

Birmingham Police Terror Against Negroes Extended to Include County, Other Cities

Wholesale Arrests Begun In Montgomery, Selma, etc., Bosses Blows Directed at Militant Negro Workers and Communist Party

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 14.—The boss terror against the Negro workers which Birmingham police started last week under the pretext of hunting for an alleged Negro hold-up man had been extended to include all Jefferson County.

The Birmingham News today carries the statement:

"Investigation of the case has revealed radical activities and distribution of Red propaganda to such an extent that Sheriff Hawkins has placed four officers on an assignment to break up the movement in Jefferson County."

Scores of Negro and white workers have been arrested, including Eugene Braxton, David James, and John James, three Negro working-class leaders, and Harry Jackson, acting southern organizer of the Communist Party.

Lowell Wakefield, southern organizer of the International Labor Defense, was also arrested upon his arrival in Birmingham to arrange defense for the prisoners. Wakefield is being held without charges. Jackson is held on a general charge. The bosses openly admit that there are no legal grounds for holding these workers on the basis of their radical activities. They realize, how-

ever, that in order to successfully terrorize the Negro masses they must first aim their attacks against the Communist Party and other class struggle organizations. They are therefore determined to frame these workers one way or the other, just as they framed up the nine innocent Scottsboro Negro boys on

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One way to help the Soviet Union is to spread among the workers "Soviet 'Forced Labor,'" by Max Bedacht, 10 cents per copy,

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a false charge of "raping" two professional prostitutes.

The Southern District of the U. S. D. has sent the following telegram of protest to Chief of Police McCall of Birmingham:

"The protest killing of Lowell Wakefield because of his role as attorney on behalf of other militant Birmingham workers thrown in jail. After holding him on the flimsy excuse of making an 'investigation', 48 hours after his arrest Wakefield is still held without charges. This aspect of the reign of terror launched against Southern workers to smash the Communist Party and other workers' organizations. It is occurring in the same state where the Southern frame-up clinics and the Camptill cruises have full force and effectiveness. We demand the unconditional release of the scores of Negro and white workers arrested in Birmingham in your latest drive."

Following the hold-up and shooting on August 4 of three society women, one of whom has died, an unidentified Negro was accused of the crime. Birmingham police at once began making wholesale arrests of Negro workers, using the murder as a pretext to search their homes for Communist literature.

At least two Negro workers, one a woman, have been murdered by the Birmingham police to date, and scores of others shot down in the streets by police and other thugs. Several are now in hospitals in a dying condition. Scores have been thrown into jail. Eugene Brannon, David James and John James, three Negro leaders of the working-class, are among those in jail, facing a frame-up. Warrenton have been named for all white and Negro Communist leaders in Birmingham. Harry Jackson, acting southern organizer of the Communist Party is locked up. The local press admits failure in several previous efforts to frame him up, but think they can do it this time.

The police terror has been extended to Selma and Montgomery, Ala., and to Atlanta, Tenn., where scores of Negroes were arrested yesterday.

Negro and white workers! Defend the Southern workers! Defend the unity of white and Negro workers! Defend the revolutionary party of the working-class! Organize protest meetings and demonstrations at once! Mobilize for the nation-wide demonstrations on August 27 against law terror and for the release of the Northshore boys and all class-war prisoners! Defend the right of the workers to organize! Demonstrate August 27!