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Sheriff Shoots Scottsboro Boy

MINERS HAIL INDUSTRIAL UNION DRIVE

WASHINGTON.—When President William Green of the A. F. of L. brought the executive council's order to dissolve the Committee on Industrial Union Organization before the 34th convention of the United Mine Workers, he was greeted with loud boos. When he finished his speech, John L. Lewis asked for a standing vote as to whether the UMWA should continue its fight for industrial unionism. All but one of the 1700 miner delegates rose to their feet, cheering.

Amend Constitution

The miners voted to work for an amendment to the constitution which will make it impossible for the Supreme Court to declare social and labor laws unconstitutional. The national anti-sedition bill, and other measures designed to curb free speech, were condemned by the convention.

Of especially great importance was the resolution R-23, introduced by Local 935 of Cassandra, Pa., urging full trade union and economic equality for Negro workers. The convention went on record pledging "to fight against discrimination of Negro workers, and for full equality with whites in working conditions and equal rights."

The convention called on the executive council to see that all Jim-Crow locals are merged with all white locals to establish the closest unity of Negro and white workers. In the opinion of the convention, internationals which bar Negroes from membership should be expelled from the federation.

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LEADS FIGHT



John L. Lewis, president U. M. W. A., and leader of the fight for industrial unions in the A. F. of L.

Red Scare Fails to Split Ranks of WPA Locals

By Jack Barton

BIRMINGHAM.—Organizing into militant locals of Hod Carriers, Smelters and Federal white collar unions, workers on relief in Jefferson county have formed a militant central body to unify their struggle for better conditions.

Eleven locals affiliated with the central body voted to strike if their demands for relief project improvements were not granted. The committee carrying the list of demands to relief officials was told that Robert Moore, state Commissioner of Labor, and president of the State Federation of Labor, had approved the wage scale on WPA and PWA projects. But when the committee then wrote to Moore, quoting a resolution passed by the

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IMPEACH THOSE JUDGES WHO USURP PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

THE Liberty Leaguers are not kidding when they organize their billions of wealth together for a drive against the people of the United States. They mean it. They are determined to oust Roosevelt and the New Deal administration and put in a government which will do their bidding without question.

What would they do? They would stop relief expenditures. They would relieve the wealthy of taxes and place this burden on the workers, farmers and middle classes. They would prevent the enactment of any laws which hampered them in their exploitation of the workers and farmers. They would crush the trade unions and farm organization, outlaw the right to strike, and gag the rights of free speech, free press and assembly.

Yes, they talk about the constitution, but they will destroy the bill of rights at one sweep. Take this red-suspected clown, Talmadge, of Georgia. He isn't kidding either. He and his pal, Kirby, both of them working with Liberty League money, are driving toward fascism. Take this "patriot," Al Smith, who threw his old derby away, so that he could strut in a silk-topper with the DuPonts and the Liberty Leaguers. He isn't kidding. He, too, is blossoming into a full fascist.

With their control over the nine black-robed old gentlemen of the Supreme Court, they show they mean business. Every law passed by Congress which at all benefits the people has been declared null and void or is in immediate danger of it. Guffey Act, TVA, railroad pensions, all face destruction, in spite of the fact that they were passed by elected representatives of the people.

No, these fascists are not kidding. They mean it. But what about Mr. Roosevelt? He has spoken in vigorous language against these Liberty Leaguers, these representatives of "intrenched greed." But does he mean it? If the answer is to be read in Mr. Roosevelt's record, he does not mean it. He has given in to these buzzards at every step. And now the newspapers report that the Roosevelt government will not take any steps to pass a law or a constitutional amendment to curb the power of the Supreme Court.

We Communists are not willing to surrender so easily to those who would destroy popular government. Nor are the great masses of the people willing to surrender. We say: Let's get together and do the following:

1. Congress and the President should repudiate the right of the Supreme Court to declare laws unconstitutional.
2. Impeach judges who usurp the democratic rights of the people.
3. Amend the Constitution to prohibit the Supreme Court from declaring laws unconstitutional.

Investigation Puts War Blame On Big Bankers

WASHINGTON.—Widespread protest on the part of the American people forced the Senate, Munitions Investigation Committee to begin again the hearings which split wide open the whole rotten money machine that drove our country into the last war.

The testimony showed that money borrowed by the Allies from the U. S. Treasury went to pay American bankers and industrialists. Now that the Allies have failed to pay back the U. S. government, it is the American people who gave money as well as lives to the House of Morgan. The Allies at present owe one billion dollars to the U. S. But J. P. Morgan got paid back every cent he loaned them for war purposes, with interest.

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Twenty Negroes Burned Alive In Prison Truck

SCOTTSBORO, Ala. Jan. 31.—The charred remains of 20 Negro prisoners were dumped in sacks and hastily buried here today, at the order of Alabama authorities. Scottsboro is already world-famous for its inhuman treatment of 9 framed Negro boys. Twenty Negro convicts, manacled and herded like dogs into a truck, were burned alive because their cage was locked and bolted and they could not escape the flames of burning gasoline. They were called "bad" convicts and carelessly shoved into a cage on wheels known as the "dog truck." The two white guards paid no attention to the fact that to carry gasoline in a truck with prisoners is against the state rules. When the 30-gallon tank caught fire, the guards knew it only be-

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ATTORNEYS EXPOSE LIES OF ALA. 'LAW'

BIRMINGHAM.—Haywood Patterson, one of the 9 Scottsboro boys, was sentenced to 75 years in jail by a lily-white jury in Decatur, Jan. 28. On Jan. 24, as the boys were being carted back to Jefferson county jail in Birmingham, Ozie Powell was shot in the head by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan county. After the shooting was over, and the bleeding, almost dead Negro youth was taken to Hillman hospital, officials gave out a fancy story about an attempt on the part of the boys to escape. The real facts were told by Samuel Leibowitz and Clarence L. Watts, the lawyers retained by the Scottsboro Defense Committee to defend the boys.

Ozie Powell was shot because he, with the other boys, refused to dismiss their lawyers and let the state choose lawyers for them. The boys, knowing the state would choose attorneys who would help

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Bonus Goes To Veterans Over Roosevelt Veto

WASHINGTON.—Even though President Roosevelt vetoed the Bonus Bill, Congress passed it over his head. Three and a half million war veterans are to be paid off in 50 dollar baby bonds, which can be cashed at local postoffices. The bonds cannot be cashed however, until June 15.

The veterans' victory marks the end of a 17-year fight for the bonus. It was won by long hard struggles, by bonus marches and demonstrations. A year ago the President vetoed the bonus bill. This year he did the same thing. But the congress was afraid to let his veto stand, and passed the bill anyway.

The bill provides about 2 billion dollars for payments to veterans. It does not provide for a manner of supplying money however, and Congress is faced with the problem of answering this question. Inflationists want paper money issued, which would bring lower the number of things a dollar can buy and so raise the cost of living. It is thought that the administration forces will try to borrow the money from the bankers. Progressives point out that the way to get the money is to tax high incomes and big corporations.

Trades Council Attacks Governor On Sales Tax

BIRMINGHAM.—The Birmingham Trades Council lashed out vigorously against Governor Bibb Graves' proposed sales tax and condemned the governor for breaking his campaign pledges to Labor and the people. This was the spirit of a resolution passed by the local body Jan. 28.

The resolution points out that during his campaign, Graves "emphatically stated that he was definitely opposed to a sales tax for any purpose." And now the governor is "insisting on having the legislature enact a sales tax upon the consumers of Alabama" without the consent of the electorate.

Meanwhile organized opposition to the sales tax levy is growing

throughout the state. B. C. Apperson, state secretary of the Consumers Anti-Sales Tax Assn., said that branches of this organization have been set up in 60 counties. Trade unions, farmers' organizations and groups of small business men are lining up in the drive.

The governor is determined on a three percent tax which he claims is necessary to raise the ten million dollars needed for school and other state expenses. This means a wage cut of from 5 to 10 percent to workers and a corresponding lowering of the standard of living of the masses of the people of the state. Small business men point out also that this tax will hurt business.

TRADE UNION TOPICS

By Ned True

There is nothing in the constitution of the American Federation of Labor which can be interpreted as barring Communists as members of the affiliated internationals. True, a group of the Old Guard of the Executive Council tried to get an amendment to the A. F. of L. Constitution passed at the 55th Convention which includes such a provision, but there was so much opposition to it that it was not even brought to the floor. The situation today is that it is perfectly legal and within the constitution of the A. F. of L. for a member to hold any political or religious belief he desires.

In spite of this however, Birmingham labor was treated recently to a most disgraceful and disruptive "red drive" but certain trade union officials.

Jack Barton, a trade unionist for six years, a member of Local 6-A of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union and a delegate from that body to a central committee of unions including WPA workers, was recently arrested by the police. He was charged with having Communist literature in his possession which, in Birmingham, is a "crime" in the eyes of the law. With him was his wife, Belle Weaver Barton, acting secretary of the Stenographers, Typists, Bookkeepers and Assistants' Union.

FASCISM APPEARS IN BIRMINGHAM

The arrest of these workers and trade union leaders was a flagrant violation of the right of free press. The invasion of their little home by Milton McDuff, TCI dick, and city police, without even a warrant, was the sort of thing Hitler's Storm Troops and Mussolini's Black Shirts practice in Germany and Italy. The Downes Anti-Sedition law under which Barton is facing a prison term, is a violation of the Constitution of Alabama, and the United States.

Under such circumstances, one would expect the officials of the Birmingham Trades Council and the State Federation of Labor to come forward in vigorous protest against this raid and arrest. But what actually happened?

Well, Brother W. O. Hare, state secretary of the Federation came down to the meeting of the E. T. B. & A. local with Brother Ike Robinton and immediately launched into a vicious attack on Communists, calling them "rats" and "yellow." He stated that at least 30 members of that local were either members of the Communist Party or sympathetic to it, and that unless every Communist were kicked out, the union charter would be revoked. He said that he "knew all along" that Communists were "controlling this union and that he was going to stop it if he had to break it into a million pieces."

