

SOUTHERN WORKER

Magazine of the Common People of the South

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STEEL VICTORIOUS!



Drawn
for the
Southern
Worker
By
McKoon
Duke

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Southern Worker

Magazine of the Common People
of the South

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ANSWER CARPETBAGGERS

IN HIS article on page six, Larry French tells us why the new style Northern Carpetbaggers are coming South. Like water, they are running "down hill," to the lower wage levels of the Southern states. Here they can get by with little or no taxes because the common people pay practically all the taxes. Here they can get away with \$3 a week pay raises, with speed-up, and they can avoid the cost of safety apparatus on their machinery.

But why is it that here in the South we always get the dirty end of the stick? Why must Southern workers get the lowest wages? Why must Southern workers work longer hours without protection against industrial hazards? Is it because we Southern workers are lazy and hookworm infested? Nonsense! We are as capable and energetic as any. Is it because Southern workers won't fight for their rights? Certainly not! The heroic struggles of the Southern workers in coal, ore and textile strikes prove the militancy of our people.

The answer can be given in one phrase: the Negro question. There are ten million Negroes in the South. The landlords, mill owners and mine operators play on race prejudice and inflame it for their own purposes. In this way they pit Negro against white and prevent the unity of Southern Labor. Thus they can make slaves of both. When the white and Negro workers join together to build strong unions, however, the power of the big money class declines. The unity of the common people, Negro and white, can win higher wages, better conditions and a higher standard of living.

However, white workers cannot ask the Negro to join them in union struggles on one day and then, on the next day, treat him like a dog. The human rights of the Negro, no less than those of the white, must be recognized if real solidarity and union brotherhood are to exist. To advance their own interests, therefore, white workers should fight against the lynching of Negroes, against Jim Crow laws and practices, and

for the civil, political and economic rights of Negro people. This is the way to build the unity of the common people, which is necessary for us to raise our standards of living.

This, simply and briefly, is the position of the Communist Party on the Negro question.

UNITY IN A. F. OF L.

WILLIAM GREEN exposed himself as a strike-breaker when he attacked the automobile strike and the negotiations with the steel trust carried on by the C.I.O. under the leadership of Joan L. Lewis. With his order to central and state bodies demanding ousting of loyalty to the executive council of the A. F. of L. he has emerged into the open as a bitter enemy of the working class who would crush the labor movement to satisfy his own selfish ambitions. It is clear that Green and his cronies are definitely opposed to organizing the unorganized and in doing this, according to Green, the C.I.O. forces have "sinned."

These central bodies which, like the Chattanooga central labor union, have ignored Green's order and continued to carry out their business with a united central body, are doing the right thing. They are maintaining that very vital thing, the unity of the working class.

If Green and Company continue their disruptive tactics, they will do far-reaching harm to the cause of labor. But they can be stopped and a united labor movement established. All central and state bodies and all craft locals should protest the action of Green and call for a referendum on the original question of the suspension of C.I.O. unions. A united labor movement can be built only on the basis of C.I.O. policies, industrial unionism for the mass production industries and progressive trade union policies throughout. If Green and his fellow members of the executive council oppose this, then they must go. In other words, we want a powerful, united A. F. of L. with the C.I.O. and without Green, Frey, Woll and company.

JOIN NOW!

After reading the Southern Worker, I can see that the Communist Party is the best organization which fights for the demands and rights of the common people of the South.

- I want more information about the Communist Party
- I want to join the Communist Party

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the Southern Worker, Box 572
Birmingham, Ala.)

Build The New South

ALABAMA

Resolutions addressed to Senator Hugo Black and Congressman Luther Patrick endorsing President Roosevelt's proposal for Supreme Court reform were passed unanimously by the City-Wide Conference of the Communist Party in Birmingham.

The session, which lasted all day, was characterized as a "Build-the-Party Conference" and set as its goal the doubling of the present membership in Birmingham. R. F. Hall, district secretary, declared that it was necessary to reach this goal in order that the Party might render effective support to the organizing drives in steel, textile, etc. which are going forward under the leadership of the C.I.O.

Other resolutions included an expression of support for the Spanish government "in its defense of democracy against the attacks of Spanish, German and Italian fascists," and a protest against the massacre of 2,000 Ethiopians by Italians in Ethiopia.

Appearing at hearings held by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners to consider the introduction of voting machines in Jefferson County voting booths, Jane Speed, district educational director of the Communist Party declared that the Communist Party was wholeheartedly in favor of the voting machines.

THE CAROLINAS

The Carolina District Committee has offered a free trip to New York for the May 1 celebration to the one who gets the largest number of subscriptions for the Southern Worker in the District by April 20. Discussions are being held in all units on the circulation drives for the Southern Worker and for the Daily Worker.

A number of meetings are being held throughout the District where speakers report on the fight against Trotskyites and their wrecking activities. John Ballam will be the speaker at an open meeting in Chapel Hill on the trial of the Trotskyites in Moscow and on the disruptive work of the Trotskyites in this country.

The Communist Party for the first time is entering the municipal elections in Greensboro, N. C. which will be held May 4. Paul Crouch, District Organizer of the Party, will be on the ballot as a candidate for the City Council, with a platform calling for lower electric, water and bus rates, transportation for both white and Negro school children, and for city construction of homes for workers to be rented at nominal rates.

STEEL VICTORIOUS!

● By PAT BARR

IN THE homes of America's half a million steel workers there was joy on the night of March 2. That day the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Co., a subsidiary of U. S. Steel, signed a contract with the Committee for Industrial Organization and recognized it as the bargaining agent for its workers. It was a day which will long be remembered by not only the steel workers but also by millions of unorganized workers throughout the country.

Every subsidiary of U. S. Steel, including the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., has recognized the union. Independent companies in the steel industry and other industries are quickly following suit. The union doesn't have to organize in secret anymore. A union member now has the acknowledged right to go out and organize others and to wear his union button right in the mill.

National 10 to 18 per cent raises were won by the steel workers. This raise will put \$4,500,000 a year more into the pay envelopes of steel workers in Birmingham alone. The C.I.O., under the aggressive leadership of John L. Lewis, demanded and won a straight 40-hour work week with time and a half for overtime. The standard of living for hundreds of thousands of workers was raised one step higher.

The steel barons weren't being generous when they recognized the union and granted most of its basic demands. They faced a determined army. Almost half of the steel workers in the United States are now united under the militant banner of one union for all the workers in one industry. In Birmingham there are between 8,000 and 9,000 members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. Nationally, the union has 200,000 members. The steel barons saw that they couldn't play one craft off against another. The C.I.O. even won a large part of the officers and members of the company unions. The mill owners realized that they could no longer pit Negro against white. Both now sit together in the union hall. Both act as one, in one union, in handling their common problems. The steel workers were preparing for one of the fiercest labor battles in American history, if need be, to enforce their rights and the bosses knew it.

THE bosses saw the workers in action from the time the people went to the polls on November 3, and defeated the reactionaries to their victorious strikes in marine and auto. They saw Congress, forced by the pressure of the people pass such progressive laws as the Walsh-Healey Act which forces all companies working under government contract to grant their workers a 40-hour week. The resentment of the people rose against the abridgment of civil



liberties which the LaFollette Committee exposed.

While the steel barons were not ready to lock horns with the might and power of the C.I.O., they still did not grant a closed shop in the steel mills. The steel workers have not yet won the abolition of the Southern Wage differential.

The increase in wages which steel workers in Birmingham won raised the rate for common labor from \$3.04 to \$3.60 a day. Workers at common labor in Northern Steel mills won a raise from \$4.20 to \$5.00 a day.

The C.I.O. has already announced plans to intensify the steel drive and to build the union stronger. In Birmingham the Steel Workers Organizing Committee has just set up a Birmingham Steel Council composed of all the officers of the 21 local of the Amalgamated in that region. They are taking on more organizers to help build new locals.

