

The SOUTHERN WORKER

Vol. III No. 8 Birmingham, Alabama, December 20, 1933 Price 2 Cents

DECATUR LYNCH-COURT SENTENCES TWO INNOCENT SCOTTSBORO BOYS TO DEATH

Give Cash to All, Cancel Back Bills Say Unemployed Councils as C. W. A. Is Forced to Grant Some Cash Relief

By WERT TAYLOR

Secretary of the Birmingham Unemployed Councils, now facing a year on the chain-gang for leading the struggles of the jobless workers.

The determined struggles of the unemployed workers have won a partial victory. Today cash relief is being given to many thousands of workers. This is the first time that the jobless in most Southern cities and towns have gotten cash aid.

In Jefferson County, Ala., for instance, the Civil Works Administration is paying \$12 a week for 30 hours of work.

Struggles Won Cash Relief

This victory was forced from the bosses. For four years the Unemployed Councils have been organizing the unemployed, and leading great struggles. Four years of never-ending petitions, leaflets, strikes, demonstrations, hunger-marches. It was these struggles that won cash relief for the unemployed.

But today there is more need than ever of the Unemployed Councils and of struggle for aid to the jobless. The NRA program has been a flat failure in getting jobs for the workers. That is why the C. W. A. became necessary. This winter will be one of mass unemployment.

Only a few of the workers are getting the cash relief. Take Jefferson County as an example. The C. W. A. has promised jobs to 11,500 people. What about the rest of the 75,000 unemployed in the county? They still have to exist on the measly little food order that the Welfare Board calls relief.

Cancel Back Bills!

Now the bosses will try to divide the unemployed. They will try to separate those getting cash re-

MEN ON S. P. LINES VOTE STRIKE, BUT OFFICIALS SELL OUT

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The overwhelming strike vote of the men on the Texas-New Orleans division of the Southern Pacific lines has been brushed aside by the bureaucrats of the Railroad Brotherhoods, at the request of President Roosevelt. Although 3,000 men voted 98 per cent for a strike, the officials have postponed action for sixty days.

The planned merger of the Southern Pacific, Texas Pacific, Missouri Pacific and Gulf Port roads means that many small junctions will be scrapped. The companies are using this merger as an excuse to change from a mileage to an hourly basis of pay. This means wage cuts. It means that men can be forced to work 16 hours and more, without overtime pay. It means lay-offs for many hundreds. Working rules for which railroad men fought for years, will be scrapped.

Thousands of railroad workers are in danger of losing their hard-won homes and their life savings because of the new wage-plan of the Southern Pacific.

mines must get together and refuse to pay our last pennies into the racketeering Community Chest!

Mass Convention of Jobless

There will be a great mass convention in January, to be held in Washington, D. C. Mass delegations of the unemployed will come from every city to lay down a program for cash relief and jobless insurance.

State-wide conventions will come (continued on p. 4)

Patterson and Norris Railroaded In Farcical Trial; Masses Prepare New Struggles for Freedom of Nine Youths

Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the nine Scottsboro boys, have been condemned to die in the electric chair for a crime they never committed.

This is Patterson's third sentence of death. He was the first of the nine boys to go on trial in Decatur, Ala., in the first days of December.

The court dared to pass a verdict of guilty, in the face of complete evidence of the innocence of the youths. It passed this blood-thirsty verdict, in spite of the fact that the flimsy lies of the prosecution were torn to shreds by the attorneys for the International Labor Defense.

Masses Furious at Verdict

A wave of indignation swept through the ranks of the masses of people when the verdicts were announced. The death sentences were the signal for parades, demonstrations and mass meetings in many centers, including a large number of Southern cities.

The cases of Patterson and Norris will be appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court if necessary. Pending the appeals, the cases of the other boys have been passed indefinitely.

This is the latest step in the Scottsboro frame-up, which began in March, 1931, when the nine boys were taken from a freight-train at Paint Rock, Ala., and charged with the "rape" of two prostitutes.

The lynch rulers of Alabama are determined to drink the blood of these innocent boys. Court officials and prosecutors—Attorney General Knight and Judge W. W. Callahan—formed themselves into a ruthless machine to carry through this legal lynching. They acted together, going forward like a giant steam-roller that moves swiftly and mercilessly on, ramming down and battering every living thing in its path. The steam-roller of the prose-