After this very intemperate speech, Brother Robinton took the floor and repeated these old slanders against the Communist Party. He talked a great deal about Communist agitators being sent here from Russia, their pockets filled with Moscow gold. He, like Brother Hare, told the workers that the Communists are trying "to break up the A. F. of L."

MRS. BARTON MAKES AN ANSWER

Mrs. Barton is a young woman, or rather a girl, about 20 years old. She is a Georgia girl who worked for years in the textile mills and holds a card in the U. T. W. She heard her husband called "a low down rat" and her friends slandered. As a loyal trade unionist and as a good wife, she took the floor.

She asked Brothers Robinton and Hare whether they knew of a single instance where Communists had done anything that hurt Organized Labor. They did not answer.

She asked them if they knew any Russian agitators paid by Moscow. No answer. She said that the only Communists she knew were Georgia and Alabama men and women. The only Russian she had ever met was Ike Robinton himself.

The only reply the Brothers were able to give was that they were not calling Mrs. Barton a Communist.

I think our readers can form their own opinion of this disgraceful procedure. I want to tell of another incident. On the following Sunday there was a meeting of the WPA Council. This council, I repeat, was made up of delegates elected by 12 locals, which include WPA workers as members, that is, the Hod Carriers and the Unemployed Locals of the M. M. S. W. L. U. Anyone who knows the bad conditions and the low pay on WPA projects knows the necessity of organizing these workers, and knows the importance of joint action for better conditions. It was for this purpose the Council was formed. Brother Robinton came down to this meeting with the avowed purpose of breaking up this council because of the fact that Barton was one of its leaders. ALWAYS WANTED DISTRICT CHARTER.

Brother Barton asked Brother Robinton what he had against the council. Brother Robinton had no real answer to this, but stated that a district council of the Hod Carriers should have been formed. With this everybody was in full agreement and Brother Robinton was informed that the Hod Carriers delegates were working hard to get such a district charter, which had already been promised. Brother Robinton knew this before he came to that meeting.

Brother Robinton then said that this council was "red." "They call us red because we are doing something for the workers," one of the delegates said. "No Reds can be in the A. F. of L.," said Robinton.

Brother Barton then took the floor.

"Which is right," he asked, "to judge a man by his political belief or by what he does for the union?" Brother R. did not answer the question.

"Let's take a concrete example," said Brother Barton.

Workers' Social Insurance Act

(FRAZIER-LUNDEEN BILL)

Senator Frazier and Representative Lundeen have put before Congress a new bill for social insurance. It is called the Workers' Social Insurance Act and provides for a system of national insurance that will take care of not only the unemployed and their dependants, but also will raise the incomes of the half-employed and the self-employed. In addition, the Frazier-Lundeen Bill provides for a REAL old-age insurance, disability insurance, maternity insurance and insurance for widows and mothers who are left without adequate support for themselves and their families.

BILL TAKES RICH

The Frazier-Lundeen Bill is a bill introduced in the interests of the workers of the whole country. The small scattered amounts of social insurance now being paid out by various states are not even a drop in the bucket to the need of the unemployed and others who are starving and in want. Because the Frazier-Lundeen bill calls for adequate insurance, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RICH, it must have the support of every worker in the South. The following points prove why workers must fight to put pressure on Congress to pass this bill:

1. The compensation shall in no case be less than \$10 a week, plus \$3 for each dependent.
2. The bill must go into effect as soon as it is passed, unlike the New Deal "social security" legislation.
3. The administration of the system provided by the bill will be carried out by workers chosen by fellow workers in their own communities—not by picked politicians or others who will work with big business against the workers.
4. The money to carry out the provisions of the bill will come out of the National Treasury. Any additional money needed will be obtained by taxing corporations, big incomes and other masses of wealth. It is never to be supported by taxes which will fall back on the working people.

The workers of the South know even more misery than the workers in the rest of the country. It is up to them to get behind the Frazier-Lundeen bill 100 percent and force Congress to pass it. The old-age provisions of such states as Alabama are a bitter joke to thousands of starving old men and women. Maternity insurance, widows' and mothers' and disability insurance sound like far-fetched dreams to Southern workers. Insurance to raise the living level of the partly employed and self-employed is something many workers in the South have not even heard of.

The big bosses will fight this bill tooth and nail. But the bill is for the people, and the people not only are more numerous than the big bosses, but their hunger and misery sharpens their need to fight. Trade Unions, Townsend Clubs, Farm Groups, can and must put pressure on Congress to put across the Frazier-Lundeen Bill!

T. C. I. Using Company Unions To Fight Unemployment Tax

The Alabama state unemployment insurance act contains a levy of 1% against the wages of the workers covered by the provisions of the act. The workers don't like this and we don't like it. It is one of the many things about the state act of which we vigorously disapprove.

But we certainly get hot under the collar when the big corporations, like TCI, use this fact to carry on their fight against the unemployment insurance act and against the principle of unemployment insurance.

"Myself, for instance, I have been in jail three times because I had Communist literature. I am hounded by that strike-breaker McDuff and other anti-labor forces. I have been a member of the A. F. of L. for six years and have worked hard to build it. No one will say that I have ever done anything against the Union. Now you and Brother Hare join hands with the very people who helped break the laundry strike and other strikes. The Communist Party fights for unity of the workers, and people like you and Brother Hare fight to divide the working class."

WE STAND ON OUR RECORD.

We do not have the space to answer in detail the unfounded slanders of Brothers Hare and

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Burlington Five to Be Tried For Frame-up Charge

BURLINGTON, N. C.—Feb. 24 has been set as the date for the hearing in superior court here of a motion for new trial of five workers framed on charges of "dynamiting" during the general textile strike. Considerable new evidence will be presented in court in the next legal battle for the freedom of these framed workers.

In an effort to cripple the defense, the authorities, railroad John Anderson and the other defendants to the state prison, despite the intention of the defense to take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court if necessary. After the ruling of the state supreme court against the defendants, a special term of the superior court was called here December 20 in order to send these workers to prison. They appeared in court on the date set and were rushed to the state prison.

The "evidence" on which the Burlington workers was convicted consisted of testimony of Pennsylvania detectives brought here for the purpose and "states' witnesses" who have been given jobs by the mill they said they helped "dynamite."

Tampa Witness Thought Slain

TAMPA, Fla.—A police chief has been charged with murder and kicked off the force. A K. K. K. leader, who is said to have "knew too much," is dead either by suicide or murdered by fellow Klansmen and cops. The pressure of labor from all over the country forced the chief off the Tampa job and exposed the vicious and corrupt activities of the Klan and police force who kidnapped and beat to death Joseph Shoemaker, an organizer of the unemployed.

Robert P. Farriss, the business man who was found dead in his automobile, until recently was a leader in the K. K. K. He was the neighbor of R. G. Tittsworth, the chief of police who tried to whitewash the Hoggings kidnappings and murder. Farriss was to be used as a witness in the murder case against Tittsworth.

BOY MINERS SUE ALABAMA FUEL CO.

BIRMINGHAM.—Two boy miners filed suit against the Alabama Fuel & Iron Company here. The boys, Troy Ingram, 16, and Woodrow Wallace, 17, told how the company had thrown them and their families out of its houses at Overton Mine because the boys' fathers were union men. When Troy and Woodrow returned to Overton to visit friends, agents of the company forced them into a machine, drove them 8 miles out into the country and put them out to walk on a rainy day.

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Attorneys For Scottsboro Boys Issue Statement

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. Jan. 23.—The following statement was issued today by Samuel S. Leibowitz and Clarence L. Watts, attorneys for the defendants in the Scottsboro case:

On hearing the news of the shooting of one of our clients, Ozie Powell, we hurried to Birmingham, arriving there at 12:30 p.m. We proceeded immediately to the Jefferson county jail, where the defendants are held. Chief Deputy Charles E. McCombs informed us that the Governor had forbidden any interviews with the prisoners. Mr. McCombs called both Governor Bibb Graves and Walter K. McAdory, chief of the state highway patrol, on long distance, but we were denied permission to see them. Mr. McCombs then called Judge W. W. Callahan at Decatur. Turning from the telephone he told us that Judge Callahan had said: He "didn't see what in hell he wanted to talk to those niggers about." And he hung up.

Mr. Leibowitz mentioned a writ of habeas corpus, whereupon Mr. McCombs made another telephone call, after which we were granted permission to see the prisoners. They all stoutly denied that they knew that Ozie Powell had knives on the trip. In the Birmingham jail, Roy Wright was in a cell next to that of Clarence Norris in a tier apart from the other Negroes. As we talked to him the deputies remained within easy hearing distance.

Mr. Leibowitz had no note paper on which to record Wright's statement, but one of the deputies handed him an official bail bond form on the back of which Mr. Leibowitz recorded the statements made by Wright in the presence of Mr. Watts. He asked Roy Wright to tell what the real trouble was between the Negroes and the Morgan county officials. Wright said:

Wright's Statement

"We were taken to Decatur from Birmingham by train on the day we were to be arraigned before Judge Callahan. One of the deputies who took us to Decatur was a man named Waldrop (or Waldron). He said to us:

"When you get up to the court in Decatur, tell the judge that you don't want Mr. Watts or Mr. Leibowitz as your lawyers. The only thing these lawyers can do is to make more trouble for you, and if you say that you don't want them, the judge would then appoint a lawyer for you; and if that happens then Mr. Knight will drop out of the case and it will not go so hard with you."