Workers are realizing that to really build the power of the union so strong that it cannot be broken as it was in Homestead in 1892 and in Pennsylvania in 1919, they must take an active part in the life of the union, and organize their women into women's auxiliaries.

They also are beginning to understand that even strong unions are not enough to guarantee the enforcement of their right to bargain collectively, to organize in the open, and the enforcement of the rest of their civil liberties. The bosses are already working through proposals to make unions attempting to counter the advances of the incorporate and through trying to prevent the passage by Congress of Roosevelt's program to unpack the Supreme Court.

CONGRESS can be forced to pass progressive legislation. The best security against anti-labor legislation, the Communist Party points out, lies in the formation of a national Farmer-Labor Party.

The first great victory in steel has given new hope and courage to organized and unorganized workers in steel and other industries to fight for these things. It is showing them that they stand on one side of the fence—the vast majority of the population—against a few who reap the benefits of their labor. It is showing them also among other things that the Communist Party is an able and loyal force in organizing the steel workers, the workers in the other mass production industries and in the struggle for a free, happy and prosperous America.

TEXTILE IS NEXT

● By PAUL CROUCH

THE news that the Textile Workers Organizing Committee has been set up will bring joy to 1,257,000 textile workers, especially in the South where the lowest wages and worst conditions are found. To the millowners the T.W.O.C. is the "hand" writing on the wall. During the past few months strikes in marine and auto have been won. The powerful steel interests have had to surrender and recognize the union. Textile is next! Already events in 1939 and 1937 have made them years long to be remembered for victorious strikes and successful organization carried on by the Committee for Industrial Organization. But this is only the beginning!

Textile employs more workers than any other manufacturing industry in the country—and it has the lowest wages. At the Riverside and Dan Mills in Danville most workers get \$13.20 per week. This is relatively high for the South and hundreds of workers from other cities go to Danville and try to get work. In many mills of the South wages of skilled workers, including spinners and weavers, are less than \$10 a week. Some make no more than \$5 or \$6 for from 40 to 55 hour-weeks.

In hundreds of mill villages in the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama,

workers have followed the news of the C.I.O. campaigns in other industries with the closest attention. "Oh, if we were only organized like they are in the North," they have been saying, often in a low voice, to their trusted friends in the mills. Success of the auto strike brought a first ray of hope. And when the steel industry was forced to recognize the union, textile workers began to feel "maybe we will be next!"

They are next! On March 9, in Washington, D. C. the Committee for Industrial Organization organized the T.W.O.C. to be headed by Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. The Committee will include Thomas Kennedy, lieutenant-governor of Pennsylvania and vice-president of the United Mine Workers; Francis Gorman, international president of the United Textile Workers; Emil Burns of the Rubber Workers Union; Emil Rieve of the Federation of Hosiery Workers and A. Weinstein of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. The T.W.O.C. will put 400 organizers into the field immediately. The drive to organize textile will have at its disposal \$500,000.

ORGANIZERS of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee will remain in the field until every mill has been forced to

bargain collectively with the workers and recognize the union and establish the rights of textile workers as human beings. The 35-hour week and the \$18 a week minimum—the immediate demands of the union—will inspire workers in tobacco factories and other industries in the South to organize and put an end to starvation wages.

This campaign by the T.W.O.C. will meet with the sharpest resistance from the Cones, Cannons, Corners and other textile barons, backed by the Reynolds and Duke Tobacco and power interests in the Carolinas and the Southern states. Newspapers will be filled with the most vicious anti-labor attacks. Agents of the mill owners will try to split the ranks of the workers by building company and perhaps dual unions.

Thousands of volunteer organizers are needed in the drive. Local organizing committees representing all unions and central labor bodies should be set up in every textile center in the South. Not only textile workers but union members in other industries should immediately join this drive which will mean a new day in the South. All union locals at their next meetings should ask for volunteer organizers for the textile drive and adopt resolutions pledging their full support for it. Copies of these resolutions, sent to the newspapers, and to the locals of the U.T.W., will help to prove to them that they are not alone in this historic drive against inhuman conditions—stretchout—pellagra—and slow starvation.



Leaders of the National Negro Conference to help the steel drive held in Pittsburgh last month. Left to right: John P. Davis, secretary of the National Negro Congress; Miss Maude White, elected secretary of the conference; William E. Hill, elected chairman of the conference; and Henry Johnson, organizer for the steel drive in Gary, Indiana. The conference decided to set up committees in every Negro community to help the steel drive and to work out special plans for organizing Negroes in the A.A.

The People Versus The

SUPREME COURT



UNLESS President Roosevelt's proposal to unpack the Supreme Court is adopted by Congress, there is little hope for progressive and relief legislation which is so badly needed by the common people. Without this immediate action on the part of Congress, the big money interests will take back through the courts what they lost in the elections.

There is no doubt that the majority of the Supreme Court represents in thought and in deed those very reactionary interests which the people so overwhelmingly repudiated and defeated on last November 3. But what good is it to keep a Landon out of the White House if nine Landons sit on the Supreme Court bench and say yes or no to the laws passed by Congress.

Our readers are already familiar with the manner in which the Supreme Court has dealt with the A.A.A., the N.R.A., the Guffey coal act and other "New Deal" measures. They know that the Supreme Court outlawed the New York State minimum wage law which was designed to guarantee a small measure of protection for working women. Neither federal nor state laws which benefit the common people are safe from the meddling hands of these nine old men.

If we scan the pages of even recent history, all this is borne out. In 1905, the court vetoed a New York law limiting the work day of bakery workers to 10 hours. In 1918, it declared unconstitutional a law passed by Congress to regulate child labor. In 1922 it vetoed Arizona's law to prevent employers from using injunctions against picketing. ~~the court killed a Pennsylvania law to protect the people against unsanitary conditions in the bedding industry and vetoed a Nebraska law which would have prevented cheating the public in the sale of bread by requiring standard weights. Most of these rulings were given by the narrow margin of 5 to 4.~~

Mr. Roosevelt did not overstate the case when he said that the Court acted not as a judicial body but as a legislative or law-making body.

There is nothing in the Constitution which gives the Supreme Court the right to rule on laws passed by Congress. That is a power the Supreme Court has taken on itself. Students of history know that those Revolutionary Forefathers who framed the Constitution were very much against giving the court such powers. In the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Madison, a conservative, tried four

times to put into the Constitution a section granting the Supreme Court this power. But each time an overwhelming majority of the delegates from the various states voted him down.

The danger of the Supreme Court setting itself up as a dictatorship over the people and their elected representatives has been recognized by our greatest Americans. In his first inaugural address Abraham Lincoln said:

"... the candid citizen must confess that if the policy of the Government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by the decisions of the Supreme Court... the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having to that extent practically resigned their Government into the hands of that eminent tribunal."

It is true that President Roosevelt's plan does not settle this fundamental question of the power of the Supreme Court. It will, however, "let some fresh air into the Supreme Court" as Earl Browder says, and give encouragement to those progressive forces that seek to settle this question permanently. Enlarging the size of the court is not a new idea, regardless of what the reactionary newspapers say. The size of the court is not fixed by the Constitution and it has been changed exactly five times before, and by such presidents as Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln.

WE COMMUNISTS are not entirely satisfied with the President's proposal. We are for going much farther along this road of court reform, including the enactment of a constitutional amendment definitely limiting the power of the Supreme Court. But we do not try, as most reactionaries and some confused progressives do, to substitute a constitutional amendment for the present plan of the President. An amendment might very well take years because of the organized opposition of the money interests in the state legislatures, while the present reform can and must bring relief now!

Such relief is vital. It is enormously important for the whole movement of the common people towards a free, prosperous and happy America which is sweeping forward at this time. We call on all workers, farmers, members of the middle classes and their organizations to write or wire their Congressmen and Senators to give full support to the court reform proposals of President Roosevelt.