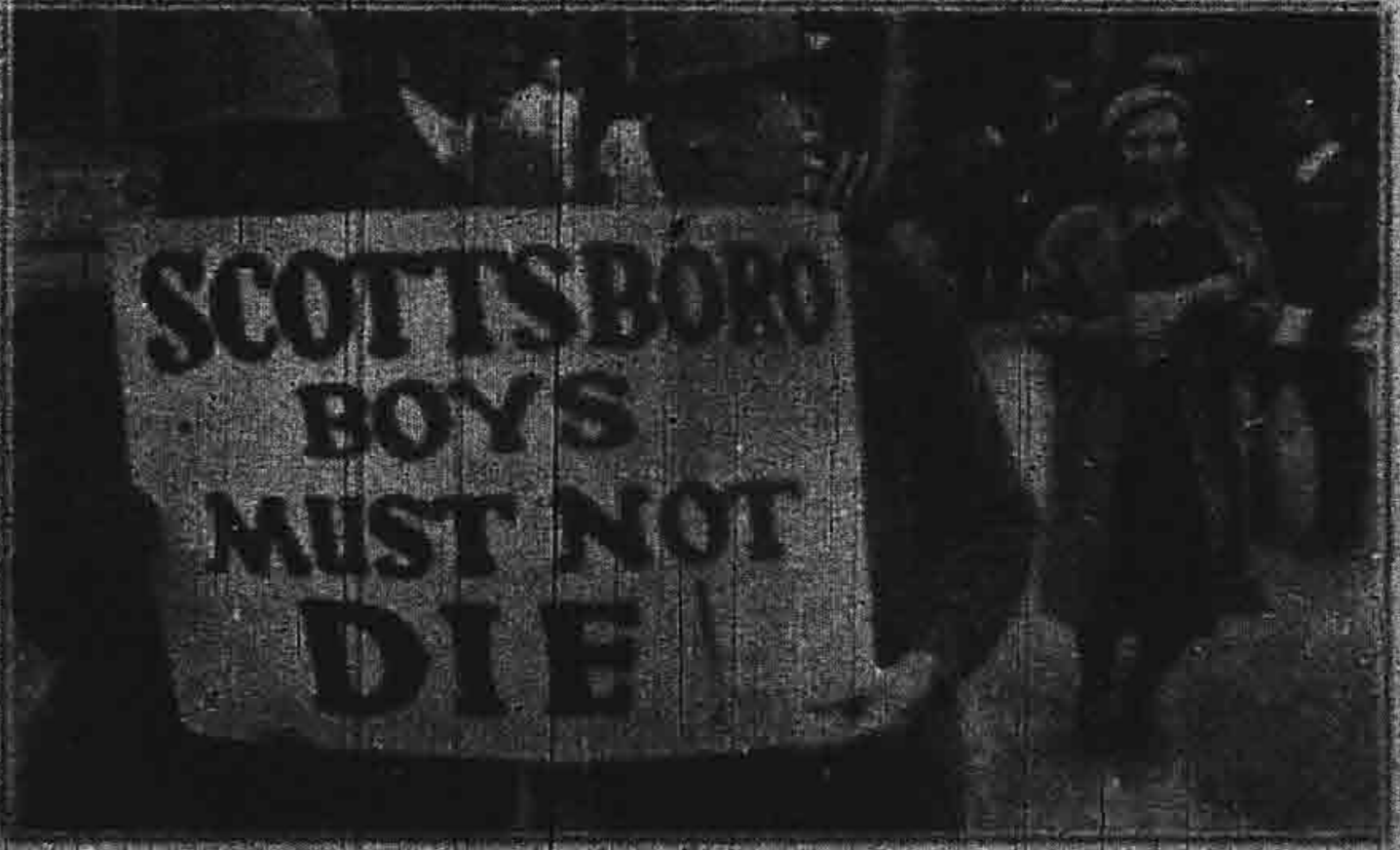
cution worked to crush the breath from the bodies of nine boys. It trampled down the most ordinary human rights, especially the rights of the Negro people.

Trial in Lynch Atmosphere

The Decatur trial took place in an atmosphere of lynching and blood-thirstiness against the toiling people. During the week of the trial, Governor Rolph of California put his seal of official approval on the practice of lynching. A wave of lynching and terror against the Negro people swept the country. Newspapers flaunting Rolph's brazen statement were carried into the very courtroom where the Scottsboro boys were on trial for their lives.

From the opening of the trial, Judge Callahan acted as part of the prosecution's murderous steam-roller.

The attorneys of the I. L. D., seeking a change of venue, presented to the court a list of over 500 names of Morgan County residents. Each of these people had told investigators that he would like to see the Scottsboro boys done to death, either by a legal courtroom lynching or by a "thirty-cent rope." Mrs. Mary Leonard, white woman of Birmingham, testified in court that she had found lynch-sentiment ablaze in Morgan County. (continued on p. 4)



The group picture at the left shows the nine framed Scottsboro boys. Third from the left, standing, is Haywood Patterson, who went on trial for his life early in December in Decatur, Ala. The state officials and the trial judge loaded together into a ruthless machine to carry through a legal lynching and make sure of a verdict of death for Patterson. In the center is Ruby Bates, brown-skinned white girl who took back her first testimony that the boys had raped her, and has dared in the face of lynch-threats to tell the whole world that they are innocent. Bates was at death's door in a New York hospital when the Decatur trial opened. From her sickbed, she sent out statements denying the innocence of the boys and appealing for a struggle to save them. At the right is a part of one of the many thousands of demonstrations of protest against the vicious Scottsboro frame-up. Today, when the Scottsboro boys are once more in the chains of the electric chair, protest like these must sweep the country. Only the falling masses can save the Scottsboro boys. It is up to us to go forward against the murderous machine of the Alabama officials, and stop it in its path.

"Southern Worker" Challenges N.R.A.'s Lower Wage-Scale for South; Shows that Talk of Cheaper Living Here is Lie

This is a challenge to all who say: "The Southern workers must have less wages and a lower standard of living, than the Northern workers."

If the government and the big employers have their way, we in the South will go on eating fat-back while workers in other sections of the country, doing the same work, can eat pork. We will go on using lard, while other workers can have butter—once in a while, anyway.

Why Should We Get Less Wages?

We ask: "Why should we Southern workers be forced to take less wages, live at a lower standard, than Northern workers?" Before we have finished, we are going to show that every excuse the employers use to give us lower wages, is an out-and-out lie.

The employers and the government—and all the big shots who set themselves up as God-almighty to tell us how to live—say that we have lower costs in the South. They say that food and clothing are cheaper here. But the facts show that this is a lie!

We Southern workers have always come out at the little end of the horn. That was true even before the NRA set up its codes, with their "differentials" for different parts of the country. The Southern Chambers of Commerce advertised us in the most insulting terms, as "cheap and contented labor."

