

Free Braxton On Bond; Legion In Anti-Red Drive

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Eugene Braxton, young Negro worker, one of many arrested in connection with the reign of terror here against Negroes arising from the Shades Valley shooting, was released on \$150 bond while the International Labor Defense appealed the vicious sentence against him of \$25 fine and 90 days on the chaingang. Harry Jackson, district organizer of the Communist Party, is free on \$500 bond after being held in jail a number of days in an effort by the Birmingham police department to use the Shades Valley affair as an excuse for smashing the Communist Party.

The Executive Committee of the Alabama American Legion, meeting here last week, made the drive against the Communist Party its major task and put Capt. R. B. Laird of Huntsville, chairman of the Americanization committee, at its head. Laird has been carrying on a campaign against the workers in his home city.

A statement issued by the Legion says in part: "The legal decision condemning the Negro rapists in the Scottsboro case, the action of authorities in Tallapoosa county in recent racial trouble (Share-Croppers' Union.—Ed.), means used in Jefferson county to find the Negro murderers of two girls, our system of race segregation are being viciously attacked by paid agents of the Communists and by literature in its name." It states that "all legal ways will be used to stop the spread of Communism." The American Legion, always a ready tool of the bosses on this occasion also is rallying its forces, which include A. F. of L. fakers, in an effort to stop the rising unity of white and Negro workers in the fight against starvation and wage-cuts.

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More Negro workers have been arrested in Georgia, West Virginia and Alabama in connection with the shooting of the society girls. The opportunity has also been seized to add six more deputies to the Jefferson county force to be used against the workers. Elijah Thompson, Negro worker held in Chicago and whom the Birmingham police tried to extradite has finally been ordered freed when the International Labor Defense took up his case and rallied the white and Negro workers of Chicago to his defense. The police are now trying to pin murder charges on Carl Montgomery, Negro worker, being held in jail here.

The Communist Party has exposed the Negro stool-pigeon, James Wright, who lives next door to the house in which Eugene Braxton, John and David James were asleep when the house was broken into by police and they were arrested. It has been established that Wright plotted with the police for the arrest of these militant Negro workers.