"We went to court but we never told the judge anything of the kind. On the return trip they carried us by automobile Waldron (or Waldrop) was driving the car with Sheriff Sandlin at his side. Haywood Patterson and Ozie Powell were in the car with me. Waldron (or Waldrop) said to us, after the car left Decatur:

"Why didn't you niggers do as I asked you? You're going to

The nine Scottsboro boys: Andy Wright, Olin Montgomery, Charles Norris, Haywood Patterson, Roy Wright, Charlie Weems, Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson and Eugene Williams.

fool around and stay in jail five more years. All the lawyers want to do is to make a big hurrah, to raise more money for their own benefit. Leibowitz has brought Mr. Watts into the case to draw more money. The lawyers will profit a million dollars on you and then drop you. I don't blame you for not doing as I said before today because you boys didn't realize what the lawyers had been up to up to now. But you have been told two or three times what to do and you wouldn't take my advice and from now on I will not have any more mercy on you than on a snake.

Satisfied With Lawyers

"I told the deputy that I was satisfied with my lawyers and that if Mr. Leibowitz cared to hire Mr. Watts, who is a Southern lawyer, it was up to him."

At this point Mr. Leibowitz had no more space but he found a personal letter in his pocket and on the back of this he noted the rest of Wright's statement as accurately and as quickly as he could.

Wright proceeded as follows, telling of the trip in the course of which a deputy was cut and Powell was shot:

"On Friday, (Jan. 24) we left the jail in Decatur. In the automobile ahead were Olin Montgomery and two of the others. Then in the car with me were Clarence Norris to my right, and whose left hand was handcuffed to my right whose left hand was handcuffed to who left hand was handcuffed to Clarence's right.

"There were three other boys in the automobile following us. At the wheel of our car was the High Sheriff of Decatur and beside him was the deputy who was cut. After a while this deputy said 'Waldron has been talking to you; if you had done what he wanted you all would have been tried and let off with a light sentence—not more than ten years.'"

Sheriff Speaks Menacingly

"The High Sheriff said, 'I told you niggers that you wouldn't get a trial and I'll bet ten to one that you'll not be tried in ten years. If I had my way I'd drive all these lawyers out of town.' Ozie said,

"Oh, I'd rather have those lawyers than any I've ever seen, and turned to me. He said 'damn what they're talking about.'"

"The fellow that got cut was sort of turned around in his seat with his back to the window and his left hand nearest to Powell. He slapped Ozie and Ozie got out his knife and slashed at him." (He indicated with a gesture how Powell had cut the deputy). "As he leaned forward to slash the deputy he pulled Clarence with him because Clarence was handcuffed to Ozie Powell. Clarence yanked Ozie back and I said:

"Sit down and give up that knife."

"With that Ozie dropped the knife to the floor of the car. The High Sheriff started blowing his siren and put his foot on the brake and stopped the car. We all threw our hands up as the car stopped. The High Sheriff got out of the car on the left hand side and walked toward the front of the car. Then as though he had changed his mind he started back. He pulled out his gun and pulled open the door a little bit and pointed the gun inside the car and said:

"I'm going to get rid of all you sons of bitches."

"He fired one shot at Powell. Soon afterwards Mr. Knight and Mr. Lawson rolled up on the other side.

Threatens Boys

"After he fired the shot (this was before Knight and Lawson came up) the High Sheriff put the gun up to my head. I begged him not to shoot us. I begged for my life and so did Clarence. He said: 'Who was it got you the knife—it must have been those bastards of lawyers. Leibowitz or Watts that smuggled the knife into the courthouse.'"

"I said: 'No, Powell got the knife on a little roof over the cell which we could reach if we climbed up on the door of the cells. He found a magazine there, too.'"

"The High Sheriff then said: 'I know who you got that knife from. You got it from that boy from the drug store that used to come to the jail.'"

"I said, 'No, he did not.'"

"He pointed the gun in my face and said, 'God damn you, nigger, do you mean to dispute my word? He brought it in.'"

"And I said, 'All right, he brought it in.' I was afraid he'd kill me if I didn't agree with him."

"The deputy who was cut was then taken out of the car and the High Sheriff driving the car with the High Sheriff from Cullman beside him started off with us to Birmingham. On the way the Cullman Sheriff said to the Decatur Sheriff that if it had been him he wouldn't have quit shooting until he'd killed us all, and the Decatur Sheriff said:

"We'll Run Him Out"

"I'd like to take a shot at those God-damned lawyers. That man Leibowitz is a God-damned son of a bitch, and Watts has been associating with him and now he thinks he is so smart, we'll run him out too."

"We then arrived in Birmingham.

"I forgot to tell you that the High Sheriff from Decatur said that Ozie had snatched the knife to him and then he said that I had a knife. I had no knife at any time in that automobile."

When Roy Wright told us about the alleged statement of Waldrop's about changing lawyers, Mr. Leibowitz called to the three deputies in the corridor to come to Wright's cell and he asked Roy Wright to repeat in their presence what he had told us. He did so.

We then asked Norris, who during the interview with Wright had listened to the conversation, if he had heard all that had been said. He said he had, and that everything Roy had told us was the truth. Among other things Roy told us, but on which we did not make notes, were the following: That at no time did he have a knife, nor that at any time did Sheriff Sandlin grapple with him. He also told us about Clarence Norris who was in the middle, pulling back Ozie Powell with all his strength, with the handcuffs which attached them when Ozie leaned forward and cut the deputy sheriff. There are two deep cuts on Norris' right wrist where apparently

Thousands Hit Murder Assault On Powell Boy

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—A mass meeting held by the League of Industrial Democracy here sent a telegram to Governor Graves protesting the recent lynch attempt against Ozie Powell and demanding the freedom of all nine boys.

GREENSBORO, N. C.—Telegrams of protest against the shooting of Ozie Powell have been sent to Gov. Graves of Alabama by members of the faculty of the University of North Carolina and by other organizations and individuals in the state. L. C. Johnson, president of the Unemployed League of Greensboro urged President Roosevelt to use federal troops to protect the boys.

NEW ORLEANS.—Protesting against the murderous attempt on the life of Ozie Powell, more than 200 Negroes and whites demanded Sandlin's arrest and punishment in a resolution passed at a united front Scottsboro Defense meeting held in the Mount Zion church here.

The resolution demanded "that Judge Callahan be impeached for his prejudiced and lynch-inciting activities in the trial of the Scottsboro boys.

"That Sheriff Sandlin be arrested, indicted and punished for the shooting of Ozie Powell.

"That the Scottsboro boys who have proved their innocence, be given immediate and safe release.

"That President Roosevelt and the federal government take action against the lynchers of Alabama and give protection to the boys."

The handcuffs cut him when he pulled Powell back.

Visit Wounded Lad

He then left the jail and obtained from the chief deputy a pass to visit Ozie Powell in the Hillman Hospital. No one was with us in the room with Powell.

When we got to the head of Powell's bed, he was lying on his left side with his eyes closed and breathing in a labored way. Mr. Leibowitz called him by name. Ozie moaned. Again Mr. Leibowitz said: "Ozie."

The boy slowly opened his eyes and turned his face slightly upward. Mr. Leibowitz asked:

"Do you know who this is?"

He said, "That's Mr. Charles," and rambled unintelligibly. Mr. Leibowitz then asked:

"What happened, Ozie?" And he said:

"The boys put me out in front and I almost got killed."

After some more questions which were not answered, Mr. Leibowitz asked him where he got the knife, and he said:

"Bought in Decatur," or possibly "Boy in Decatur."

Thereupon Mr. Leibowitz said: "This boy is in no condition to make a coherent statement."

Powell was in severe pain. His eyes were glassy, so we turned and left. We were in the room about two or three minutes.

WPA Workers Get Together Despite Boss

By a Relief Worker Correspondent

TARRANT, Ala.—What are we to do? The Relief heads are becoming more terroristic in their methods of trying to separate the Negroes and whites. Are we going to sit by and watch our children die of starvation or grow up with crooked limbs?

No, we will use methods like were used on the Tarrant Airport Road. Strike! They told the workers that they had to work in mud. That they could not strike. If they quit they would lose their jobs. But they had not figured on the kind of workers they were dealing with.

They try to keep us split by not letting the whites and Negroes work on the same gang. But we know how to work together anyway. The leaders in the white gang consulted with the leaders in the Negro gang and the gangs worked together.

The superintendent said "if you damned fellows intend to do any work, get at it." Nobody said a word. Nobody picked up a tool. One fellow started to, but it seems the ground flew up and hit him under the chin.

The superintendent went for help and a National Guard sergeant came back with him. But soon both of them had to run away. But pretty soon the superintendent came back with a big fake smile and said, "Boys, get your work cards and go home. You will get credit for working. I believe it is too muddy to work."

So you see we DO STRIKE, and strike hard, and we can win.

Hod Carriers Hold Big Rally at Chattanooga

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 1.—Joe Dobbs, president of the Chattanooga Trades and Labor Council, and Pat Patterson, District WPA Director, were among the speakers at a mass meeting called by Local 846, Hod Carriers and Common Laborers Union.

Eight hundred Negro and white WPA workers gave their enthusiastic attention to the statement by President Huff of the aims of the Union: 1. To increase the WPA wage rating for the district and better conditions of work; 2. To establish regular wage scales of 45 cents an hour for common labor and 60 cents an hour for semi-skilled labor on all private construction jobs.

Local 846 of the Hod Carriers is rapidly becoming recognized as the leader of common labor here. Patterson, in speaking to the Hod Carriers, declared he had nothing but praise for the union, whose local committee has won a series of victories for workers on WPA projects. He stated further that "he had no right to ask people to join a labor union, but that in accordance with the Federal Bulletin of the WPA, he would guarantee that there would be no discrimination against any worker, white or colored, for union membership or activity."

THE KLAN RIDES



Klansmen work closely with the police in Alabama and other states. Above a band of them are shown preparing to ride and kill.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MEMPHIS.—Fifteen members of the fire department were dismissed here today by Commissioner Cliff Davis who said he meant to keep the Unions out of the city departments.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Southeastern and Southwestern sections of the Brotherhood of Railway Maintenance of Way Employees voted to open their doors to Negro workers at a conference held here.