But when the NRA got into action, our lower status was put into the law. And the government and manufacturers are determined to make it stick. Speaking in Atlanta in the latter part of November, General Hugh S. Johnson, chief of the NRA, said: "You may be certain that the North will not win its contention for a univer-

REAL BASIS FOR LOWER WAGES BELOW MASON-DIXON LINE IS DOUBLE OPPRESSION OF NEGROES BY RULING CLASS, AND DIVISION BETWEEN WHITE AND NEGRO TOILERS

quote the minimum wage-standards of a few important industries:

INDUSTRY		NORTH	SOUTH
Cotton Textiles			
		\$13.00	\$12.00
Full-Fashioned Hosiery (Class 1 Work)			
		\$18.50-\$27.00	\$16.75-\$25.75
	Steel	\$.35-\$.40 hour	\$.25-\$.27 hour
	Leather	\$.40	\$.32 1-2
	Shipbuilding	\$.45	\$.35
Bituminous Coal (skilled inside labor)			
		\$5.44 (per day)	(Ala.) \$3.40

But this does not tell the whole story. In whole fields of work that are of vastly more importance in the South than in the North, such as agriculture, the NRA minimum does not apply at all.

And when we ask: "Why should we have lower wages?" the Southern employers say: "Cost of living is cheaper in the South. A dollar will buy more here than in the North."

This is not the truth. Here are some figures from the A. & P. grocery store advertisement in the Montgomery Advertiser near the end of November. Accompanying them we give the cost of the same article of food as advertised in the Chicago Tribune during the same week.

Article of Food	Chicago	Montgomery
Flour (24 lbs.)	\$.85	\$.99
Lard (4 lbs.)	.30	.30
Eggs (doz.)	.16	.23
Tub Butter (1 lb.)	.25	.23
Sugar (10 lbs.)	.47	.49

Carolina stores for 85 cents.

Wherever company stores exist, the workers are forced—one way or another—to trade there.

Company Houses Mean Slavery

The Southern mill-owners and mine-owners tell us—and tell their Northern competitors—about the great "benefits" they give the workers in the South in the form of company houses. Company houses are bad, flimsy and uncomfortable. They are not worth even the cheap rents that we have to pay for them. You can bet your bottom dollar that the companies make a neat little profit out of the houses.

But what is still more important is that the company town is a whip over us. When we live in company houses, our every move is watched. When we strike for decent conditions and better wages, out on the streets we go. Ask the workers of Gastonia! Ask the workers of dozens of other company towns! They will tell you a story of merciless eviction of women and sick children from the company's rotten little shacks, because the workers in them dared to organize and strike.

We don't want their "cheap" company houses and the low wages and spying that go with them. We want enough pay so that we can choose our own homes, and decent, comfortable ones into the bargain.

Even the employers admit—through their own figures—that Southern workers do not have cheaper living costs than the Northern workers. The National Industrial Conference Board, in June, 1928, figured the cost of living for Northern and Southern textile centers as follows: (It is true that costs have gone down since then, but they have gone down in both sections of the country.)

CITY	WEEKLY COST
Fall River, Mass.	\$20.79
Lawrence, Mass.	22.73
Greenville, S. C.	22.86
Pelzer, S. C.	22.54
Charlotte, N. C.	23.51
(living in company houses)	
Charlotte, N. C.	25.02
(not living in company houses)	

These figures show that the cost of living is higher in the Southern towns.