NEGRO YOUTH UNITE

● By HENRY WINSTON

THE first All-Southern Negro Youth Conference met at Richmond, Virginia, February 13 and 14 with 534 delegates representing 253,000 organized youth.

The Conference showed from the start a determination to fight for a better life for the Negro youth. This spirit had shown itself in industrial strikes throughout the South and student strikes at Negro colleges before the conference. From Howard University to colleges in the deep South students struck for self-government, for Negro history books to be used in the schools and for Negro heads for the colleges. Negro youth also played an important part in the Gulf Coast maritime strike and in the drive to organize steel in Alabama.

The make-up of the Conference showed a true cross-section of the Southern Negro population. There were 110 delegates from religious organizations, 54 from the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., 65 from civic groups, 108 student representatives, 16 from the trade unions, 7 farm delegates and 5 from interracial groups. The rest came from fraternal, recreational or social welfare organizations.

FOR the first time in the history of the South young people came together representing the economic, social and cultural needs of Negro youth: Negro and white delegates, both recognizing that the solu-

tion of their problems hinged on a united fight, met and talked. Different religious, labor and political groups worked together in harmony.

The Conference made an historic proclamation which said in part: "To all white youth of the South, we extend our hand in warmest brotherhood. For we know, and we would make them know, that as one rises all must rise, and as one falls, all must fall."

The Committee for Industrial Organization's drive to organize workers in the basic industries was warmly approved. Many Negro youth are employed in these industries. The plight of Negro teachers was emphasized. Their average wage in large cities, (not towns or villages) is \$372 a year. Since large numbers of Negro students are forced to attend school irregularly because they lack food and clothing, it was recommended that the National Youth Administration be extended to aid needy Negro students. The question of jobs for Negro youth was approached with the view that the Negro youth should have the right to work on any job anywhere and should get equal pay for equal work.

The Conference demanded that Negroes should have the right to vote, to serve on juries and run for office and that the poll tax should be abolished. Prominent among those who insisted that the working class base of the congress be extended and that practical



Henry Winston, member of the Executive Board of the National Negro Congress.

steps be taken to organize the Negro youth in the mass industries as a means of doing this were members of the Young Communist League.

This historic Negro conference showed the beginning of a real people's movement starting among the youth. Old prejudices were discarded in a growing recognition that the Negro people must unite among themselves and with the white workers if they are to improve their conditions and extend their rights.

SHARE CROPPER FACES PRISON

● By WILLIAM O'NEALE

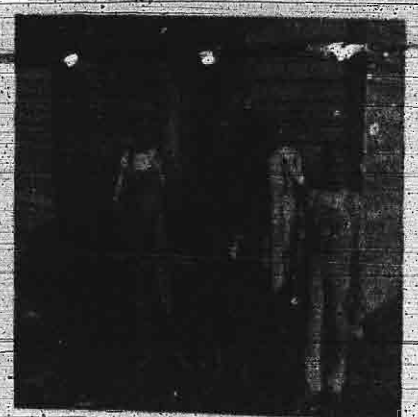
EVERYONE was desperate in the winter of 1932. For three years conditions had been growing steadily worse. The working people were starving and there was no organized relief. Everyone blamed it on the "depression" but that didn't ease the hunger pains.

Government officials were suppressing all organized appeals for government aid. The inglen at the bayonet's point. People were beginning to despair of help from above and to try to work out for themselves a solution for their problems.

No group of people was in more desperate condition than the share croppers of the deep South. Oppressed for years by the landlords and their agents in the local governments, the share croppers had been exploited before the depression to a point where they could stand no more.

The demands of the Share Croppers Union were modest. The right of the share croppers to gin and sell their own cotton, a dollar for 100 pounds of cotton picked, against foreclo-

sures, which the farmers in the northwest had prevented without having to face guns, against confiscation of the work animals on which the share cropper depends to make his crop. But they were not molest enough for the landlords who were used to ruling the croppers with an iron hand and not bothering to consider their demands or their needs.



Mrs. William Warren and two of her nine children.

It was under these conditions that the Reeltown struggle took place.

In Tallapoosa County, Alabama, Cliff James was a share cropper and a leader in the union. The landlords were anxious to get him out of the way. One of them claimed that Cliff James owed him a debt and sent a deputy sheriff to take Cliff James' mule and his cow away from him in payment. James refused to give up his animals and union members backed him up. The deputy left Page saying: "I'm coming back and I'm going to kill all you niggers' up in a pile."

Later that day he came back with four other Tallapoosa County deputies. They were surprised to find a large crowd waiting for them at Cliff James' place. Determined union share croppers were waiting to protect the rights of their union brother. They warned the deputies to stay away. Instead the deputies opened fire. A battle followed in which three union men were killed and the four deputies were wounded and driven away.

(Continued on page 13)

CARPET BAGGERS--NEW STYLE

● By LARRY FRENCH

FACTORIES in the South pay wages of \$1 a week. Mills employing several hundred workers pay wages ranging from \$2 a week to \$10 and averaging about \$5. In one a girl worked all day every day for two weeks and received a check for 97 cents because of the "quota" system.

Factories in the South exploit thousands of women workers at wages of 10 cents an hour or less. They systematically fire men and replace them with women and children because women and children will work for less.

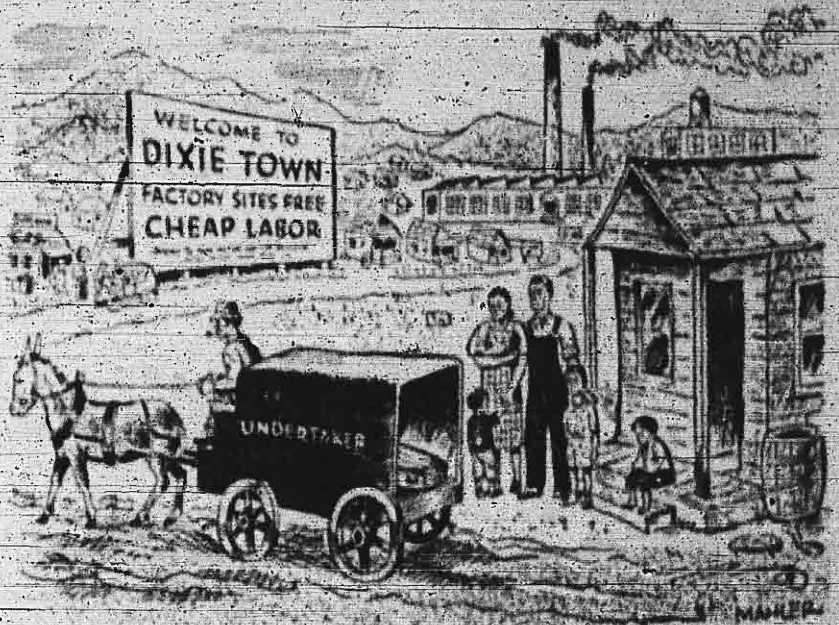
Factories in the South avoid paying even these pitifully low wages by making their employees work for months for a few cents an hour as "learners." In one a man worked for six months at \$2 a week, "learning" the job of a loom fixer, before he was raised to \$12 a week. If he had gotten the union scale he would have been paid \$37.50 a week.

These are some of the conditions which Thomas L. Stokes, staff writer for the Scripps-Hawari newspapers, discovered and reported on a recent trip through the South.

These are conditions in factories which have recently moved down from the North. These are the "runaway shops." They have come South running away from strong unions which made them pay higher wages and establish better working conditions. They have come South to escape state laws which set limits, even though not very strict ones, on their cruel exploitation.

The organized exploiters of the South, the chambers of commerce and the manufacturers' associations, are welcoming their Northern brothers with open arms. Cities donate plants to them to get them to come in. They offer the companies free water, free electric power. They make the property of these companies free from taxes over long periods of years.