SELMA, Ala.—The frozen bodies of four Negro workers were discovered here. They died from exposure. One of the dead was only 7 years old.

BIRMINGHAM.—Phelix Brooks, Negro worker of Fairfield, was shot in the abdomen by Officers J. P. Bailey and Hubert Alexander. Brooks is in a serious condition. The cops said he tried to throw a brick at them.

JASPER, Ala.—Workers of the Burton Mfg. Co., won a 5-cents an hour increase in wages and recognition of the 40-hour work week. The concessions were won by the United Leather Workers, Local 65. The Burton workers have been out on strike for nearly 3 weeks.

EDISON, Ga.—Six Negro workers dead and eight injured was the toll left by a tornado which ripped one mile east of here. The flimsy dilapidated shanties in which these workers lived collapsed and were splintered by the force of the wind.

MEMPHIS.—Rev. James W. Howell, supply preacher of the Church of Christ, was held here on a charge of stabbing Richard

Bonds, 26-year-old electric welder, to death. Howell was scabbing at one of the Kroger Grocery Stores, whose employees are on strike. The preacher was using a telephone, he said, when a group of workmen asked him to leave the job. In terror, he snatched a butcher knife and stabbed the young worker.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—A local of the Workers Alliance of America is being formed here. It will carry on a struggle for better conditions for WPA and unemployed workers, and for the Frazier-Lundeen Workers Social Security Bill.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.—A chapter of the American Students' Union has been formed on the campus of the University of North Carolina.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—The year 1935 brought huge profits to the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. In addition to enormous dividends, several officers of the company received "wages" of more than \$50,000 for the year.

MILWAUKEE.—The Milwaukee Federated Trades Council unanimously voted against holding the 1936 A. F. of L. Convention in Tampa, Fla., because of the kidnap-murder of Joseph Shoemaker, an unemployed leader.

NAVOO, Ala.—A resolution condemning Gov. Bibb Graves for settling the coal strike of 1935 to the benefit of the coal operators was passed here by Local Union 2401 of the United Mine Workers of America.

Farm Leaders Hit Reduction In Crop Acres

BIRMINGHAM.—The Supreme Court decision declaring the AAA unconstitutional was described as a "most reactionary" step by Tom Burke, assistant secretary of the Sharecroppers' Union. Burke pointed out that this decision means that Wall street, which is represented through the black-robed justices on the high bench, was opposed to the farmers receiving the small relief which they got under the AAA.

While the Union was opposed to the AAA, which benefited mostly the big farmers and gave only small concessions to the smaller farmers, the Union knows that the enemies of the AAA who brought about its downfall are the big corporations and bankers, he said.

Meanwhile a later decision of the court returned to the processors and manufacturers more than \$200,000,000, which had been collected from the people in processing taxes and turned over to the government. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace branded this decision a "legal steal."

Hit Acreage Cuts

The new farm legislation of the Roosevelt government, which is now in Congress calls for a reduction of acreage under the name of soil conservation. Like the old AAA, this new law will discriminate against small farmers, tenants and sharecroppers, Burke said.

In the Northwest, a group of nine farm leaders has just issued a statement opposing the new farm law primarily on the basis of its crop reduction features. "The real thing needed," said the farm leaders, "is to increase production and put buying power in the hands of the working people." They called for cash benefits to the farmers at least equal to the AAA payments, the passage of the Frazier-Lemke refinancing bill and the Frazier-Lundeen Workers' Social Insurance Bill.

The statement was signed by Charles D. Edgely, manager of the Farmers' Union Livestock Commission; A. W. Ricker, editor, Farmers' Union Herald; John Boshch, president Minn. Holiday Assn.; George Nelson, National Board of the Farmers' Union; Lem Harris, secretary of the Farmers' National Committee for Action and several others.

(Farmers who wish copies of this statement should write Lem Harris, Room 200, Corn Exchange Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.)

Dictator of Georgia



Eugene Talmadge, governor of Georgia, who took his cue from the late Huey Long and is trying to establish himself as dictator in his own state. Talmadge is in the race for the presidency. He represents a portion of the rich who want Fascism in America.

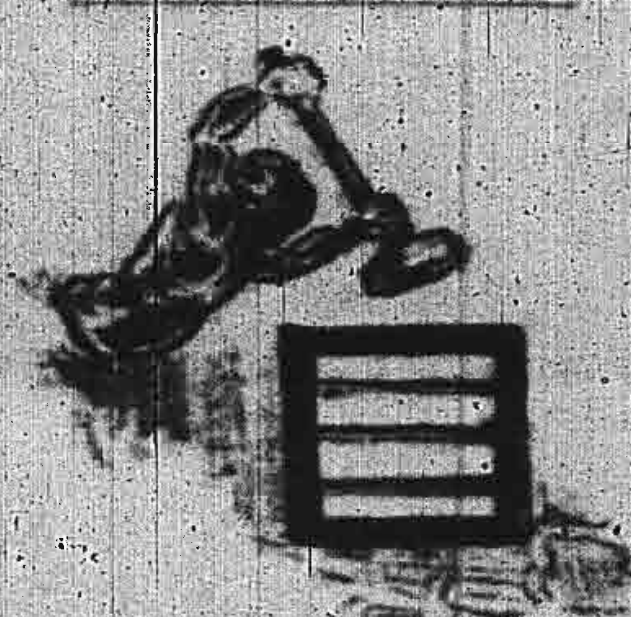
Overall Factory Starves Workers

By a Mill Worker Correspondent
GREENSBORO, N. C.—I work at the Blue Bell Overall Factory. They say it is the largest overall factory in the world. But it is so that I and the other workers here can do to keep from starving. Most of us are getting only one or two days work a week. We think that when they start full time again that they will try to cut our wages. The new workers being employed are put on piece work and get less than the old code minimum.

Gastonia Leader Scorns Hearst

GREENSBORO, N. C.—K. Y. Hendrix, one of the Gastonia defendants framed up after the strike in 1929, has been released from the state penitentiary, having completed his sentence. While in prison he was subjected to the most extreme hardships and brutal treatment.

In an interview with Paul Crouch, organizer of the Communist Party, Hendrix described the methods used several months ago by the Hearst papers in an effort to get him to sign a series of anti-Soviet articles. Phil Mason, representative of the Hearst papers, visited Hendrix in prison. In the presence of the warden he showed Hendrix a series of articles filled with falsehoods and slanders against the Soviet Union. He asked Hendrix to sign them, saying he would go to the governor for a "pardon" for him. The offer was indignantly rejected by Hendrix, who told the Hearst man in the presence of the warden that as soon as he was released he would return to activity in the working class movement.



WOMAN'S CORNER

BY ELLA LEE

"If the people would open their eyes, drop this union and worship God, we would all be better off, and we would have work, good friends and neighbors, instead of starvation and enemies. The union is the biggest curse that ever fell on Alabama."

The above paragraph is part of a letter written by a miner's wife to the Birmingham Post. It shows how the propaganda of the bosses creeps into the homes of workers in the South. This woman, the wife of a miner, has been taught to believe that all the misery she knows—the lack of proper food, the lack of schools for her children, the leaky shack she and her family live in—has been brought on by the organization of the miners into the Union.

What Is Wrong?

What is wrong with this reasoning? First, that the starvation level to which she and her husband have been driven has been brought on not by the Union, but because the Union was not always strong enough to keep the bosses from lowering the wages of workers. If every miner would join the Union and fight for better wages and better living conditions, there would not be the starvation of which she writes.

She says the Union is a curse. The workers know that the Union is not a curse, but a blessing. It is the only way they have of raising their starvation level. It is the only means by which workers can force the bosses to give them enough money on which to live and raise their families.

This lady says if people would drop the Union there would be work. We know that it is only through the Union that workers can hope to get jobs. Without the union, workers are fired wholesale and no one fights to keep their jobs for them. The Union tells the bosses, "you cannot fire any of us without cause." If the boss DOES fire a worker, his union brothers do something about it. They make the boss sorry he acted too fast. They make the boss take their union brother back on the job.

God With the Unions

This miner's wife says the workers should drop the Union and worship God. Most of the Union brothers go to church and worship God. Jesus Himself was a Carpenter, who fought to bring better days to His people. Most of the workers feel that God must be on their side, instead of on the side of the bosses who use machine guns to murder the workers during strike struggles.

The workers feel that God wants them to have a share in the fine things of the earth. Food and clothes, substantial houses and ordinary comforts should be for the man who works for his living. As for the Union making enemies out of friends, this is not true. The Union is a BROTHERHOOD of working people.



Scene in a factory school where Soviet workers learn to be skilled engineers and technicians.

Magazine Writer Finds That Socialism Works

By George Soule

(Editor's Note: George Soule is not a Communist. He is a writer who went to the Soviet Union to see how Socialism works, and if it works. He found out that it does. He came back to America and wrote about the things that Russia has accomplished under a workers' and farmers' government. The paragraphs below are taken from an article by Mr. Soule in the New Republic, February 5.)

There is little visible difference, as to quantity of food, between the Soviet Union and England or the Soviet Union and England or are available in variety and abundance. So luxurious has the wheat diet become that it is hard to get anything but white bread in the better restaurants. Pork and hog products are plentiful; beef, veal and poultry and, occasionally, game, are on every menu and in the market. Butter is good, though still a little high in price; it appears for one meal every day on the third-class diet. Cabbage, potatoes and root vegetables are universal. Eggs are always on hand. Milk and cream are distributed

widely in most cities; tuberculous cows are killed. Cream is far better than ours because it is unadulterated.

The newer food stores, offering groceries and delicacies, bear comparison with our most fashionable and high-priced shops. There are also appetizing shops for dairy products, including cheese, honey and preserves. Soviet candy and chocolate are unsurpassed anywhere.

Food prices were reduced about 15 percent in the open market, and the last meat cards were abolished just before we left. At the same time, wage earnings were rising. An order was issued to open 300 new butcher shops in Moscow.