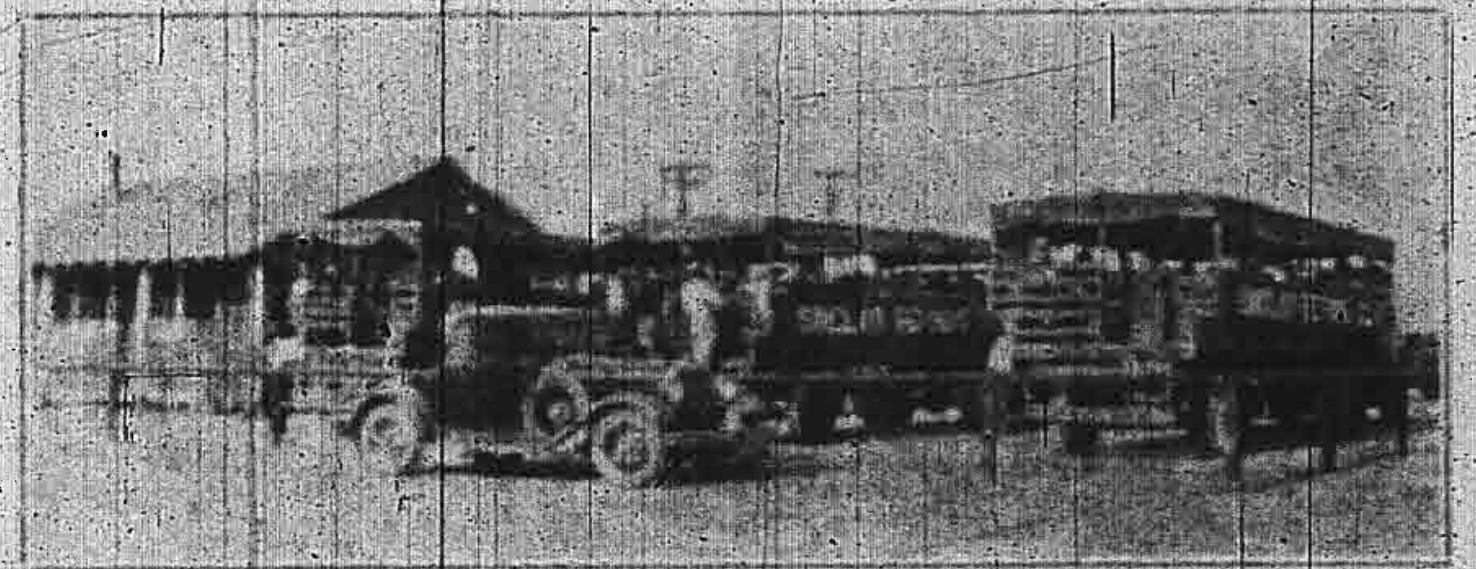
A Cheaper Standard

What Southern workers have, is not a cheaper living cost, but a cheaper living standard. We eat cheaper food and less of it, wear cheaper and fewer clothes, live in cheaper homes, than even our oppressed fellow-workers in the North. We get corn-meal instead of flour; fat-back instead of pork; turnip greens instead of spinach; lard instead of butter, and beans to take the place of a thousand things that we have to do without altogether. Badly as the Northern workers are forced to live, we are even worse off. The NRA with its pay-cuts for skilled and semi-skilled workers, has dealt hammer-blows to the wage-levels of the Northern toilers. But to us, the NRA has meant not only pay-cuts and terrible strikes—oh, it has also meant making our lower living standards legal and perma-

nent—unless we do something about it.

It is high time for us in the South to ask: "Why is this? Why are we forced to take less pay for the same work? Why are our living standards below those of the workers in the North?"

Here is the answer: the employers have been able to force a lower standard of living on us, because we are less organized, less united than workers in other sections of the country. We have allowed the employers to separate



These three buses are taking three loads of oil workers to their work at the grounds of the Sinclair Refining Company, in Houston, Texas. White workers are in one bus, Mexicans in a second, and Negroes in a third. This division is one of the clever schemes of the bosses to keep the workers from getting together and struggling side by side for more wages and decent living conditions.

us, white against black. We are a house divided against itself. We are an army whose soldiers fight one another.

There is a tradition of lower living standards for the South. This tradition weighs upon us like a mountain. But if we ask where the tradition started, we find that it arose from the fact of Negro slavery. The landlords used Negro slaves as a great body of cheap labor, and thus prevented successful struggles for better conditions on the part of the "free" white toilers. The chains that bound the Negro slave, were wound tightly about the feet of the "poor white."

From those days, there has come down to us a sharp race division, a bitter national oppression of the Negroes. It is here in the South that that division, that oppression, is the sharpest. And it is no accident that it is precisely here that the wages of the workers, white as well as black, are the lowest. It is no accident that it is here, in the homeland of lynching and Jim-Crowism, that labor's conditions are worst and its ranks the least organized.

Set White Against Black—For Profit

It is time for every one of us—particularly the white workers—to understand how the oppression of the Negro has hurt every Southern toiler.

The history of the labor movement in the South is one of militant and heroic struggle on the part of both white and Negro workers. But the pages of that history are stained with the stories of strikes broken, unions smashed, rights lost—because of the division between white and Negro.

This division between white and black has done much to prevent the growth of mass trade unions through which we can struggle for

better conditions. During strikes, bosses have brought up all the old lies and slanders against the Negroes, in order to split our ranks. Following the misleaders of the American Federation of Labor, many white workers have fallen into the trap, and have agreed to keep Negroes out of unions. The result has been that Negro workers are used to scab against whites, and whites are used to scab against Negroes, and thus many a strike has been broken.

Under the NRA the A. F. of L. unions are making a drive for members. They are following the same old policy of Jim-Crowism. One of our greatest tasks, our most burning needs, is to organize opposition groups of Negro and white workers within these unions, smash

the Jim-Crow lines, and put up a fight that will force better living conditions from the bosses.

There are few white workers in the South who have not at some time heard the employer say: "If you don't like the wages, I can get a dozen 'niggers' to work for less." And this is no idle threat. For there is in the South an enormous body of labor—the Negro toilers—who are forced to work at lower wages and under worse conditions than the rest. The lower standards forced upon the Negro people, act as a millstone around the neck of every Southern worker, whatever the color of his skin may be.

We said before that the Southern working class is like an army whose soldiers fight one another. The handful of rich whites who rule the South have kept us divided against ourselves. They do this by every means at their command—newspapers and churches, schools and radio. White workers are asked to accept empty bellies and ragged clothes, in exchange for a meaningless label of "superiority."

The mass of Southern white people are asked by the rich white rulers to agree that the Negro people shall be kept in a hell of poverty and misery. The rulers know that this is the surest means of keeping the white toilers in that same hell.

Scottsboro—and the White Workers

Lynchings are a blessing to the rich rulers of the South. It is for this reason that the landlords and local officials organize lynching bees. Lynchings keep the minds of the white workers of their own miserable conditions. Lynchings help to keep the Negro at a lower wage level, and this in turn becomes the weapon of the ruling class in

(Continued on p. 3)



The Southern bosses say that they make up for our low wages by the "benefits" they give us in company houses. Here is a typical company street in a North Carolina mill village. The road is unpaved. The toilets of one row of houses face the front of the second row of houses. Such homes are supposed to make us content with starvation pay.

sal scale." Or, in other words: "You may be certain that we will not allow Southern workers to have the same wages as Northern workers."