BUT they take care that the workers who are to be exploited pay the bill for all these gifts. Sometimes they do it outright. They build a plant and turn it over to the company. Then they arrange that each worker shall give five per cent out of each pay check until the plant is paid for. In one town they arranged that the bank should deduct five per cent from each worker's check when it came to the bank to be cashed. Sometimes they do it more indirectly, so that people won't see what they are doing. They build the plant out of the city's funds



and then pass the bill on to the workers, farmers and small merchants through taxation.

Southern chambers of commerce also make other arrangements in order to make their towns desirable locations for runaway shops. They see to it that the sheriffs and other representatives of "law and order" carry on campaigns of terror against the workers, drive out union organizers, victimize union members, crush labor organizations.

This new form of "carpetbagging" is the evil result of the "Southern differential," the system by which Southern workers are paid less than Northern workers for the same

work. The Southern differential not only forces low living standards on Southern workers, but it threatens and undermines the living standards of all workers. Unless these runaway shops are organized and forced to raise their standards, workers all over the country will be faced with widespread attempts by the bosses to cut their wages down to the level paid by these runaway shops in the South in order to meet their competition.

Southern workers are not taking the attack on their living standards lying down. They are building their own strong unions which will force these runaway sweatshops to give them decent wages and decent working conditions. They are pressing forward for national minimum wage laws and for the national 30-hour week law.

The Communist Party has never failed to point out that the Southern wage differential hurts all workers; that it is the standard of living, rather than the cost of living, that is lower in the South than in the North; that Southern workers who do the same work as Northern workers have a right to be paid the same wages.

The organized strength of labor—Negro and white—North and South—when it smashes the Southern wage differential will win higher wages and better working conditions for all workers in the country.



Billboard outside of Meridian, Miss.

A SHORT STORY

● By VIRGINIA DAVIS

some before a storm. They even stopped
 quite.

In the mill, the lines of sleeping machines
 with their rattling rollers were like their
 big, round and round. Some of them were
 were about to nothing, every thing they
 standing, were the needles. Betty's machine
 was the best. A new window, suddenly, she
 heard Betty's outside. He and Betty's eye
 and to the window, these what was happen-
 ing.

Excitement was spreading, almost down
 the street. Betty had noticed a
 sign of a crowd, which Betty had seen
 elsewhere, then appeared in a

advancing on the mill race. The girls looked
 out the window breathlessly. What was
 going to happen next!

Betty quickly looked over at the machine
 where was Fred. Yes, there he was. The
 line closed in on the machine. First Betty
 suddenly Betty saw the eyes now back and
 now down dark lines of the window. They
 began to cough and cry loudly. The girls
 started to scream.

Betty, look what they're doing to the
 ones.

"What's awful!"

"Ah, they're doing your brother!
 Put 'em down and show these

As a crowd was just about to take a swing at
 Fred, Betty got her aim in front of her
 eyes. She wanted to scream. Then suddenly
 the air was full of a choking, blinding
 cloud. The girls made a dash for the door,
 down the stairs, through the smoking, de-
 siccated, choking air of the window. In
 an hour or so the gas had gone through the
 mill. Then the office crowd was found sub-
 side.

As the girls poured out of the mill, Betty
 pulled herself together. "They give it to
 their girls!"—and she caught the long and
 the packed crowd in front of the mill gate.

BY THE middle of the afternoon the union
 hall was full of a gathering, except for
 the girls. Everybody was talking about
 them, the fight they had put up, how the
 men would like to see that the girls had all
 come to the rescue. But where were they?
 Where were they going to join the union after
 all?

Fred didn't know what to think. By some
 he was so happy he could see the place.
 Betty, his girl, had let them into the fight.
 But what if the mill for the same way about
 the union?

In the middle of a speech, the speaker
 stopped. Silence.

Cheering, clatter, clatter.

The noise of an army coming up the
 street to the mill.

The men waited for the coming attack
 without a word. The door was open. It was
 a crying army. Three hundred girls with
 red, red and red, marched into the hall.
 It was the central hall, they marched
 was Betty in the lead.

SHE made a dash for the platform.
 She pushed aside Fred who stood facing
 out of her way. "Out of my way, big boy!"

"Well," she said, "we girls are you a lot.
 I can see the workers was too dumb to
 stick together and I can't see no use in
 havin' a union cause it won't see things
 through anyway. I know we fight our whole
 own dumb, but we can't get no support.
 We know we can win now. We know why
 we have a union now. We know whose side
 we belong on. My eyes are red but even
 with tear gas, but we gotta hold it to the
 gas, it opened our eyes up wider than they've
 been for a long time. We're stickin' with
 you."

For minutes no one could hear. Everyone
 stood up and stamped and yelled for the
 building shook. "March for the girls!
 'Who's alright—BETTY!" Fred got out
 in the face. The men were all slapping him
 on the back.

As Fred and Betty walked home together
 hand in hand after the meeting, Fred's voice
 trembled. "I can be said," he said, "I'm proud
 of you, but it took that gas to support
 you. My word wasn't good enough?"

"You look loose, big boy, we're not mar-
 ried yet—but let's get married tonight.
 Working together were sure to stick 'em."

She laughed. Fred didn't give a damn who
 was looking. He closed his eyes in front
 of the post office on Main Street.



The American Scene

UNPACK COURT DEMANDS LABOR

Six hundred delegates from 48 states to the convention of Labor's Non-Partisan League in Washington, D. C. voted unanimously to enroll every working man and every friend of labor in active support of the proposal to un-pack the Supreme Court.

The proposal, made by President Roosevelt in a message to Congress on February 5, of this year, is that Congress give the President authority to appoint an additional justice for every justice over 70 years of age who refuses to retire. Six of the present nine justices are over 70.

The Committee to Clarify the Constitution, led by progressive Senator Frank Norris of Nebraska, also endorsed the Roosevelt proposal, although at the same time pointing out the necessity of an amendment to the constitution.

Labor has rallied unanimously to support the proposal. Even the reactionary executive council of the A. F. of L. has announced its support of the plan because it dared not face the membership of the A. F. of L. with any other stand. The only so-called labor leader who has not come out in opposition to the plan is William Hutcheson, reactionary president of the Carpenter's Union who supported Landon during the campaign against the will of his own membership and organized labor throughout the country.

In the hearing before the Senate Judiciary committee labor leaders, liberals and progressives of all sorts have testified in favor of the plan as a practical immediate measure to defeat the Supreme Court's attempt to nullify the election returns by vetoing all progressive legislation.

YOUTH DELEGATES MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Forty-five hundred delegates from all parts of the country and from youth organizations of all kinds gathered in Washington in a tremendous demonstration for passage of the American Youth Act. After the demonstration representatives of the delegation talked with President Roosevelt and presented him a petition for the passage of the act with 1,000,000 signatures.

The American Youth Act is a bill sponsored by the American Youth Congress and other progressive youth organizations which would appropriate \$500,000,000 to provide jobs and education for America's youth.

A youth bill modeled on the American Youth Act was recently passed in the House of Representatives in the state of Washington after a similar youth march on the capital of that state.

WASHINGTON REPEALS SYNDICALISM LAW

Another victory for civil liberties was won when the House of Representatives of

the state of Washington repealed the state's vicious criminal syndicalism law. The law had been used to jail leaders of militant labor struggles.

The campaign to repeal the law was led by the Washington Common Wealth Federation and supported by the State Federation of Labor and other progressive organizations. It followed close on the heels of the U. S. Supreme Court's decision that the Oregon C. S. law was unconstitutional as applied in the De Jonge Case.