How They Dress

Their clothes seem warm and whole. We saw nobody without shoes. The better people dress, the better the Russians like it; it is a sign of advance. They want not to level down, but to level up.

There are fashion shows. You compliment the display of clothing and shoes, but your Soviet friend is critical. "Not good enough yet," he will say, "and still too high priced. We must bring the prices down."

La. Sharecroppers 'Scrap' for Living

By a Sharecropper Correspondent
SIMMES PORT, La.—The croppers and tenants along the levees of the Atchafalaya river in Avoyelles and Pointe Coupee Parishes are suffering greatly because practically no relief is being given the needy.

For the last 3 years the crop has been practically ruined because of seepage from the river. Only crops planted on higher land came through all right.

Because the crop is never sure, landlords refuse to give the tenant any advance for food. The cropper gets only 2 or 3 dollars a month, and this for only 3 months, from March till June 1.

"Scrap Living"

The people "scrap" for a living. This consists of picking moss or hunting possum. There are so many in the woods after moss that you are lucky to get 50 pounds. It sells for a cent and a half a pound.

The soil is rich and black, but



the farmers are never sure of what they will get. The croppers and tenants struggle very hard to become cash renters and even to own their land. They try to get their own horse or mule from the Resettlement Administration, so they can work the land for themselves.

The Sharecroppers Union is organized 500 strong in this section and is working to get a state charter for the Union.

Landlord Mobs Beat and Kill Union Sharecroppers

By a Worker Correspondent

NOTASULGA, Ala.—A few weeks ago Sheriff Daniels and Deputy Sheriff Evans came out to Beulah Church and arrested Claude Travis, Pitty, Jerry Grimmer, Candy Mira, Richards Mira and two others. They were beaten over the head with revolvers by the officers without cause. The officers walk by men and knock them down, and beat them as if they were beasts. Hundreds of men and women stood by afraid to speak.

Foremen Abuse Negroes on WPA

By a WPA Worker Correspondent

GREENSBORO, N. C.—I want to tell you something about conditions on the WPA here. Some time ago the state WPA promised a delegation of workers that we would be paid for all time lost as a result of bad weather. They did this for a few weeks. Now on many of the projects we have to work extra time without pay, which is to be credited to the time when the weather is too bad later. In other words, we have to make up lost time, but in advance.

Many of the foremen are trying to speed us up beyond the point of endurance, telling us that if we don't work fast enough we will be fired and then we can never get any more relief. A few days ago a Negro worker was being abused by his foreman on the usual grounds of "not working fast enough." The foreman struck the worker who defended himself with his fists. The foreman went to his car and got a crank, intending to hit the worker over the head. But he stopped when the worker prepared to defend himself with a shovel. Then the superintendent came around. He ordered the Negro worker to apologize to the foreman. This he refused to do as the foreman started the trouble and struck the first blow. The superintendent then threatened to fire the man if he did not apologize but his threat did no good. This Negro worker refused to be bullied in this manner, and he is still working.

One worker's son was killed a few weeks ago by Floyd Starr and nothing was done about it. The father was then ordered to move from the farm of Charley Hughes and leave his crop without any food for his wife and eleven little ones.

Henry Griggs was working for 25 cents a day for a man named Weldon. And Griggs stopped this and signed up to work on a government job and Weldon went down and stopped him from getting a job. So he could not feed his wife and two little ones. What is Griggs doing? Eating boiled corn and peas with salt and water given to him by the other poor farmers.

Nothing To Eat

Many others here have nothing to eat. When any of us do get things to eat, all we get is peas, boiled with nothing but salt and water, corn sprinkled with salt. But we don't go on working for no 35 cents a day.

Those who advance us let us down. Those who handle the government business let us down. The K.K.K. crowd has got the business in Marion. Two boys were jailed a few weeks ago and beaten till they said yes, they had revolvers, even though they did not have any. This was a frame-up on them to keep them from getting a settlement. One share-cropper was over at Five Points and was beat to death because he asked for a settlement. Share croppers are now no better than slaves.

N. Y. R. Pays \$10 a Month

By a Young Worker Correspondent

BIRMINGHAM.—For my part I think it a benefit to the youth, whose parents have an income over 30 dollars a month. But to the ones that are on the project and make only 30 dollars, they need more. But the ones on the youth job get only 10 dollars a month. For instance, one girl had a job paying her 3 dollars a week, working from 8 until 4. Without car fare, she clears 12 dollars a month but now she goes to her N.Y.R. job and what will she get after paying 14 cents car fare for four days in the week?

These is hard times to be growing up in, and most of us get families that 30 dollars a month don't go very far with, and 10 dollars don't go no place at all. I have just got my slip to go to work with the N.Y.R. I don't know how I will do about car fare.

Relief Sewers Must Buy Coal

By a WPA Worker Correspondent

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—On the sewing room project of the WPA where I work we are forced to buy our own thread. And collections are taken up to buy coal. We are told that if we don't furnish our own fuel that the project will be closed. We only get \$27 per month but we have to work for this low wage to keep our families from starving. We even have Jim Crow on these relief jobs, only Negro women working on our projects. The boss seems to get a great delight in abusing us, threatening to have us fired. We are organizing a union now, and are going to fight for better conditions.

Attorneys Expose Lies of Alabama "Law"

(Continued from Page 1) railroad them to the electric chair, refused. After Haywood Patterson had been sentenced, they were handcuffed and put into three cars, to be carried back to Birmingham.

Sheriff Threatened Boys

Ozie Powell, with Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, was put into a car with Deputy Edgar Blalock and Sheriff Sandlin. Roy Wright later told how these 2 men had carried on the threats that have been part of the 5 years' torture inflicted on the Scottsboro boys. Blalock betated and cursed them for not renouncing their lawyers.

"I'll have no more mercy on you than a snake," the deputy told Ozie and the other 2 boys. During the ride, he kept up a trade against them, warning them to keep away from Leibowitz.

When Ozie Powell refused to listen and showed that he would not have anything to do with Blalock's demands, the deputy turned around and struck him. Ozie protected himself with a knife. The other boys pulled him back, and the knife fell to the floor. Sheriff Sandlin, who was driving, stopped the car, got out and stepped to where he could shoot straight at his victim.

"I'm going to get rid of all you son-of-bitches," he said, and poured lead into Ozie Powell's brain.

At the hospital, Ozie's head showed other wounds besides the place where the bullet entered his brain. The other marks were the result of beatings.

Attempt to Split Defense

The Alabama authorities are using the shooting of Ozie Powell to try to break up the defense and railroad the persecuted boys to the electric chair. A wild fake story of an escape plot involving "white schemers" was printed in the Alabama press. Ernest Meriwether, a Decatur Negro youth, was arrested and charged with having got a knife to Powell. He was released because the wide and strong protest coming from every part of the world, showed the Alabama authorities they had better step carefully.

The governor of Alabama, one of the South's most outstanding Klansmen, and his chief lynch assistant, Lieutenant-Governor Knight, used the Alabama newspapers to congratulate the men who tried to murder Ozie Powell. Knight, who has used the Scottsboro case as a political step-ladder, was the specially appointed prosecutor of the boys.

Miners Hail Drive to Organize

(Continued from Page 1)

MIAMI—An early campaign for thorough organization of workers in the steel industry was voted by the executive council of the A. F. of L. in session here Jan. 28. A drive will be made to build the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers and other international unions will be asked to assign organizers to help.

Workers Leader Victim Memphis Police Terror

MENPHIS.—William A. Mardis, secretary of the Workers' Alliance here, was arrested because he addressed a Negro worker as "Mister."

Chief of Police Will D. Lee, who ordered the arrest, said he was going to keep Negroes from being introduced as "Mister" in front of white men and women.

Mardis was dragged out of bed at 1:30 a.m. by Detectives Muller and Moore and taken to jail. At the police station he was asked a lot of questions about "this Communistic business."

The Workers' Alliance has about 500 members in Memphis. About 100 of these are Negroes. Mardis was released after being held in jail 32 hours.

WPA Worker Framed On Attack Charge

BIRMINGHAM.—Charged with criminal assault by a woman obviously hysterical, Charlie Render, Negro relief worker, faces trial early this month.

Render was held because the woman said she recognized him as the man who attacked and robbed her of 40 cents near Irondale one morning recently.

Charlie Render is held without bond, despite the fact that he has a good alibi. The woman, whose name is Mrs. Hattie Duncan, had to be given restoratives when she told her story to the police. She said the attack occurred just before noon near Irondale.



NEGRO CONGRESS TO FIGHT LYNCHING

CHICAGO.—More than a thousand delegates are expected to attend the National Negro Congress Feb. 14-16 in Chicago. The Congress, uniting all Negro organizations and their supporters marks the biggest step toward united action yet taken by Negro Americans. It will seek to bring about unified action on the part of all Negroes for the purpose of "winning manhood and the rights of citizenship for the Negro people."

From all parts of the country delegates are due at the Congress. They are coming from trade unions, churches, fraternal societies, civic bodies, political groups, youth councils and other organizations who look to the congress as

SCOTTSBORO DEFENSE COMMITTEE

The Scottsboro Defense Committee has for its officers the following prominent persons: Rev. Allan Knight Chalmers, chairman; Col. Wm. Jay Scheiffelin, treasurer; Rt. Rev. William Scarlett, St. Louis, Mo.; Dean Elbert Russell, Durham, N. C., and Prof. James Weldon Johnson, vice-chairman.

The Defense Committee is made up of representatives from the following organizations: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Methodist Federation for Social Service, American Civil Liberties Union, League for Industrial Democracy, International Labor Defense, and the Church League for Industrial Democracy.

The sponsoring committee includes more than 35 names of prominent individuals, such as Bishop Robert L. Paddock, Donald Ogden Stewart, Prof. Robert Morse Lovett, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Charles Bickford and Prof. W. E. B. DuBois.

