

Hold 3 On Vag Charge While Alabama Passes Severe Laws

Legislature Frightened Over Negro Farmers Interest In Communism and Organization; Tries to Suppress Party, Stop Papers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 8.—The vagrancy trial (one year sentence if convicted) of Tom Johnson, Jackson and Burns has been postponed here to the end of May, pending the passage of special anti-Communist laws by the state legislature.

The state legislature, which was supposed to adjourn last week, will be held in session until a bill or a number of bills are passed outlawing the Communist Party in the state of Alabama, according to the Advertiser at Montgomery.

This announcement follows speeches in last Wednesday's session of the state legislature when Representative R. J. Goode and Commissioner of Agriculture Seth P. Thomas reported that in Wilcox County—the heart of the Alabama "Black Belt"—and in Walker County—in the drought-stricken area—meetings were being held by Communist organizers and literature being distributed calling on both the white and Negro farm tenants, share-croppers and small landowners to organize and fight for immediate relief. These gentlemen were especially alarmed by the prospect of the Negro farmers in the Black Belt starting to fight against starvation and the system of peonage.

Recruits to Communism.

Goode stated that he had already held conferences with Governor Miller and Attorney-General Knight, who stated that they were investigating Communist activities among the farmers. He stated with alarm that "converts to Communism" were growing. The attorney-general stated that his department was investigating with a view to official action.

Following a wide distribution of leaflets "Fight Against Hunger," the Southern Worker and other working-class literature among the farmers of Alabama by District 17 of the Communist Party, letters from farmers, particularly in the "Black Belt," come to Communist headquarters daily, begging for further advice and for organizers. "We are ready to follow the Arkansas way," writes one Negro share-cropper.

Farmers Starve.

Meetings have been held in the northern and southern part of the state and a state-wide farmers' conference is scheduled for the middle of April to unite the two movements. A Communist organizer in the "Black Belt" of Alabama, where the last belongings of the small former and tenants have been taken by the landowners to pay off debts, and where further credit is refused to start this

year's crop on, reports that the country is being combed by department of agriculture investigators seeking to break the farmers' organizations and confiscating literature. It was last November that the state department of agriculture declared that 30,000 tenant farm families, 150,000 farm people, were actually starving in the state.

Can Give 10 Years Now.

There is already a state criminal anarchy law which carries with it 10-year sentences and which is expected to be invoked against all Communist organizers in Alabama when the Birmingham grand jury meets at the middle of this month. Now legislation is sought to stop the circulation and distribution of Communist literature.

MASS MEET WED. ON DEPORTATIONS

ILD Organizing Fight On Terror

NEW YORK.—While the U. S. Department of Labor continued to pick up scores of foreign-born workers for deportation, the workers are organizing their forces under the leadership of the International Labor Defense for a determined struggle against this government terror. The New York District of the ILD is calling on all workers in New York City and vicinity actively to join this fight at a big mass meeting to protest against the efforts to deport Louis Bebrits, editor of the Hungarian Communist daily, Uj Elore. The meeting will be held next Wednesday, March 11, at 8 p. m. at Irving Plaza, 15th St. and Irving Place.

Bebrits was arrested for deportation several weeks ago as a direct result of his militant testimony before the Fish Committee. His arrest and subsequent arrests of foreign-born workers show that the government is putting into effect the fascist proposals of the Fish Committee even before Congress has acted on them. Bebrits is now out on \$1,000 bail, but unless the workers of the entire country act at once and get solidly behind the fight of the New York ILD to free him, he will be delivered into the hands of the bloody executioners of the Hungarian working class.