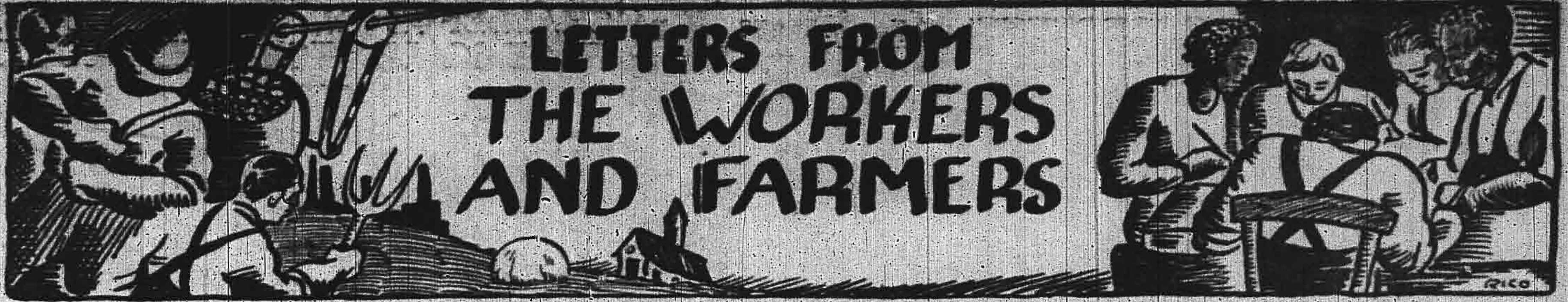
If the words of General Johnson are blunt, the figures of the NRA codes are even blunter. In every field, Southern workers have to take less pay for the same grade of work than in the North and West. This was the practice even before the NRA came into being. But now the entire weight of government and written law is behind the employer who hands us a 25-cent pay envelope for work that would get us \$15 in the North. That is the Roosevelt "New Deal" in practice, for the workers in blue.

To give some idea of how much we are discriminated against, we

Will the dollar of the Montgomery housewife go farther than the dollar of the Chicago housewife? The figures show that it will not go even as far!

Recently, the government made a study of the cost of bread all over the country. It was shown that seven cities sold bread at a higher cost than the average. Four of these cities were in the South.

Company stores and commissaries are far more widespread in the South than in the North. Prices in such stores are robber prices. To give just one example: a worker in the Marion Manufacturing Company in North Carolina writes that the same shoes she buys at the company store for \$2.50, are \$1.50 in town. Flour that costs her \$1.15 at the company store, can be had at the



Laundry Boss Cut Pay After Raise Was Promised

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 OXFORD, Miss.—Just a few lines to expose working conditions at the University Laundry, a state institution. A Mr. Wallace is in charge of the laundry. There are some 22 employed, of whom only three are whites.

A while ago, Mr. Wallace told the workers their wages would be increased to \$30 a month, with no night work. The workers were already getting \$7.50 a week, with 10 cents an hour extra for night-work. There were 16 hours of night-work a week, which made a weekly earning of \$34 a month.

No Increase in Pay

When the month was up, the workers found that they had no increase in pay, but instead \$25 a month, with night work as usual, but no pay for it.

One dollar and forty-five cents had been deducted for the uniforms the workers have to wear. The workers make these uniforms themselves, and the only thing that is furnished is the six yards of white domestic that Mr. Wallace gives. The domestics is worth 45 cents.

END OF THE YEAR FINDS CROPPER'S FAMILY IN RAGS

(By a Farmer Correspondent)
 DADEVILLE, Ala.—I am the wife of a Tallapoosa County share-cropper. I want to tell you what kind of life the poor farm women are forced to live.

I have nine boys, the oldest one is 18 years old. We have been share-cropping ever since we began a family. Now listen: I have six boys of school age, and haven't had clothes nor shoes for them to go to school in two years. That was after their father and I had gone through hard shifts to make the crop. The crop was sold for what they wanted to sell it for, and they gave us just a small sum to live on, that leaves us naked and with bare feet in the cold.

We have got to do all we can to organize and fight against this dirty way of doing things.

15,000 IN ARKANSAS FACE EVICTION FROM THE LAND

(By a Farmer Correspondent)
 LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—One out of every eight tenant and share-cropper families now on Arkansas plantations will be dropped under the no-plant cotton program for 1934, which calls for 40 per cent acreage reduction.

Eviction of 15,000 families is threatened in Arkansas. It is also estimated that one-third fewer cotton laborers will be required to pick and hoe cotton. Also, the possible discontinuance of food and seed loans will cause big work for laborers.

COTTON ACREAGE REDUCTION PLAN WOULD DRIVE 80,000 TENANT FARMERS OFF THE LAND IN TEXAS

State Authorities Will Also Attempt Forced Colonization of Unemployed on Abandoned Farms

(By a Farmer Correspondent)
 AUSTIN, Tex.—Peasantry confronts the Texas farmers!

The federal government, with the cooperation of the state government, is preparing this class of workers for the worst form of slavery that can be endured. Under the guise of relief, it will drive 80,000 tenant farmers from the land within the next few months through the cotton acreage reduction program. It claims, like the NRA, that farmers are to get more pay for less work. But it has no plan for these 80,000 unless the landlords agree to let them live on their tenant shacks in return for what work they might do.

Thousands of small farmers are in danger of having to become tenants on their own farms, which will have to be surrendered, or of joining the greater class of the unemployed.

Forced Labor for Destitute

Along with the attempt to realize livelihoods in a time of depression, farmers here, in addition to the plow-up campaign, have had misfortunes which would have been ruinous to them in normal times. In a terrific tropical hurricane which struck the lower Rio Grande Valley in the early fall, nearly four thousand farmers lost their homes and crops. To this estimate was added thousands of unemployed who, having been thrown off relief rolls, had been sent there from over the state to pick cotton. The number of destitute amounted to nearly 25,000. When the unemployed tried to return to their homes over the state, or wander on to another city, they were stopped outside of the cities by relief officials and given forced labor tickets to other farms in Texas. It was just about corn-pulling time then.

Drouth Adds to Misery

In the Panhandle and Midland areas, the drouth, which is always the dread of the West Texas farmer, came. "Relief" is given in the form of more forced labor. Farmers, when they get only a limited amount of work on which they have to support whole families, cannot pay off interest, much less mortgages.

