

COAL BOSS TERROR FAILS TO HALT CONFERENCE OF STRIKING KY. MINERS

Miners Mobilize to Defend Meeting Against Gun Thugs

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 29. — Ninety-three elected delegates representing almost every mine in strike area scores visitors packed to the doors a pool hall in Jellico, Kentucky yesterday for the district strike conference. The pool hall was used for the meeting after county trustees backed down on the use of the school house previously promised. The town was patrolled by carloads of Bell County and Tennessee thugs but the determination of the delegates to go through with the conference at all costs forced the thugs to retreat without attempting to smash the conference.

KNOXVILLE PAPER OPENS DRIVE TO KILL COMMUNISTS

Workers to Answer Lies of Pen Prostitute

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 29.—Last week the Knoxville press opened a barrage of vicious red baiting propaganda which constitutes in effect an open call to lynching all Communists and members of militant unions. The Knoxville Journal is now running a series of feature articles declaring "More than 150 Communists are here plotting destruction of property and overthrow of homes, churches and all constituted authority." The articles are filled with the vilest lies, taken from the Fish Committee report, plus stupid inventions of a local sob-sister who was fired from the Knoxville Journal last spring for incompetence and is now employed by a group of local red baiters to write anti-Communist slanders for the Knoxville Journal.

The articles reveal the greatest fear by the local capitalists of organization by the National Textile Workers Union of the exploited textile workers.

The Communist Party has issued a leaflet exposing those stupid attacks and is preparing a mass meeting, probably on Friday of this week, to further expose the would-be lynchers before the Knoxville working class.

Attacks on the Knoxville Workers' International Relief office continue with two police raids Saturday. The police threatened to close the office and confiscated all W.I.R. receipts at

Tom Johnson reporting for the National Board of the National Miners' Union, reviewed the changed situation in the strike, pointing out that the main emphasis must now be placed on strengthening the strike in those mines where it is still effective, at the same time negotiating individual settlements with operators. In mines where only a small majority remain on strike the policy must be to get those on strike back to work without blacklisting with the support of the men at work.

Greatest attention was given to strengthening the strike committees at the mines and section committees. Every speaker stressed the vital necessity of building functioning N. M. U. locals in all mines to lay an organizational basis for future struggles.

Following the main report, many delegates took the floor to endorse the policy of the N.M.U. and further concretizing the proposals for future activity.

A letter to the conference from the ten comrades in Pineville jail calling for strengthening the strike and a fight to the finish against the U.M.W.A. which is now entering the field as a major strikebreaking instrument of the operators aroused the greatest enthusiasm.

Joe Chandler, youth organizer of the N.M.U. in opening the conference called on the miners to avenge the murder of Harry Simms by intensified struggle against terror and for the strike demands and by building the N. M. U.

The conference adjourned after electing a new strike executive made necessary by the fact that five members of the old executive are in jail and warrants are out for eight more. Coincident with the arrest and sentencing to fifty days on the chain gang of Harry Jackson.

is imperative.