GOVERNORS PROTEST W.P.A. CUTS

Alarmed by the administration's intention to cut 600,000 more off W.P.A. by June 1, governors of six states joined in a telegram to President Roosevelt protesting the proposed cut. The governors were Elmer Bea-

son of Minnesota, Henry Horner of Illinois, Charles F. Hurley of Massachusetts, Philip LaFollette of Wisconsin, Robert E. Quinn of Rhode Island, and Herbert H. Lehman of New York.

The Workers' Alliance of America, national union of unemployed and W.P.A. workers is pushing its national campaign against the proposed cut and is demanding 20 per cent wage increase for W.P.A. workers, a \$10 a month minimum wage on W.P.A. and the setting up of a national program which will employ at union wages all employable workers for whom no jobs exist in private industry.

PROGRESSIVES FIGHT FAKE NEUTRALITY

Progressives both in Congress and outside rallied to fight the latest and most vicious proposal for "neutrality" in the heroic fight of the Spanish people against the invasion of their country by foreign fascism. A rider attached to the McKeynolds bill would make it a crime to solicit money in this country even for food and medicine to aid Spanish women and children.

International News

An Italian Major, captured by Spanish loyalist troops, admitted that 120,000 foreign fascist troops are fighting with General Franco in his attempt to overthrow the democratic, legally elected government of Spain and establish a fascist dictatorship. Eighty thousand of the fascist troops are Italians and 40,000 are Germans, the Major said. These 120,000 foreign troops constitute more than two thirds of the army which General Franco would like to have. American newspapers refer to as "the Spanish nationalists."

Newspapers in Rome controlled by dictator Mussolini brazenly boasted that Italian troops were responsible for the capture of Malaga by the fascists.

Italian troops captured by the government forces on the Madrid front stated that they were fighting in regular Italian army divisions and that they had not seen a single Spanish soldier on their sector of the front.

The Spanish people, heroically defending their country against the invading army of fascism, held their lines fast as General Franco threw all available forces into the attack on Madrid along the Guadajara front. A new government offensive in northern Spain resulted in nearly recapturing from the fascists the city of Oviedo.

Even in the midst of its terrific struggle, the People's Front Government of Spain is carrying forward its program for improving the conditions of the people. During the last four months, 4,000 public schools have been opened in democratic Spain and salaries of teachers have been increased by 33 per cent. While the fascists have destroyed cathedrals and museums, the government and the loyal-

ist troops have taken great care to preserve the art treasures of Spain and have moved the more important ones to places of safe-keeping, out of reach of fascist bombs.

The hatred of the people of Ethiopia for their Italian rulers is still so great that Mussolini is able to keep them under control only through terrorism. Hand grenades were thrown at Marshal Graziani, Mussolini's agent in charge of Ethiopia in an attempt to assassinate him. A reign of terror followed in Addis Ababa in which 2,000 defenseless Ethiopians were seized and imprisoned. Six hundred were shot down in cold blood with no pretense of a trial.

The Chinese Communist Party sent an appeal to the third plenary session of the Kuomintang (nationalist) Party of China urging that the nation unite for defense against Japanese invasion. The five points advanced by the Communist Party as the basis for unity were the following: (1) ending the destructive civil war which the government has been waging against the communists and the Red Army; (2) extension of civil liberties; (3) calling of a national congress in which all groups would participate to unite the nation against Japanese aggression; (4) completion of preparations for armed struggle against Japan; (5) improvement of the situation of the masses.

The continuing refusal of the government party in the past to unite the nation against Japan has left the door wide open for Japan to gobble up China bit by bit.

NEWS OF THE MONTH in the SOUTH

Steel

STEEL WORKERS WIN STOVE STRIKE

Another victory was chalked up for union labor led by the C.I.O. when workers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers went back to work on their own terms won by them in a strike against the Birmingham Stove and Range Co. The strike lasted a month.

The settlement approved by the 400 workers includes wage increases from 10 to 50 per cent for common labor, a five per cent increase for all classes of skilled workers, reduction of the work week from 56 hours to 45, recognition of the Amalgamated as the agency for collective bargaining and adoption of the "check off" method of collecting union dues.

GIN CO. STEEL WORKERS STRIKE

The C.I.O. led 600 members of the A. F. L. & T. W. out of the Continental Gin Co. in Birmingham. Fifty pickets are on constant duty in front of the factory. The men are on strike for a 20 per cent increase in wages, payment of time and a half for overtime, a seniority clause giving preference to older men and the "check-off" system of paying union dues. The strike is challenging the statement made by the company in a bulletin posted in front of the door, "It is our policy to operate under an open shop." The union is demanding a closed shop.

Mines

MINERS DEMAND HIGHER WAGES

A flat 15 per cent wage increase was demanded by representatives of the United Mine Workers of America who met with operators of the Appalachian coal producing area in New York, February 17, to discuss a new two year wage agreement to follow the one that expires April 1. This agreement will be the basis for all coal contracts throughout the country.

Other demands include a six-hour day and five day week, a 50 cents a day increase for all outside and inside day wage men, a 25 cent a ton raise for all pit miners, a 20 per cent increase on all yardage and dead work, and 15 cents a ton added to the combined cutting and loading rates; time and a

half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays, a minimum of 230 days work a year guaranteed to all miners and a two week's vacation with pay for every man each year.

These demands although they will materially improve the condition of the men still do not attempt to do away with the Southern differential, since all increases are on present wages. In Ohio at the present time all mine workers of the U.M.W.A. receive a minimum of \$3.50 for a day's work. In Alabama the wages for the same work range between \$3.50 and \$4.20. For example, after the new agreement goes into effect, a driver in Ohio will receive \$6.00 a day, while one in Alabama will receive \$4.00.

C.I.O. SPIRIT REACHES LOUISVILLE

Neither flood disaster nor court injunctions have weakened the determination of the Louisville Refining Co. Workers who recently struck for reinstatement of 23 union members fired because of union activities. Some of these men have been with the company from four to nine years. Eli Brown,

president of the company, not only refused to negotiate with the union, but sought a court injunction against picketing the plant.

Fighting for recognition of the union, a 23 per cent wage increase and continuation of the 55 hour week instead of the 48-hour week proposed by the management, the strikers are sure that their victory will give courage to the thousands of unorganized workers, in the oil, gas well and refineries of Kentucky. A C.I.O. organizer is in Louisville already.

Many local unions have contributed to the support of the strikers. Both the Communist and Socialist Parties are loyally supporting the strike and have contributed to the strike fund.

Textile

CHATTANOOGA C.L.U. BACKS TEXTILE DRIVE

The Chattanooga Central Labor Union enthusiastically endorsed the request made by 10 delegates of the United Textile Workers that it should give full and direct cooperation to the coming drive to organize textile workers in the South. They voted to ask Joe Dobbs, president of the Chattanooga Central Labor Union, two other delegates from the C.L.U. to meet with union leaders from local textile mills to organize a local Textile Workers Organizing Committee.

The first meeting was held in Chattanooga, March 14. Volunteers were accepted for a local Textile Workers Organizing Committee which will place itself at the disposal of the Committee for Industrial Organization as soon as the drive gets under way.

MISTRIAL IN HOMER WELCH CASE

Because of the serious illness of one of the jurors, a mistrial was declared March 8, by Judge R. B. Carr in the case of Homer Welch, textile union organizer, charged with the death of Joe C. Hayes, cafe owner, one of two men killed when deputies charged a picket line during a strike at the Sansonet mills in Talladega last July.

This trial was the second time Welch had faced a murder charge arising out of these same circumstances. Last November a hand-picked jury convicted him of manslaughter in connection with the shooting of Deputy Sheriff J. J. Bryant, one of the men killed. He was sentenced to ten years by Judge Carr, who charged Welch with "moral responsibility," telling the jurymen that if in their opinion Welch was "guilty" of or-

ALABAMA INDUSTRY ARMS AGAINST UNIONS



Alabama industrial concerns have armed themselves to war against the drive for unionization which is sweeping the South. The La Follette Civil Liberties Committee in its senatorial investigation pointed out that Alabama concerns spent \$2,015 in the two years, 1933-35. Alabama concerns spent more than those of any other state for weapons. The Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. alone in 1936 spent \$2,215 on munitions.