In East Texas, the situation is drastic. In the summer, 15 East Texas counties and Louisiana parishes suffered ruined cotton as the result of heavy rains. These farmers, just as the other farmers over the state, are faced with foreclosure. Unable to realize anything on farm commodities they buy, and

working on the public roads. A diphtheria epidemic which has swept through Raines and adjoining counties has not caused the loan companies to show consideration. From December 1 on, scores of families face foreclosure. Although their land practically adjoins one of the wealthiest oil sections in the world, and it is reported that their land is also rich in oil, they will prac-

Work on Infants' Wear Brings "Just Enough For Beans"

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—I want the rich women of New York, Chicago, Boston, and other large cities to know that when they buy the little fancy embroidered children's dresses with the label on the collar, "Hand Made", they are buying the broken health and lives of the women of San Antonio who work for the Juvenile Manufacturing Company.

C. R., a 24-year-old Mexican girl with the body of a 12-year-old child, in the last stage of tuberculosis, works from six in the morning until midnight, embroidering these little dresses. I ask her how much she makes a week at this work. She answers without raising her head: "Much work and little money. Sometimes a dollar or less, but never more than \$3 a week."

Just Enough For Beans

C. T., a smart American-born Mexican woman, works at home embroidering children's dresses. She is the mother of four children. "Everything must be done by hand," she says, "and only 30 cents a dozen. I can make three dozen at most per week."

P. A., a young American woman, is forced to do this work at home. She has a baby eight months old. Her husband left her because he could find no work in San Antonio. I asked her how much she makes a week. She answers: "Barely enough for beans."

WORKER-PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Southern Worker will pay you 25 cents apiece for all pictures which it is able to use. Pictures of working-class conditions and struggles are especially wanted. Send your snapshots to Box 572, Birmingham, Ala.

tically have to give away their property.

Slavery for Jobless

The small farmers of Texas are going to have to endure almost as great a struggle to live as those who are actually dispossessed. This will be caused by the competition which will be aroused here in the "Back-To-The-Land" movement. There is a movement here among bankers and politicians to secure part of the \$5,000,000 issued by the legislature for relief, this money to be used for the purpose of farm colonization. In addition to this, a plan which has already become definite enough to put into operation is that of 12 "rehabilitation" farm colonies which will fall under the plan of the federal administration. The unemployed are to be sent back to the land here to the extent of perhaps 500 families of more under this plan alone.

Force Jobless to Farm

J. McDonald, Commissioner of agriculture and chairman of this committee, cooperated with bankers and landlords in the summer in an effort to get started a second plow-up campaign which was to extend throughout the South if possible. This gentleman does not know what it is to be a "dirt" farmer, and never will know. But he will know how to try and force the unemployed into becoming "dirt" farmers. This term is not applied to the bosses, but to those who are bound to the soil, and who have to undergo the most primitive hardship that can exist. The word means exploitation.

The Unemployed to Land

While 80,000 "dirt" farmers are left without livelihoods, several hundred will be given what are supposed to be livelihoods by being placed on these rehabilitation farms. Each family will be provided with from one to ten acres. Each family will be selected through the aid of local committees. It is reported that each head of a family will sign a contract with the government providing that the family will occupy the house and land so long as they want, and that they will pay rental out of the produce, etc. grown. They will, of course, produce only what is sanctioned. They will be under the supervision of a government farm agent. But these bonds are not enough. If a family leaves the house and land to which it has been assigned, it can receive no further relief. The bonus that the unemployed will take what they can get, or starve.

Drop Hundreds of Starving Families From Relief Rolls

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Out of 10,000 registrations, or 37,000 beneficiaries, 3200 were cut from the rolls of Pulaski County's Emergency Relief, leaving 35 active cases on the committee's list. This was done through a complicated questionnaire which checked up on ancestry, former residences, past jobs and amount earned, number of living relatives, insurance or postal savings—all an excuse to drop needy families from relief.

Money Buys Less

Less relief is handed out, yet prices of groceries are going higher, so money buys less and less food. Government pork is almost unobtainable. Relief workers have kicked about it unanimously. Nothing but a brine-salted-down pork of scrubby pigs, that farmers unaided by the government tried its pig reduction scheme. Many have been unable to eat it even after soaking it in water for 36 hours.

Workers on relief projects are beginning to take action to protect themselves. About 50 on a rock gang were dropped, all but one. They immediately went up to the officials and protested, and were put back on for a few weeks at least.

VA. CROPPERS GET \$160 A YEAR AND A LITTLE FLOUR

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.—The same evil the Alabama croppers fought against exists in this region. Small farmers and tenants have either been forced to sell their homes because of debt and unpaid taxes, or accept the paternal feudalism of living as a serf on a landowner's estate, where they are lucky to receive \$160 a year and two barrels of flour. Some of the estates are revolutionary grants and have been in the hands of the same family since before the Civil War.

Families that need relief most are given hardly enough to keep a bound dog alive. The tenant farmers go about begging for some old clothes and shoes, and their children can't go to school because they don't have decent clothes to wear. Wages are down to \$1.00 a day if anyone can find a job.

NRA CUT WAGES IN GULF STATE STEEL

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 GADSDEN, Ala.—The bosses at the Gulf State Steel Company in Gadsden have fired some of their men because they joined the A. F. of L. union.

The NRA did not increase wages here. In fact, our wages are being placed on the block for another check. But food prices are going up.

