

# Anti-Fire Trap Meet Tonight To Aid 6th St. Rent Strikers

## BULLETIN

NEW YORK.—Tenants of 139-145 Houston Street, and sympathizers, will form a mass picket line this morning at 9 o'clock before the landlord's office at 156 Second Avenue. From there the demonstrators will march to the Essex Market court, 2nd St. and Second Ave., to answer the summons of the landlord against the tenants. M. Richards, a candy store owner, who several months ago placed a Nazi coffin in his window, symbolic of the death of culture under the Nazi regime, is one of the tenants summoned to court by the landlord. The window was smashed by local Nazis.

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By CYRIL BRIGGS

NEW YORK.—For protesting fire-trap conditions, menacing the lives of workingclass tenants and their children, at 221 E. 6th St., three of the tenants have been charged with "disorderly conduct," as leaders of the protest rent strike which has been in progress at the building for several days past.

In the Magistrate's Court at 2nd Street and Second Avenue, last Friday, the trial magistrate openly advised the landlord, Abraham Goldberg, of 271 Gerard Street, Bronx, and his attorney son, how to proceed to smash the strike, while completely ignoring the tenants' protests against law violations by the landlord. Upon the magistrate's advice, the landlord got out dispossession notices for two of the three defendants, including Miss Evelyn Hamilton, whom the landlord considers to be one of the "ringleaders." The magistrate also told the landlord to call in the police if the tenants continued their picketing of the fire-trap building, and to have them arrested, intimating that the courts would then do the rest. The magistrate's actions were vigorously protested by attorneys for the International Labor Defense and the American Civil Liberties Union, who defended the three tenants.

A Tenants' Committee, organized by the striking tenants, has called a protest meeting for tonight, 8 o'clock, in front of the tenement, 220 E. 6th St. The Committee has

issued an appeal to tenants in the block and to the workingclass generally for active support to the fight to bring pressure on the city government to force the landlord to remove the fire-hazards and obey the existing laws.

The Committee points out that in addition to lack of fire-proof stairs and hallways and fire-escape stairways, the stairway and enclosing walls leading from the cellar to the first floor have not been fire-proofed. A fire starting in the cellar would rapidly spread to the upper floors. The landlord has not only refused to heed the complaints of the tenants, but has disregarded notices from the Tenement House Department, which has taken no steps to enforce the law.

In addition, the roof is not kept in repairs, so that when it rains, the water leaks through the ceiling, walls and halls, endangering the health of the tenants as well as ruining their furniture. The skylight is in a dilapidated condition, so that rain floods the hallways. While these conditions breed vermin, as well as disease, the landlord refuses extermination service. The flats are not steam-heated, and the chimneys are broken so that coal gas fumes are forced back into the apartments, further endangering the health of the tenants and their children. The landlord removed the door-bells, rather than repair them, thereby depriving the tenants of the bells as a warning signal during fires.

## Brooklyn Workers Hit Fire Traps

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—The East New York anti-fire trap committee held a mass protest meeting last week at which delegates were elected to visit the Mayor and Alderman Morris of the 56th Aldermanic district to demand that the city remove all fire-trap tenements, and provide modern fire-proof buildings at a rental of four to six dollars a room and finance small home owners to make necessary repairs to their homes and meet mortgage payments.

The delegation will report back at a mass meeting this Tuesday afternoon, at 3:30 o'clock at 333 Sheffield Avenue.