Here's what they bought in 1933-35:
T.C.I., Birmingham, 4 sawed off shot-guns, 2 pump guns
Alabama By-Products, 2 machine guns
Alabama Fuel & Iron, 5 machine guns
Alabama Mills, Inc., 3 machine guns
Monro Warrior Co., 4 machine guns
Cons. Coal & Ceane Creek Mining Co., 2 machine guns
De Bardeleben Coal Corp., 6 machine guns
Franklin Coal Mining, 2 machine guns
Gulf States Steel (Republic), 3 machine guns
Hill Creek Coal Co., 1 Riot Gun

ganizing a picket line in violation of Alabama's anti-picketing law, and if they thought Deputy Sheriff Bryant died as the "approximate or natural result of the presence of this picket line around the Samoset mill, then they must find Welch guilty of manslaughter.

Big business sensed the importance of the Welch case and sent pinch hitter, Borden Burr, T.C.I.'s chief attorney, to bat for the state as special prosecutor.

TEXTILE STRIKES WON IN GREENSBORO

The second successful strike in three days in the Greensboro, N. C. region was won March 10 in the garment factory of the Greensboro Mfg. Co., which employs about 300 workers. The company granted a wage increase of 10 per cent within six hours from the time the workers went on strike.

At the Kohnville hosiery mill, near Greensboro, workers won a wage increase of 50 cents per hundred after a sit-down strike which lasted only six hours. The sit-down strike there was led by the American Federation of Hosiery Workers affiliated with the U.T.W.

Unemployed

BIRMINGHAM W.P.A. WORKERS PROTEST LAYOFFS

A gigantic protest meeting against mass layoffs of W.P.A. workers in Birmingham will be held in the Civic Auditorium, April 4, by the Amalgamated Association of Government and Relief Workers. Prominent labor leaders in the city, including William Mitch, regional director of the C.I.O.; Noel Baddow, co-director of the S.W.O.C.; representatives of the U.M.W.A.; and Stephen Kujan and Kenneth Brudenthal, leaders of the A.A.G.R.W., will speak at the meeting.

The rapidly growing W.P.A. workers organization has been receiving splendid cooperation from the S.W.O.C. through the use of their sound truck and organizers in organizing new locals. Over 1,000 members have already signed cards. Locals have been set up in Fairfield, Flat Top, Wafson, and in downtown Birmingham. Project organizing committees and grievance committees have been organized on practically every project in the city.

KY. WORKERS ALLIANCE BACKS LABOR PARTY

A permanent Farmer-Labor Party committee was named at a meeting of the state executive board of the Kentucky Workers Alliance held in Paintsville, in two counties. Floyd and Johnson, the Workers Alliance and the United Mine Workers have already set up joint committees to promote the formation of a farmer-labor party.

State Representative John B. Mollette, a guest of the meeting, urged closer cooperation with the U.M.W.A. and emphasized that the present state legislature is unfriendly to labor. "The Alliance," he urged, "must make every effort to see that the next legislature is composed of persons who are pledged to support your program."

Representative Mollette, a member of the United Mine Workers, has been active in support of the Alliance's legislative demands.

Labor Unity

CHATTANOOGA C.L.U. FOR LABOR UNITY

Determined to prevent a split in the Chattanooga labor movement, the March 4 meeting of the Chattanooga Central Labor Union in a dramatic session voted to "receive and file" William Green's "loyalty letter." Following the reading of the lengthy communication a motion to "receive and file" was made, seconded and unanimously passed without discussion. Fully aware of the importance of the issue, old line building trades delegates stood solidly together with the delegates from the mass production industries and voted to preserve a unified labor movement in Chattanooga.



"Hell hath no fury" like a woman on strike. Pickets who are members of the C. I. O. prevent scabs from carrying load to strikebreakers inside Tri State Dress Co. in Memphis, Tenn. Strikers demand higher pay and shorter hours.

KNOXVILLE C.I.O. UNIONS WALK OUT

In Knoxville, Green's loyalty letter was used by C. C. Arthur, president of the Central Labor Union as a basis for forcing every local in Knoxville to bring in a letter over the seal of their organization stating their loyalty to the American Federation of Labor's Executive Council. As this meant making the split still wider between the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O., the C.I.O. delegates got up and left the hall. This move on Green's part brought to a head in Knoxville the bitter struggle between the die-hard craft unionists and the progressives supporting the C.I.O. The industrial unionists formed a C.I.O. Council and are proceeding with their work of organizing the unorganized workers.

Negro Rights

SOUTHERN VICTORIES FOR NEGRO RIGHTS

Several victories in the struggle of the Negro people for their elementary rights were won this past month.

On March 8, the Supreme Court of Mississippi reversed a murder conviction for Milton Jarman, Negro farm tenant convicted of slaying his plantation overseer, H. F. Woodruff, white man, in Sunflower County. The Supreme Court held that the jury should have acquitted Jarman since evidence showed that Jarman killed Woodruff in self-defense. This decision freed Jarman from a life sentence.

MOB LYNCHES ALABAMA NEGRO

Frank Ekes, Negro tenant of Selma, Alabama, was exonerated of the murder of land-lord Graham Vaughan, member of a prominent Dallas County family. After hearing the evidence the jury deliberated 25 minutes, then brought in its verdict "Not guilty."

William Henry Huxice, of Knoxville, recently was appointed Federal Judge in the Virgin Island. This is the first time in the history of the United States that a Negro has been appointed to the Federal bench.

In February Sheriff J. L. Corbett of Henry County, Alabama, virtually delivered Wesley Johnson, Negro prisoner, into the hands of a lynch mob. Corbett, knowing the mob was forming, took no steps to protect his prisoner. A special grand jury returned no indictments though Corbett said he recognized many members of the lynch mob. Imprecations proceedings have been begun against Corbett, who will have the benefit of an ordinary trial, which he denied his prisoner.

People Demand

GEORGIAN HITS POLL TAX

The Southern Poll Tax which has kept the vote not only from the Negro but also from the poor white ever since the war between states, was challenged in an appeal filed with the U. S. Supreme Court charging that the Georgia poll tax in presidential elections violates the federal constitution and particularly the 14th, 15th and 19th amendments. These amendments state that all citizens above the age of 21 have the right to vote. The 14th and 15th emphasize that the Negro shall have the right to vote. Arthur Garfield Hays of New York and J. Ira Harrelson of Atlanta, both prominent lawyers, signed the petition.

N. C. LIBERALS FOR PROGRESSIVE LAWS

From Raleigh, N. C. comes news of the formation of the Committee for Social Legislation, composed of prominent ministers, liberals, professionals and labor leaders. The Committee will work for more relief for unemployed, for child labor legislation and for a 40-hour week in the textile industry.

Cost of Living

ALABAMA GETS NEW SALES TAX

On March 1, as Louisiana's Governor Leche was discovering to his disappointment that the two per cent sales tax was not satisfactory and would have to be repealed, Alabama's citizens were getting their first taste of a general sales tax which went into effect on that day. Governor Bibb Graves who before election pledged that "I will never sign a sales tax measure even as a last resort," put his signature on the Chichester Act on February 23. On March 1, the stream of "tin money" or "Bibles" as they were named in honor of the governor, began to pour in.

Although these tokens are inscribed with the word "luxury tax" all food and clothes are taxed two per cent with the exception of coffee, salt pork, flour meal and sugar. Automobiles, on the other hand, are exempt from this percentage and pay only one half of one per cent.