THE SOUTHERN WORKER

The Paper of the Telling Masses of the South
Official Organ of the Communist Party of the United States
JIM MALLORY, EDITOR
Address: Box 372, Birmingham, Alabama

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ONE YEAR	75 Cents
SIX MONTHS	40 Cents
THREE MONTHS	20 Cents
SINGLE COPIES	2 Cents

Bundle Orders: For Ten or More, 1 Cent Per Copy
Send No Checks, Send Stamps or Money Orders
Payable to HAROLD FROST

Vol. III

DECEMBER 20, 1933

No. 8

LYNCH-COURT CONDEMNS TWO SCOTTSBORO BOYS TO DEATH

(Continued from p. 1)

Yet the judge denied the boys a change of venue.

Speed—To the Electric Chair

Throughout the trial, Callahan called for speed. With this as an excuse, he refused evidence of the utmost importance in saving the lives of the boys. He kept the defense from questioning important witnesses and showing up their lies.

Judge Callahan wanted speed—to send nine innocent boys to the electric chair, so their bodies might be burned to a crisp!

The testimony of Ruby Bates was kept out of the Patterson trial because Judge Callahan wanted speed. Ruby, brave young white girl of Huntville, last spring defied the lynchers and appeared in Decatur to take back her previous testimony. She told the courtroom and the whole world, at the first Decatur trial, that the Scottsboro boys had never touched her or her companion.

Today, Ruby Bates lies at death's door in a New York hospital. Stricken at the last moment before the trial, she could not come to Decatur. From her sick-bed she dictated statements which prove the innocence of the defendants. But these statements were not presented to the jury trying Haywood Patterson. "We cannot wait," said Judge Callahan. "We must have speed!" A boy's life was at stake

FARM CONFERENCE DELEGATES PLAN FIGHT ON HUNGER

Seven hundred delegates of the toiling farmers from every section of the country met in Chicago, Nov. 15-18, at the Farmers' Second National Conference to lay down a plan of struggle against starvation on the land.

The South was well represented in the Conference. Delegates were there from Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, and Kentucky. The Share Croppers Union sent a large delegation which was received with cheering and applause when it entered the conference hall.

Complete and unqualified cancellation of secured debts, mortgages, back rents, delinquent taxes was the chief demand of the delegates. These representatives and spokesmen of the busted farmers pledged themselves to struggle for cancellation, and to stop by mass action all foreclosures and evictions from the land.

The conference endorsed the mass strike, with militant picketing, as the chief weapon by which the farmers can gain their demands.

To the Southern working and farming masses, the most important feature of the conference was the program laid down for a fight against starvation and evictions in the cotton belt. This program, however, is not ready in its final form as yet to be passed. The program and a full discussion of its meaning will be the leading subject of the South's first annual conference at the home of the Scottsboro boys.

—but Callahan was in too much of a hurry to wait a few hours for testimony that might save him.

Judge Blocks Defense

The "impartial" trial judge, Callahan, tried to block every move of the defense to show how the state's witnesses lied. At the previous trial, it was proved that Victoria Price, who said she had been raped by the nine boys, had never been touched by them. It was shown, on the contrary, that she had had relations with men before the famous hobnobbing trip started.

Callahan stopped the defense attorneys at this trial, every time they tried to bring out the true character of this prostitute, on whose lying word the boys are being railroaded to their deaths.

So anxious were the Alabama rulers to prevent a fight for the right of Negroes to sit on juries, that they even dared to tamper with jury rolls. Knowing that the International Labor Defense is carrying on a struggle to gain this simple right, they added names of a few Negroes to the old jury roll of Morgan County. A handwriting expert, John V. Haring, known from coast to coast for his ability and integrity, testified that the names of Negroes found on the 1931 jury rolls were added very recently.

Ala. Officials Are Forgers

Thus the officials of the state of Alabama, in their efforts to keep the Negro people from gaining their most simple rights, stand revealed to the world as petty forgers!

Judge Callahan dared to rule that there was no sign of discrimination against Negroes in jury service. For 42 years this man has practiced law in the South. Never, during the time, on his own admission, has he seen a Negro on a Southern jury.

The testimony of every witness brought forward by the state was ripped to pieces. It was shown that Orville Gilley, supporting the crude "rape" story, lied at every turn.

Dr. E. R. Bridges, reputable local physician of Scottsboro, who examined the girls in 1931 immediately after they were removed from the freight-train, testified again that both girls were in an entirely normal condition at that time.

In Shadow of Electric Chair

Today, as the result of the Decatur trial, the shadow of the electric chair looms large before the Scottsboro boys.

Yet the Scottsboro boys can and must be saved! The death-dealing machine of the state can and must be stopped in its path. It can be stopped if the masses of the people, white and Negro, the workers and those who sympathize with them come, close ranks and pit their lives against it.

Although the I. L. D. will

Ky. Miners Find NRA Means Rising Prices, Wage-Cuts

(By a Kentucky Miner)

KINEVILLE, Ky.—This is the situation in the Kentucky mining field. As soon as the Roosevelt "new deal" went into effect, and the NRA got started here, the U. M. W. of A. officials started their dirty work again.

First they called a fake strike, then they denied calling the strike after 50 or 60 men had been fired on account of it. Then the delegates of the miners and operators met in Knoxville to make the contract. The delegates were all hand-picked, and yet Turnblazer, the district president of the U. M. W. of A., was afraid to trust them. He came with the contract already made out and told the delegates to sign.

Cut Instead of Raise

Nobody among the miners was satisfied with the contract because it gave a cut instead of the promised raise. The miners are mad as can be at the district officials and at John L. Lewis.

Meanwhile, the cost of living has gone up under the NRA at least 100 per cent—maybe more. The company stores here are selling corn meal at 80 cents per half bushel. The chain stores sell the same amount for 40 cents. All the companies have raised our rent.

