

Birmingham Unemployed Defy Ordinance Against Meetings; Send 21 to July 4 Convention

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 19.—Hundreds of unemployed workers answered the passage of the criminal anarchy ordinance by the Birmingham city commission by jamming the meeting hall yesterday and electing 21 delegates to the National Convention on Unemployment.

The meeting yesterday was called by the Birmingham Council of the Unemployed. Speakers were Harry Jackson and Gill Lewis, organizer here for the Trade Union Unity League and Tom Johnson, district organizer of the Communist Party, who spoke in the name of the Party and announced that it has called a mass demonstration Saturday against the criminal anarchy law and the attempt to electrocute six organizers in Atlanta. The Saturday demonstration will be in Capitol Park, at 3 p. m., the date of the meeting having been changed from Friday to allow more preparations.

Jail For Assembling.

The criminal anarchy ordinance was passed Tuesday. It provides fines and imprisonment for any one advocating revolutionary action against the government, or assassination, for any one circulating papers which advocate revolution, or "voluntarily assembling with" any two persons who do so. It also fines and imprisons hall-keepers, superintendents, agents, janitors, caretakers, etc., who permit meetings which are considered under the law to be a violation of it.

The provision in regard to the

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ATLANTA TRIAL DATE NOT SET

ATLANTA, Ga., June 19.—The cases of six organizers of the Communist Party, Young Workers' League, National Textile Workers' Union, International Labor Defense and American Negro Labor Congress have been taken off the calendar. When bail was set for a total of \$33,000 the trial, which was to start today, was postponed and no date has yet been set.

The mass protest of the workers everywhere has caused the murderous authorities here, loudly demanding the electrocution of these workers under an old Georgia law against "insurrection," to proceed with more regard for appearances. Their first program of rushing them all to the chair within a few weeks is giving way to the necessity of making a gesture of fairness and allowing the workers a little time to prepare an adequate defense.

However, the International Labor Defense attorneys here make it plain that failure to secure bail will speed up the trials.

JOBLESS DEFY CITY ORDINANCE

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overthrow of the government will be so interpreted as to include the Communist Party and all militant trade unions.

The law was passed, according to City Attorney W. L. Wynn, because the city is not allowed to prosecute under the provisions of the state law. Therefore this special ordinance is so that the city authorities can proceed against the Communist Party and the workers of Birmingham without having to wait for action by the state courts.

Communist Answer.

The Communist Party, through Tom Johnson, district organizer, issued the following statement on the new ordinance Tuesday:

"The ordinance for the imprisonment of any worker who is a member of the Communist Party or the revolutionary unions, is the reply of the city government of Birmingham to the demand of the thousands of unemployed workers of this city for work or wages. By the passage of this law the bosses governing Birmingham show clearly their fear of the mass action of the white and Negro workers organized in the Trade Union Unity League and the Birmingham Unemployed Council. It is no accident that this law was railroaded through at a moment when 1,500 men had just been laid off in the great Tennessee Coal and Iron Co. shops, when the Frisco lines had just laid off 200 men, when the Pullman Co. had just announced a sharp reduction in working forces.

"In the passage of this law can be seen clearly the hand of the American Federation of Labor. Undoubtedly an investigation would disclose that the capitalist agents at the head of this organization are behind the law. The last issue of the Birmingham Labor Advocate, fascist organ of the A. F. of L., calls for the running out of town of organizers of the Communist Party and for immediate action against them by the police."

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A. F. of L. Fights Negroes.

A copy of the Birmingham Labor Advocate (A.F.L.) received here, dated June 14, has a big front-page article which says: "The teaching of racial equality, of the brotherhood of man as taught by these paid hirelings of Moscow, Soviet and Communists, are not sound doctrine. . . ." Also, "If anyone should have told us that a mob of colored men would march through our streets and gang up in front of our charity dispensing agencies and make arrogant demands that they be furnished with food and money, we would have called him looney, but such was the power of Johnson, and others of the Red agents, that this actually occurred."

Birmingham is the headquarters of the A. F. of L. "drive to organize the South." The Birmingham Labor Advocate is an official organ of the A. F. of L. Negro workers take notice!