 125 workers.

tent colony. The new class struggle trade unions must be brought more actively into the defense campaign. The old unions must be penetrated.

The two-day drive starts in two weeks. These must be two weeks of intensive preparation.

Labor must awaken to the danger of the insidious campaign waged by the employers' press, lauding the "fair" judge, promising a "fair" trial, predicting the jury will be "fair."

These are the tactics of the profit-taking class to stifle discontent and unrest among the workers, when decisive action by labor is most needed to blast the employers' conspiracy, free the imprisoned strikers and continue the organization of the millions of unorganized workers in the South.

An unceasing, counter-attack must be waged against this undermining propaganda. That is the object of our tireless publicity manifesting itself in a multiplicity of forms, carried on by the Joint Campaign through the sympathetic labor press, the Negro press that is taking an increasing interest in this case, farmers' publications, the press of other lands. This requires funds.

The dimes, nickels, quarters and even pennies that come in through the Tag Days, the house-to-house collections must pile high in order to pay for the staff of defense lawyers energetically combatting the two full squads of arrayed legal forces fighting viciously and tenaciously for the lives of our comrades. Hundreds of witnesses must be taken care of, paid for waiting in the witness room, day after day until called to the witness stand; an endless army of financial demands daily fighting for attention. These must be met. This is the situation.

Help free the Gastonia prisoners! No death sentences, no prison sentences! Defend the textile strikers in their struggle to defend themselves, their homes, their tent colony, their union and relief headquarters.

Support the Southern textile workers in their effort to organize into the National Textile Workers' Union and build this class struggle trade union throughout the entire industry.

Forward to September 21 and 22. Protest! Collect! In masses!

Workers International Relief, Ludwig Landy, secretary.

National Textile Workers' Union, Jim Reid, secretary.

International Labor Defense, J. Louis Engdahl, secretary.

Gastonia Joint Defense and Relief Campaign, Alfred Wagenknecht, director.

TOURS to