Now the miners know what the NRA is.

appeal this case, and take it again to the U. S. Supreme Court, if necessary. But behind the moves of the attorneys, there must be felt the organized power of millions of workers. Without this support, legal moves are without effect. For every court in the land is part and parcel of the lynch-rulers' system.

Judge Callahan enjoyed the Decatur trial. He laughed and joked. Jokes—while the lives of nine innocent boys are at stake! Laughter—while the rights of the Negro people, of the white toilers, are trampled underfoot!

A great mass movement will still Judge Callahan's laughter in his throat! The masses of the people, white and black, can stay the hands of the lynchers from this murder of nine innocent victims. We can stop this legal lynching! We are powerful in our numbers. Three times we have stopped the burning of Haywood Patterson. We did this by our mass protests, our meetings, our parades and our demonstrations. We did it by lifting our voices in a roar of protest, that was heard throughout the world and reverberated even in the ears of the Alabama rulers.

Save the Scottsboro Boys

With news of Patterson's sentence, a wave of indignation and fury swept the masses of the United States—and of the world. We Southern workers are a most important part of this mass movement. The lynch-rulers will not dare to be deaf to protests shrieked in their ears from their doorstep. The rights of the white as well as the Negro toilers are at stake in the Scottsboro case. The lynch-wave against the Negroes is the testing-ground for a reign of terror against all the workers.

We must pit ourselves against the murderous machine of the Alabama officials. Mass demonstrations, protest, block the office of Governor Miller of Alabama with telegrams. We must and we can stay the hand of the lynchers and save the Scottsboro boys free.

CHALLENGE N. R. A.'s LOWER WAGE-SCALE FOR THE SOUTH

(Continued from p. 2)

lowering the living standards of all the workers. Lynchings sharpen the division in the ranks of labor.

That is what Scottsboro means to the workers of the South. That is why Scottsboro, which is a legal lynching, means less bread in the mouths of white workers in Alabama, and in the whole South. Scottsboro means more oppression for the Negro people. Scottsboro means—or was intended by the employers to mean—a sharper division between white and Negro toilers.

Divided Ranks Mean Less Wages

And so we have it! There is here a great body of doubly-oppressed Negro labor. There is division in the ranks of the Southern workers. Out of this double oppression, out of this division, grows disunion. These are the reasons why we Southern workers have to live under worse conditions. These are the reasons why the makers of the NRA—lies have dared to make into law, our lower living standards!

But the tide is turning. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, and of such organizations as the International Labor Defense and the Unemployed Councils, the Southern white workers are learning that the oppression of Negroes takes bread from the mouths of the white workers as well. They see that lynchings and Jim-Crowism bring disunion into the ranks of those struggling against the rich for better living conditions.

Scottsboro—A Symbol of Unity

Scottsboro was intended by the rich white rulers as a symbol of Negro oppression, as a symbol of division in the ranks of the Southern masses. But the Southern toilers are throwing a challenge into the faces of the rich rulers. Scottsboro is becoming, instead, a symbol of unity. Thousands of Southern white workers meeting, working struggling for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys—this marks a new day for Southern labor!

Each day more Southern white toilers see that those who would keep white and black apart, are the enemies of all labor. Under Communist leadership, these workers are entering the fight for com-

plete and unconditional equality for Negroes. In a large territory in the South, where the Negroes form the majority but have no rights, the demand is being raised for the right of self-determination—the right of the Negro majority to rule that territory and have whatever form of government they wish, including even the right to separate from the United States, if they wish to do so.

Rulers Fear Equal Rights Program

More than anything else, the rich employers and landlords of the South fear the equal right program of the Communist Party. For the wall that keeps white and Negro labor apart, acts as a dam against the organized power of the Southern toilers in their struggle for decent living conditions. And today that wall is being battered down. No wonder our oppressors are afraid!

Cash To All, No Back Bills, Say Jobless Councils

(Continued from p. 1)

before the national convention. In Alabama, this convention will be on January 7. In preparation for the conventions, and for the great struggles this winter, the unemployed will organize on the gangs and in the neighborhoods, and make the following demands:

1. \$12 minimum cash relief for each family. Full pay for rainy days. Free transportation, free tools, no deductions. Equal treatment for Negroes.
2. Cash relief for all part-time workers getting less than \$12 a week.
3. Trade union wages for all skilled labor on relief jobs.
4. Cash relief for young and unmarried unemployed.
5. Right to elect the foreman and grievance committees on the job.
6. No family without enough food, clothes or coal this winter.
7. Cancellation of all back debts—light, water, rent, etc.—for the workers transferred to C. W. A. jobs.



By BILL MORTON

Some fell for all this sucker talk that Franklin handed us, and voted Democratic when he murmured low and sweet: "The forgotten man needs helping, and my friends, it's up to us, to put me in the White House and to take him off the street." Well, some voted Franklin's ticket, and he's in the White House now, while the guy that was forgotten—well, he's still forgotten, hey? While it's Roosevelt the president who hands us leaner chow at the bidding of the bosses, and who cuts our Hike pay. But forgotten though they may be, the forgotten men are here; the veteran robbed of pension and the farmer robbed of wheat, the worker who is suffering in his hunger and despair, with his family on the breadline and his children on the street. And they're sore as hell about it, and begin to understand that the lackey in the White House takes his orders from the boss; that it's Morgan and the spoiled crooks who run this whole wide land, and that makes workers out of us, and pocket all our汗. We begin to see and know that we've got to stick us out, and organize as Communists to make the workers' state; that we've got to fight as working-men and take this country over, and kick the bosses in the pants, and give their teeth the gas.