Mill Movies Hide Misery

BIRMINGHAM.—The Avon-Georgia and Alabama, has just released a movie called "Destiny of Dale Mills, a chain of mills in Dixie." It shows the textile workers smiling at their work.

John A. Peel, third vice-president of the U.T.W., tells how the pictures are taken. "The employees are requested to smile and play at work (while the movie camera grinds) and in this way show that they are happy and contented."

The movies will be shown in the theaters if another general strike occurs. In this way the employers will stir up antagonism against the striking workers. Another use for movies in the textile industry is to make pictures of the activities of pickets and flying squadrons during strikes so the bosses can have a permanent blacklist record.

Militant Unionist Elected Head Chatta. Labor Body

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—Joe Dobbs, business agent of the Plumbers local, was unanimously elected president of the Chattanooga Central Labor Body at a large meeting of the Central body here January 13. Dobbs succeeded A. C. Kania as president.

The election of Dobbs is a victory for the most progressive elements in Chattanooga labor circles. Joe Dobbs is a popular trade unionist who has a record for being the first to go on the picket line.

One of Dobbs' first speeches after his election was made at a mass meeting of the Hod Carriers Local. There he stated his hope that the common laborers would take hold and become one of the biggest sections in the growing army of organized workers.

LONDON CALLING

Ask Sheriff Fred McDuff of Jefferson County if he knows that the eyes of the world are on the State of Alabama and the Scottsboro boys.

On the day that the news of the terrible burning of 20 Negro prisoners at Scottsboro spread across the world, Sheriff McDuff had a phone call. The Daily Mail in London was asking if it were the nine Scottsboro boys who were burned.

Even in London, Scottsboro, Alabama, carries with it the smell of burning flesh and the vision of nine innocent boys caught in the trap of race persecution.



More About Trade Union Topics

(Continued from Page 2)

Robinton. We think that the record of Communists in the trade unions is the best possible answer to the charge that Communists try to "break up the A. F. of L." Every real union brother knows that the Communists in his union are the most active in building that union and fighting for better conditions.

When this question came up at Atlantic City, Delegate Lawrence of Chicago made a short speech which touches the vital points of the issue.

"We will have to quit intimidating our membership with the Red Scare," said Brother Lawrence. "I entered the trade union movement to join with others who want to fight for higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions. The other day when the Law Committee heard the question, I appeared before it with about 20 others, and I asked this question of the committee: 'Can you give any evidence of any trade union organization, officered or controlled by the Communists, where wages were lowered, where hours were increased, where the working conditions were in worse shape and membership was reduced because the Communists secured control?'"

"And the answer in the presence of these 20 odd people and the whole committee was that they had no such information. The members of any union are interested in union conditions. They judge their leaders by results and not by their color. And on this question I would say, let the American Federation of Labor quit giving assistance to the Natl. Civic Federation and William Huffer Hearst. Let us go to work and organize that 25 million workers."

There are thousands of unorganized workers in Birmingham and in the state, including the majority who work in the steel mills and textile mills. The Communists want to organize them into the A. F. of L. And if Brothers Hare and Robinton stand in the way of organization by carrying on a red drive in the unions, working in association with that strike-breaker, McDuff, and the police, they will gain for themselves the well-earned contempt of the workers of the state.

Red Scare Fails To Split Ranks of WPA

(Continued from Page 1)

55th convention of the A.F. of L. pledging support to the relief workers' struggle to raise the WPA wage scale. Moore's only answer was to raise the red scare.

Meanwhile, relief workers are fighting starvation. The WPA \$39 monthly pittance is giving way to the PWA scale of 25c an hour. PWA workers are paid only for the time they actually put in. The majority draw only 3 or 4 dollars a week.

The wages in private industry have already been forced down by conditions on the projects. The industrial barons are taking advantage not only of the lowered wage scale, but are using the PWA example to double the speed-up and worsen the conditions for workers in private industry.

a great step ahead in the struggle for Negro rights.

Mayer to Speak
Mayor Kelly of Chicago has agreed to officially welcome the Congress at its opening session, and Lt. Tassaye Zaphire, first secretary of the Ethiopian Legation, in London, will address the Congress.

The sponsoring committee contains the names of many well-known Negro leaders. John P. Davis, secretary of the National Sponsoring Committee, estimated that in addition to more than a thousand regular delegates, hundreds of official and unofficial observers will attend the sessions.

Local Endorsed Congress
The Congress is being held on

the anniversary of the birthday of Frederick Douglas. The enthusiastic support of trade unionists has been shown by the wide number of endorsements from union locals in every large city.

In the South, the Negro people look to the Congress to lead to unity of action in the fight for the right to vote, the right to sit on juries, for freedom from lynch terror and a chance to win equal wages for equal work with their white union brothers.

BIRMINGHAM.—William Mitchell, district president of the U.M.W.A. and Walter Jones, vice president, have endorsed the National Negro Congress.

World Is Facing Danger of New War Slaughter

While the League of Nations Committee begins to lay plans to prevent Italy's purchasing oil from other countries, Mussolini calls for more troops. He recently told his cabinet that more than 50,000 men will be sent to join the Fascist army fighting the Ethiopians.

The recent fighting has brought victory to the Ethiopians, who have won most of the battles fought in the northern territory. Reports of successful guerilla warfare keep pouring in.

The largest battle of the war was won by the Ethiopians last week. It was fought on the North Front, and the offensive was begun by the Italians. The Ethiopian victory was complete. The Italian army was forced back. Its bases were wiped out. The Italian troops in the South also have retreated rapidly, fearing a rear attack from fast Ethiopian camel troops.

Mussolini's desperation can be gauged by his frantic purchase of oil at enormous prices from Roumania. It is thought too that he is getting oil from Germany, Hungary, Austria and the United States.

Desperate Measures Taken

Despite the losses suffered by the Italian troops, war-mad Mussolini keeps making statements to fool his people into supporting his murder plans. Last week the Fascists announced in Rome that they would now use poison gas on their victims.

The League of Nations' oil sanctions, which should have been applied immediately, were criminally delayed. The fact that thousands of Ethiopian and Italian youth are dying on the battlefields to satisfy Mussolini's lust for power has been brushed aside by the league.

PARIS.—That the German Nazis and the Japanese Imperialists have definitely agreed upon an anti-Soviet pact was revealed here today.

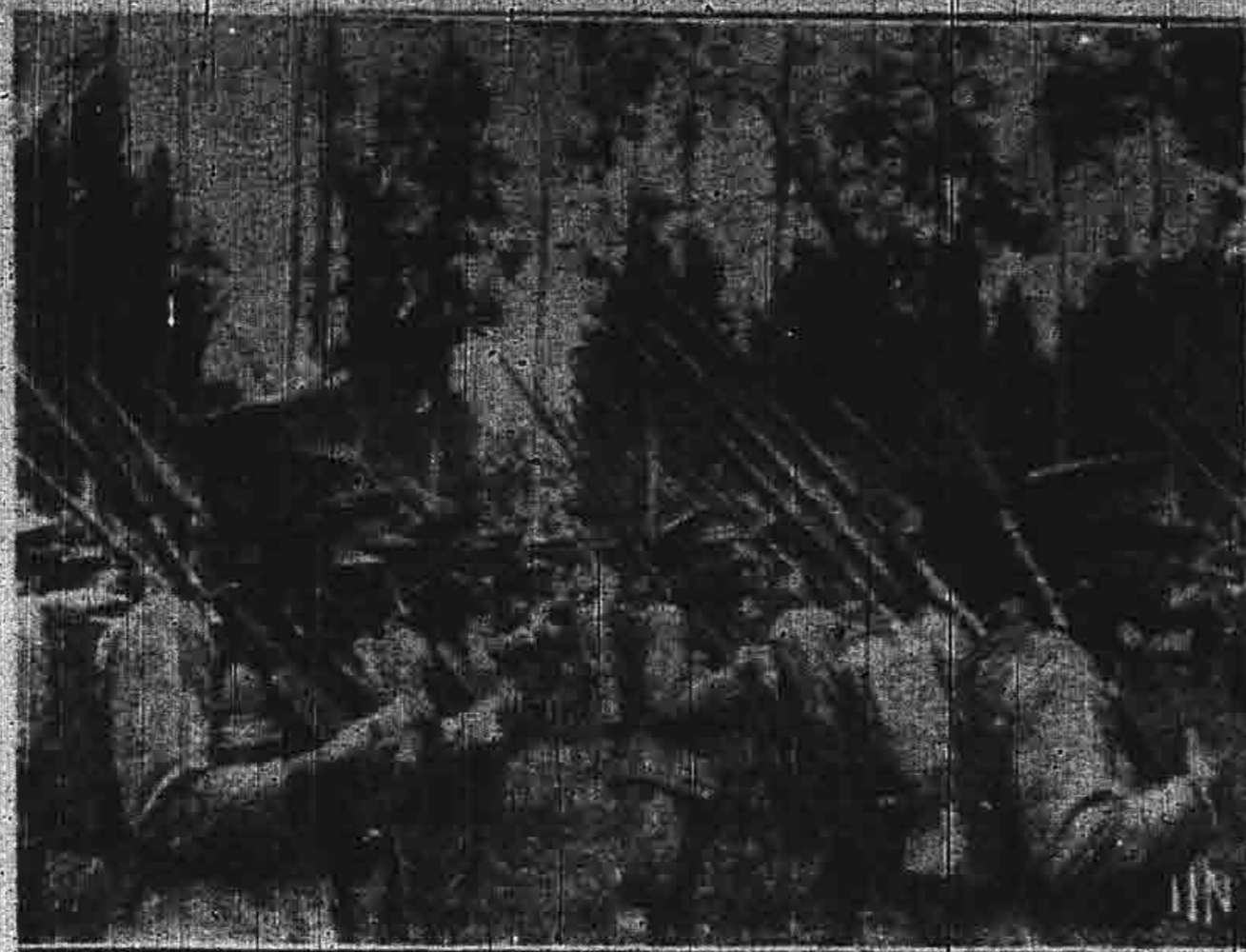
While they lay plans for joint action against the peaceful Socialist country, Japan has grown impatient and has tried to start trouble right away. Twice during the past few weeks, Japanese troops have gone over the border into Soviet Russia and tried to provoke war action. Because the Soviet Union so sincerely desires peace, these attempts to begin war have been unsuccessful.