The tax bill was passed over the protest of the Alabama Federation of Labor, the Farmers Union and the Consumers Anti-Sales Tax League. At hearings conducted by the legislature, workers, farmers and small merchants voiced bitter opposition to the tax.

The executive board of the Alabama Farmers Union voted to carry on a campaign for the repeal of the tax. In Birmingham, a city-wide conference of the Communist Party bitterly attacked the tax and decided to launch a drive for 100,000 signatures to a petition demanding the repeal of the tax.

In New Orleans, Governor Leche announced that he was considering the repeal of the Louisiana general sales tax because it was too expensive to collect, because it was not bringing in the funds anticipated, and because the people wouldn't stand for it any longer.

RENTS RISING IN THE SOUTH

The cost of living (that not the standard of living) is still rising in the South. Like other necessities, the cost of rents is rising.

Thirty per cent of the bungalow renters in Birmingham received notices that rents would go up from 10 to 25 per cent on April 1. Those who escaped this notice will get theirs in the October 1, lot.

Real estate men publicly announced that rents would keep on rising. This rise will affect mostly small new houses. The housing shortage is such that even Birmingham's most miserably built houses have been rented and only 5 per cent of all dwellings still remain unoccupied. In hundreds of cases two and three families have been forced to live together because they cannot pay such high rents.

Youth Unite

(Continued from page 6)

THEN the landlords and their men started in earnest their reign of terror. For four days and nights bands of armed men—landlords, deputies, riding horses—hunted the woods and swamps shooting Negro men on sight, raiding their homes, beating their wives, searching for evidence of membership in the Share Croppers Union.

During that reign of terror, William C. Warren, a member of the union, gave refuge in his home to a fellow union member who was fleeing from a mob of 100 armed men. For this crime against their lynch law, the landlords hunted Warren, who wasn't even present at James' house when the deputies fired on the union members, out of the county. He moved, with his family, to a different part of Alabama, out of the Black Belt.

Six of the union men who defended Cliff James' home were indicted for "assault with intent to murder" the four deputies who attacked them. They were tried and sentenced to long prison terms. Four of them are still in prison. One died in prison. One is out on parole.

William Warren and his 15-year old son, John Warren, were named in the indictment on which the six union men were tried in the Spring of 1933. In October, 1936 they were arrested and taken to Tallapoosa County to await trial. Their cases have been set for trial on April 5. Attorney R. G. Kelton of Oneonta, Alabama is defending them with the aid of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners.

The Reddown struggle has become a symbol of the struggle of the Negro people for elementary human rights, of the union fighting for existence, of human beings seeking life and liberty. The fight grows. It must be strengthened by winning the freedom of William Warren, his son and those others who fought so bravely and lawfully to defend their homes.

Building the United and

Independent organizations of Labor requires more than Determination and

Tenacity of purpose.

Hard work and courage are good, but not Enough to do the job.

Strong and effective workers'

Organizations result from

Understanding of the tasks of

The workers' and farmers' organizations.

Help both yourself and others to

Educate and organize by

Reading and building the working class

Newspapers and magazines.

Workers make better leaders and

Organizers when they

Read the workers' press in order to

Know the facts and

Educate their fellow workers.

Read and help build

The Southern Worker

SOUTHERN WORKER

Box 372

Birmingham, Ala.

Please send me the Southern Worker for one year (12 months). I enclose 25 cents to cover the cost.

Name

Address

City..... State.....

A PAGE FOR SOUTHERN WOMEN

MARY CRAIK SPEED, EDITOR OF WOMEN'S PAGE

Oxford, Miss.

Dear Editor of the Woman's Page:

I am glad there is going to be a Woman's Page because there are such a lot of things that are bothering us women and ought to be talked about. One thing I want to know is something about the family in the Soviet Union. Is it true that it is being broken up and parents not allowed to control their own children, and is there free love? We hear that there is no unemployment, and that women work in factories and have trades just like men. When do they have time to do their house work and family sewing and cooking and all the things that keep us working hard all day and keep us hungry for a fuller life but too tired at the end of the day to find it. It is all very confusing because we also hear the standard of living is rising and insanity and crime are falling off. Here (I speak from my own experience) I know the standard of living is going down and crime is increasing every day, particularly our young people are turning into criminals because there is no honest way of making a living or enjoying life. I would appreciate it if you can straighten me and my family out on this, for things are certainly awful with us and we want to know more about the Soviet Union.

Yours truly,

Mrs. M. M.

OUR ANSWER

Dear Mr. M. M.:

In the Soviet Union the family is protected and given opportunity to grow into the fine and beautiful thing it should be, more than in any other country in the world.

There there is not the strain and anxiety about making ends meet, paying off the mortgage and the installment bills, because there is never any doubt about enough food to eat, about doctors and vacations. Because all these fears and worries that make us nervous and often bad tempered are removed, the members of the family are happy and contented and free to enjoy and love each other. Many women in the Soviet Union work and many keep house as in America. The child is considered the first care and responsibility of the State and it is around the child that families are built.

Pregnant mothers are given one and one half months off from work at full pay before the child is born and the same after birth, with medical care and training during

the entire period. When the mother goes back to work she leaves her baby in the nursery in the place where she works and every three hours she is given time off in which to nurse her baby. As the child grows older it is given its meals, bath and nap in the nursery and when the mother is ready to go home she takes her child with her and is joined by her husband and other children who have been at school and received the same intelligent care. Their family is not worn out by strain and nervousness worrying. There isn't any speeding up, no fear of being fired.

fed as "woman's work" and inferior to "men's work," and work in the home is not beneath man's dignity.

In the Soviet Union much of the young people's time is provided for and occupied in an intelligent and interesting manner so that they are not tempted, because of hopelessness and idleness, into crime. Parents have all the aid possible in guiding the activities of their children.

There is no unemployment in the Soviet Union. There would be no unemployment in America if all the hungry were to be fed, the ragged and shabby were to be well dressed, all the shacks were torn down and decent houses built in their stead. If all the sick were given hospital care there would be no unemployed doctors and nurses. There would be no idle engineers and workmen if the rivers were controlled against floods—and there would be no homeless flood victims. All these things can be accomplished much faster in this country than they have been in the Soviet Union when we abolish the private ownership of the means of production and establish a Workers Government.

Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Editor of the Woman's Page:

We were told that the sales tax would pay for free education of our children, though I do not see how it is called "free" when we pay the taxes on every thing we eat and wear and use at all. The cost of living was high before but now it is worse than I ever thought it could be. Now on top of the sales tax which was to pay for "free" schools, I read in today's Montgomery paper, "the Alabama schools face a serious financial crisis despite the new sales tax levied by the

legislature, and prospects are for a six-and-a-half-months school term, two weeks short of the planned seven months minimum program for this year."

We mothers want education for our children more than anything else, but do we have to pay for it in this way?

Yours,

Mrs. Susan Pike.

Dear Mrs. Pike:

Space prevents me from answering your letter in full this month in the *Southern Worker*, but I certainly will next month. Tell your friends to watch for our discussion of the sales tax and how it lowers our standard of living.

MARY CRAIK SPEED.



The World's Highest Standard of Living



The husband does not hold the purse strings that tie his wife to him. She does not depend on him financially, making it necessary for her to live with him whether she loves him or not, just in order to be "supported." She is quite free and independent, which means she lives with him because they love each other and love their children and their family life together.

Through the knowledge of birth control which is freely given to all as part of their education, children are timed and come only when they are wanted and mothers are not overworked, exhausted by bearing and rearing too large a family.

The hours of factory or farm work allow for house work which is done by the father as well as the mother. No work is classi-

LETTERS FROM PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH

WELCOME TEXTILE DRIVE

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Editor, The Southern Worker:

The hosiery mill I work in has taken on a lot of new inexperienced workers and laid off the old hands because they want more for their work. They are laying off men because women will work for less. The McAllister mill pays 12 cents and 13 cents per dozen pair for topping. Other mills in Town pay 16 and 17 to 20 cents. For washing this mill pays 2 1/2 cents. Another mill pays 2 1/2 cents.

