

FAIL TO CONVICT TWO ORGANIZERS

Workers on Jury Block Frame-up

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 7.—In spite of the waving of the Red flag by the prosecutor and the openly antagonistic attitude of Judge McCory, a jury made up largely of workers today refused to bring a verdict of guilty against Tom Johnson, Southern organizer of the Communist Party, and Jackson, Trade Union Unity League organizer.

Johnson and Jackson, together with Braxton, a Negro comrade, were arrested several months ago on a fake charge of vagrancy, the police openly stating at the time that they would be arrested again and again until they were driven out of town. Some of the police even made the remark that they next time they would be sent to the cemetery instead of being brought into court.

At the trial today the prosecutor raised the red bogey, in an effort to prejudice the jury, a Ku Klux Klan representative made threats in the court room that if the jury failed to convict the Klan would attend to the Reds. The judge also did his bit for the bosses in trying to force the jury to bring in a verdict of guilty to enable him to sentence the comrades to the chain gang.

Early in the trial the charges against Braxton, the Negro comrade, were dismissed because of lack of evidence.

Johnson and Jackson summed up the case in their own defense, denouncing the capitalist system which sentences millions of workers to death by starvation. The jury was unable to reach a verdict after being out for 20 hours, the workers on the jury standing out against conviction.