War Danger Grows

While the greedy hands of the Japanese imperialists are joining with Hitler to try to choke off and destroy the country which alone in the world sincerely desires peace, Japan is also busy in another direction. In China, Japan is finding great resistance among the working people and students and liberal groups to Japanese rule.

Down through China, anti-Japanese student demonstrations have been bravely carried out, despite the inhuman terror and death penalties meted out. The

READY TO DEFEND ETHIOPIA



Trained soldiers of the independent Negro nation are shown marching from Harrar toward the border to repulse expected attack of Fascist Italy.

Negro Worker Murdered By Birmingham Police

By a Worker Correspondent

BIRMINGHAM.—On Jan. 2 there appeared a very short article in the Birmingham Post about two policemen who had killed a Negro man because he was suspected of having stolen goods in his house. The paper said the policemen killed the Negro in self-defense, and they called it "justifiable homicide." No one gave it another thought. This sort of an article is a very common one, but there were some people who cared enough to investigate.

Worked For a Home

Nathaniel, the man who was killed, owned a home which by long years of hard work he and his mother had been able to buy. He also had his life insured for a good bit of money. Nathaniel had a sister named Cornelius who was always very jealous of him. When their mother died, Nathaniel got married and Cornelius was angry, because she knew she would not be able to get either the insurance money or the house. She used underhand methods to get Nathaniel and his wife to quarrel and finally she got them separated. But Nathaniel kept on living in his house, because if he moved out they would say it did not belong to him any longer.

Policeman's Chance

Cornelius was not educated and did not realize she was helping the ruling class when she went to two policemen in that neighborhood and told them her brother Nathaniel was keeping stolen goods in his house. She made the story up out of her own spite. Policemen Stapp and Phillips were only too glad to get a chance at Nathaniel.

They went to his house and knocked. Nathaniel was writing with a silver self-filling pencil. When he got to the door, they stuck two pistols in his face. He

threw up his hands and they shot him through the head.

"White folks, you've killed me." This was all he said as he slid to the floor. "That's just what we intended to do," they said, and fired two more shots, one into his heart and the other into his stomach. Then they left and reported that they had shot in self-defense, pretending they thought he had a gun instead of a pencil.

Wife Tried to Get Relief

The wife of Nathaniel tried to get on relief. They would not help her in any way. They told her she was young yet and good looking enough to make money like a lot of other Negro and white girls are making it. They gave her a slip of paper permitting her to beg without being arrested. She is a strong woman, a working woman. She believes strongly in the working class, but she will not talk openly of her husband's death. If she did, she might find herself hanging from the end of a lynch rope, or with a bullet in her heart.

More About 20 Negroes

(Continued from Page 1)

cause of the screams of the Negroes who were burning to death. The guards were seated in the front of the truck.

Twenty Burned Alive

Out of 22 Negro men, only 2 were rescued and they were not given a chance to get well. The guards are trying to claim that they did everything possible to rescue the others. But the blame for the death of these 20 chained men rests squarely on the shoulders of the Alabama authorities, to whom Negro lives are not important!

The day was one of the coldest in history, yet these Negro prisoners were being carried out to work on the road.

Union Worker Wins Freedom In Frame-Up

BESSEMER.—Lonnie Hutton, Negro union worker at the U. S. Pipe Company, was freed Jan. 24 of the danger of going to the chain-gang. Hutton, a militant worker, was arrested last May. He was framed on a literature charge, when Post Office spies told the cops a package of "seditious" literature had been received at Hutton's home. The cops used a liquor warrant as an excuse to break in and search the workers home when he was at work.

Hutton was tried the same day he was arrested. The mayor, acting as police judge, sentenced him to serve 16 months on the chain-gang. Hutton was denied a lawyer to defend him.

The International Labor Defense took the case of Hutton and appealed. Circuit Judge Gardner Goodwyn dismissed the charge. Judge Goodwyn recently declared the Bessemer "literature" law unconstitutional.

TCI Uses Company Unions

(Continued from Page 2)

are being circularized by the Birmingham Trades Council with letters which try to point out the merits of the act.

The fight is going to be a difficult one for the simple reason that the state act, because of its unsatisfactory character, is going to be hard to defend. The lesson Organized Labor should learn from this, is that it cannot afford to underwrite such compromise legislation as the present act. If in the beginning Labor had demanded a clear-cut unemployment insurance act, such as the Frazier-Landeen bill, which taxed the corporations entirely, instead of placing some of the burden on the workers, it would now be in a position to rally the masses of workers in a fight-to-finish to defend that act. Because Labor compromised with Graves and the bosses, it now finds itself in an embarrassing and weak position.

But clearly, we should not give in to TCI and the company unions. It is necessary to defend this act, unsatisfactory as it is, against the labor-hating open shoppers. At the same time, we believe that Organized Labor should immediately have introduced into the legislature an amendment which abolishes the 1% levy against the workers and increases the levy against the companies. And finally, let's get together for a real unemployment insurance and old age pension bill, the Frazier-Landeen bill, now in Congress.

Landlord Held for Murder of Tenant

SNOW HILL, N. C.—F. Owens, a landlord, is held for the murder of Paul Nethercut, a tenant farmer on his land. Owens murdered Nethercut after an argument over an AAA decision. The landlord tried to cheat his tenant and draw his gun when Nethercut protested.

S.T.F.U. Fights To Free Framed Farmers In Ark.

By Rex Pitkin

MENA, Ark.—The ruling class of Arkansas has turned its guns on the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

Terror of all sort has failed to stem the growth of the union. Black and white cotton workers are flocking to join the one organization in this state which fights for the rights of sharecroppers, tenants and day laborers.

Within a year the STFU has grown from a membership of 2,500 to 25,000.

That is why the planters have literally opened fire.

C. H. Dibble has his plantation in Earle, a little town near Mena. Dibble employs 16 sharecroppers and their families, a total of 105 people. Twenty-six of these are children less than 6 years old. Dibble has been evicting tenants from his land for several reasons: One is because most of his tenants are good Union men who won't scab. Dibble's other reason is that if he can get them off the land before he receives his checks from the AAA for crop reduction he will not have to give the cropper his salary.

Planters Control Law

Sixteen tenants and their families are fighting eviction notices. H. I. Goldberger, national counsel for the STFU has begun a legal campaign to protect the rights of the Dibble "scabs." But the law in cotton country is controlled by the planters.

The union members are fighting. J. E. Cameron, a white organizer, defied the constable and ten days ago stood on a street corner and distributed copies of the Sharecroppers Voice, the union's paper. He was arrested, jailed and then released.

There have been other arrests and deputies have already fired openly at union members.

Investigation Lays War Blame

(Continued from Page 1)

In an attempt to stop the investigation, the political tools of Morgan and the other big financiers tried to whitewash the guilt of President Wilson, despite proof that Wilson did what he was told by Wall Street when he was in the White House.

The session was stopped once on the ground that there was not enough money to carry on. Resolutions began pouring in from all over the country. Money was donated by veterans, labor organizations, school children and their parents. They demanded that the facts of America's entry into the last war be brought before the public.

Throughout the investigation, J. P. Morgan smiled over accounts of how he and his fellow financiers brought about the murder of millions. Leaving the Senate Chamber, he declared he had "had a fine time."

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Alabama's New Game

THE nine innocent Scottsboro boys have already given 45 years to the state of Alabama for a crime they did not commit. But Alabama landlords and industrialists, Governor Graves and other KKK officials, are not satisfied with the slow death of the Scottsboro boys. They want them dead right now. They want to dangle the nine charred bodies before the people of the South as a warning that the Negro's place is not among free people. So the Alabama officials cooked up a plot to split the defense. The result was the shooting of Ozie Powell on a wild and false escape charge.

But people in the South and out of the South are equally determined to win the freedom of these boys. The case has shamed Alabama for 5 years. Whites as well as Negroes are aroused. A wide, active defense committee has been formed. It has hired the best lawyers available to defend the Scottsboro boys.

It was the formation of this defense that drove the Alabama officials crazy. In the face of so much protest even the Morgan county jury did not dare give Haywood Patterson a death sentence again. The 15-year sentences given to Patterson showed that the jury knew the boys were innocent.

The Scottsboro case will be one of the most important issues at the National Negro Congress in Chicago this month. Scottsboro reaches deep into the soul of the South. It is rooted in the desire of the landlords and industrial barons to keep working people divided and submissive. Scottsboro freedom means not only Negro freedom, but white freedom too. The fight must be carried on by both colors, pulling together against the yoke of industrial and farm slavery in the South!

Join the Communist Party!