The McAllister mill encourages workers to trade in the commissary at high prices and then they take it out of our pay. Many workers don't get one cent on pay day because it is all taken up in the commissary for food, coal and clothing. A dress there will cost \$7.98. It can be bought in the stores



for \$2.98. Workers even must buy flour at \$1.25 and then they have to take it across the street and sell it for \$.90 so they will have farefare. Many of the women working here are widows with families and they only make \$6 and \$8 a week.

Mr. Lyle Stoval, vice-president of the company which owns the mill, is a member of the Americanization Committee of the American Legion. Recently he was rebuked by the labor movement here for trying to tell them how to run their business. The workers here feel that he ought to look to his own business first and improve conditions and wages for the workers in the McAllister Mill.

Workers in the mill are not going to live under these standards. We welcome the C.I.O.'s drive to organize all the textile workers. We've already begun to organize the union ourselves.

—A McAllister Mill Worker

IT WON'T BE LONG

A sit-down strike took place in Durham on February 25, on the W.P.A. project here when the 45 W.P.A. workers went on a one-

hour strike for their paychecks. At the same time 5 of them went home. The foreman of this project said to the workers, "Look here, this will not do for workers in the South to go on a sit-down strike like workers in



the North. This will not do because it will spread all over the state of North Carolina."

The committee of the Workers Alliance called on the W.P.A. workers to keep it up for a 20 per cent increase in wages, work for all on direct relief and to put back to work all who have been cut off.

The Workers Alliance is organizing these W.P.A. workers now and it won't be long before they go to work in a real way to get their just demands.

—M. Johnson

POSTSCRIPT FROM THE EDITOR

Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Readers:

The Durham section of the Communist Party in North Carolina writes:

"We think the new form of the magazine is swell. We enclose stamps for 50 more copies (if at all available). The section has doubled its bundle order chiefly because of improved looks and arrangement of contents. Congratulations.



"P.S. We would like at least 100 more subscription blanks."

Durham wasn't the only one, but we haven't space to reprint all the letters which have come in.

The staff of the Southern Worker is happy to know that the magazine is now what its readers want. We're going to do all we can to keep on improving it. You can do your job of helping to build the magazine by sending in all the subscriptions you can. Subscription blanks can be obtained by writing to me at Box 872, Birmingham, Ala.

Fraternally,

The Editor

GOT JOBS BUT—

Lexington, Ky.

Editor, The Southern Worker:

You can get a job in Lexington if you want one. Another woman and myself had one at no trouble at all. At 7 o'clock in the morning we went up to the Edward J. O'Brien Tobacco Stemmary Warehouse and entered a room where some 200 or 300 men, women and children, Negro and white, were already at work stemming tobacco.

As we entered the room the strong smell of tobacco and dust seeped into our lungs, making breathing difficult. The next few minutes we felt sick enough to vomit our breakfast of oatmeal and black coffee.

We saw a boy of 15 or 16 years carrying a gunnysack to his seat. "Yes," he told us, "if you work fast enough you can make 50 cents a day, or a little better. He walked over to a white haired, bent backed, toothless old woman.



After we had been roaming around for awhile talking to workers, a Negro man came up to us and asked us if we wanted "seats." We replied that we were members of the Workers Alliance and interested in conditions in the factory. He called Mr. Webb, the supervisor. A strapping "Southern gentleman" greeted us. He thought there was plenty of ventilation in the room and no need for opening even one of the windows. He eyed us suspiciously and in a fearful tone, asked, "Are you planning on pulling a sit-down strike?" "Why," I asked him, "Do you think that would better the conditions of the workers?" Then he proceeded to "explain" to us just how matters stood: "Conditions are alright here. The clam of workers here hasn't sense to think for themselves. They are a common lazy bunch."

In the homes of these workers there are hungry children waiting to be fed. A three room windowless shack in the slums of the city costs \$8 a month rent. W.P.A. and city officials cry, "There is no money."

An empty stomach makes a man angry. Thousands of empty stomachs in the region that workers in Lexington are organizing the Workers Alliance—building the Farmer-Labor Party—and joining the ranks of the vanguard of the working class, the Communist Party.

—Louise Giles



LAND FOR THE LANDLESS

HALF a century ago one out of every four farmers was a tenant. Today two of every five are tenants. For the past ten years the number of new tenants every year has been about 40,000. Many change farms every two or three years, and apparently one out of three remains no longer than one year. Thousands of farmers commonly considered as owners are as insecure as tenants, because in some areas the farmers' equity is as little as one-fifth. Fully half the total farm population of the United States has no adequate farm security.

This paragraph is taken from the report of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy which was submitted to Congress in February. This paragraph and the longer report of which it is a part tells the story of the misery, poverty and insecurity which is the lot of the great majority of those who till the soil. In the South, the situation is even more serious than throughout the country.

Year in and year out, come drouth or rains, floods or famine, lean years or bumper crops, the life of the landless in the South is a life of misery, poverty and persecution. They live in poor shacks which offer protection against neither the summer heat nor winter winds. When they are sick, there is no medical aid to be had. Their children attend school for only short periods if at all.

There is only one way to solve this problem and break the shackles of tenancy, and that is by making it possible for the landless to own their own land.

The militant farm organizations themselves have set themselves to the job of drawing up a bill which will cope with the problem. Such a bill is the Holiday Farm Tenancy Bill, which has been made public by the Farmers Holiday Association. This bill provides for:

1. Establishment of a corporation with initial capital of \$500,000,000 (enough to rehabilitate 100,000 tenants) the corporation to be democratically controlled by farmers through a county, state and national set-up. Funds to be raised by tax on corporate surpluses, large incomes, etc.

loans which would permit tenants to purchase the land they are working; make loans to owners who are threatened with

2. Authorization of the corporation to purchase, improve, or equip and resell land to tenants and sharecroppers, make foreclosure; make loans to sharecroppers or share tenants for

purchase of seed and equipment to raise them to the status of cash tenants.

3. Establishment of an interest rate of only one and a half per cent on loans; loans to be paid in cash at the rate of one fourth of the value of each year's crop.

The Holiday Association admits that this legislation will provide land for only a fraction of the tenants (100,000 out of two million) but it is a beginning. It is not only a step in the right direction, it is the biggest step in that direction taken by any legislation so far proposed.

Its guarantee of democratic control of the funds, by the farmers and sharecroppers themselves, puts it far above any laws yet proposed by the Roosevelt Administration.

IN ADDITION, the bill provides for loans to farmers at low interest rates to enable them to stave off the mortgage sharks. It also provides loans to sharecroppers to permit them to buy their own seed, work animals, equipment, etc., so that they can become cash tenants and thereby become more independent of the landlords and their riding horses.

The bill recognizes that the "wages and family have the first mortgage" on the crop. Instead of impossible cash payments each year, the farmer or cropper merely pays one-fourth of his crop, whether it be large or small. In fact, if the crop is a failure, he pays nothing that year. Under this system, there can be no foreclosures or evictions of the sort that have given farmers and croppers so many sleepless nights of worry and care.

To introduce a bill, however, is not enough. If this bill is to receive favorable consideration by the members of Congress, it will be only because the farmers, sharecroppers, tenants and others interested in progressive legislation rally behind this bill and give it their utmost support. We can be sure that the reactionary interests, the landlords and the big corporations, will do everything in their power to block it.

If it is to become law, over the opposition of these interests, the forces of progress must mobilize now.

Every local farm organization should immediately write to the Farm Holiday Association, Box 230, Minneapolis, Minn., for a copy of this bill. The bill should be audited and the national office of the organization urged to support it. Labor organizations can help the farmers by giving their support also to this bill.