To the Workers of the South:

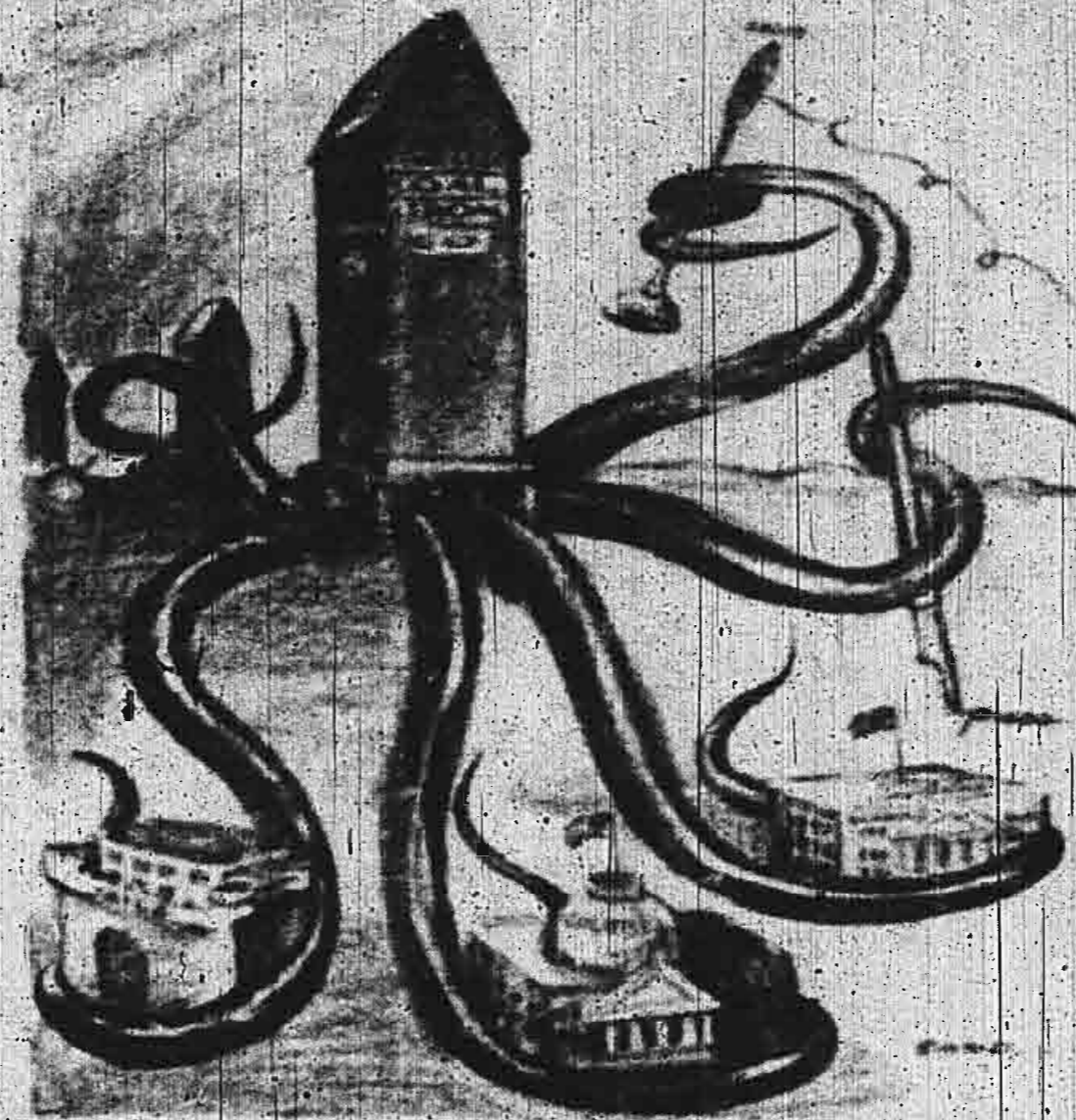
Another year has come along and conditions are not getting any better for you. The big money kings and landlords are talking about business picking up. But this better business of theirs only brings you more misery. Every dollar they make is a dollar of blood squeezed from the heart of the working class South.

All of us can see that unions are growing in the South. The working people are waking up. The Negro and white workers are striking together for more wages, for better living conditions. Workers are asking how can we build the unions faster? How can we form a strong, unbreakable wall against the offensive of the bosses? How can we fight more effectively to give our children bread and to keep a roof over our heads?

Comrades, the answer is **JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY!** A union worker who is also a Communist has double strength. The relief worker who is also a Communist knows better how to fight against the miserable conditions on the projects.

You workers already know and respect the Communist Party. Many of you love it because it has never played you false. It has no other interest than the interest of the working class. Do not hold back. Our Party is the best organizer the working class has got. And the faster organization takes place in the South, just so much sooner with the misery of the underpaid and hungry workers come to an end. Join the Communist Party and fight for better conditions!

T. C. I. HAS DEATH HOLD ON ALABAMA



Why a Farmer-Labor Party?

Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company! Creature of the Steel Trust, owned by that monster Corporation, U. S. Steel. It squats like a hideous beast over Birmingham, and its filthy tentacles reach into our homes, our schools and into the seats of government.

With its vile thirty pieces of silver, it buys city, state and county officials. School teachers and even preachers, frequently dare not lift up a voice against it. Newspapers are anxious to be its spokesmen. Police and sheriff's deputies rush to do its bidding, invading homes, beating workers, crushing strikes. Hired thugs, armed with guns and blackjacks, lie in wait for those who defy the tyrannical rule of the Steel Trust.

Tax policies are dictated by this monster. Middle class merchants, business men and small home-owners are forced to bear the burden which rightfully belongs on the back of that huge corporation.

The TCI is the headquarters of the Liberty League in the South. With its expensive lawyers and its corrupt company unions, it fights even the half-way measures of Roosevelt and the New Deal.

How long will the people of Birmingham permit this tyrant to rule? Start now in every trade union, every club, lodge and Townsend Club, to build a Farmer-Labor Party which will wrest control from the hands of this monster and place it back in the hands of the people.

Miners' Convention

THE 34th convention of the United Mine Workers will go down in history as one of the great milestones on the road to progressive unionism. The miners stood firm for the continuation of the Committee for Industrial Organization, in spite of Bill Green's threat to kick them out of the A. F. of L.

The convention met the issue of Negro and white unity squarely. It went on record not only as opposed to any discrimination and Jim-Crowism in the UMWA, but demanded that the whole A. F. of L. clear out the race prejudice and Jim-Crow practices which are keeping millions of Negro workers unorganized. The convention pointed out that dividing Negro and white workers is a boss policy, designed by the bosses for the single purpose of making the working class weak.

On two points, the convention made a mistake. First, they voted down a resolution calling for the election of all district officers. At present, these officials are appointed by the president. In the interest of trade union democracy, these officials should be elected.

Second, the convention failed to go on record for a Farmer-Labor Party, stating that at present, such an independent party would be "inadvisable." Instead, the convention, following the lead of President John L. Lewis, endorsed the candidacy of President Roosevelt, the Democrat.

We disagree. Democratic governors, such as Bibb Graves, have shown they were not the friends of the workers. Instead of protecting us against fascism, Mr. Roosevelt compromises and gives in to the fascists. A Farmer-Labor president would fight the fascists the way the miners fight the coal operators, with all his strength.

Graves Breaks Pledge Levying Sales Tax

By Bill Mosely

The fact that Gov. Bibb Graves has taken so lightly his election pledges to the people of Alabama should be considered very carefully by Organized Labor and the farm organizations of the state. There are many lessons to be learned from this.

The governor ran on a liberal platform which looked very good to the common people of the state. He expressed friendship for the workingman and for the farmer. He promised "social security" legislation. He promised to reform the poll tax system under which so many impoverished people are denied the right to vote. He proposed to reform the commissary system under which workers are systematically gypped by the coal and steel barons and the landlords. He declared for tax exemption on small homestead. And he was especially loud in denouncing the idea of a sales tax which, he himself admitted, was an unfair burden on the common people. On the basis of those promises he received substantial support from Organized Labor.

The governor has basely betrayed the people in the case of the sales tax. However this is not the whole story. It is time we looked at his record in order to determine how well he has carried out his other pledges to the common people of the state.

Let us take the social security legislation, which includes old age pensions and unemployment insurance.

1. OLD AGE PENSIONS. One member of the state legislature says that the Alabama old age pension is "next to nothing." It is worse than that—it stands in the way of real old age pensions. It provides the miserably sum of around \$15 a month to the aged, over 65, who can cut through the red-tape and get on the rolls. Slow starvation!

2. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. The great majority of workers in the state are not protected by this legislation. To come under its provisions, a worker must be employed in a company which hires at least eight employees. He must have worked 26 weeks during the year. No farm workers or domestic workers are covered by the law, and no payments will be made until 1938.

Tax On Workers

The amount of the insurance is about \$30 a month. It does not continue as long as the worker is out of a job, but is cut off after a certain number of weeks.

Half the fund is furnished by the federal government. The other half is furnished by the state and can be raised as the state sees fit. Gov. Graves decided as follows: The company shall pay a tax equal to 1 percent of its payroll the first year, 2 percent the second year, and three percent from then on. The workers are also taxed, however and must themselves pay 1 percent of their wages into the fund each year.

To understand how unsatisfactory this "social security" act is, turn to page 2 of this issue and read the summary of the Frazier-Landeen bill.

And what happened to the rest of Governor Graves' promises? The commissary system continues to swindle thousands of workers. The homestead exemption law has never been passed and workers and farmers are losing their homes every day to the tax sales. The poll tax reform has not come into life and the great majority of the people of the state of Alabama are disfranchised, lacking that fundamental right, the right to vote.

Broken Promises

In calling the legislature for this month, the Governor will list only the matter of finances and the sales tax. He will not put his unfulfilled campaign pledges on the agenda, which means that they will not come up for action at this session. In other words, these matters are banished, forgotten, buried.

What is the answer? The answer is a Farmer-Labor Party which will fight for the things which Graves promised, and go further. Such a party would work for real unemployment insurance, for a real old age pension plan, for the abolition of the poll tax, for the abolition of the commissaries, for tax exemption for the small farmers and small homeowners. It would tax the rich through income taxes instead of taxing the poor through sales taxes. It would work for the right of the Negro people to vote and sit on juries. It would protect the democratic rights of the people and curb the growing fascist power of the big bankers.

It is high time the common people of the state got together. This party should include the trade unions, the farm organizations, the Townsend Clubs, the Share the Wealth groups, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, and the school teachers, professional and small business men groups, and the Negro organizations. This would include the great majority of the people of the state and victory would not only be possible, but certain!