

SOUTHERN WORKER

Magazine of the Common People of the South

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By Ellis



WHY ARE THE A. F. OF L. REACTIONARIES TRYING TO SPILT LABOR?

(See Page 5)

Southern Worker
Magazine of the Common People
of the South

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Jim Mallory, Editor.

SOUTHERN WORKERS HAPPIER DAYS FOR

FOR a long time the Wagner Act, guar-
anteeing the right to organize, has been
the law of the land, but that Act has been
constantly flouted and defied by the big in-
dustrialists. This is especially true in the
South.

Workers have been fired from their jobs,
evicted from their company-owned homes,
and chased out of town by company thugs
because they were union men. Company
unions, clearly unlawful under the Wagner
Act, have been financed by the companies
as a weapon to keep real unions out. Work-
ers have been terrorized and intimidated
against joining real unions.

Workers protested, through their unions,
against such conditions filed their com-
plaints before the
National Labor
Board, cases piled
up mountain high
of the board were
defied by the corpo-
rations. They mere-
ly employed slick
lawyers who went
into district courts
and obtained rulings
declaring that the
Wagner Act was un-
constitutional, and
therefore the Com-
panies need pay no
attention to the rul-
ings of the Labor
Board. A definite
state of anarchy
erected, an anarchy
for which the "law
and order" boys of
the Chamber of
Commerce were clearly responsible.

BUT a new force entered the picture. The
C.I.O. began its drive to organize the
unorganized. Labor's Non-Partisan League
launched its campaign to reform the re-
actionary Supreme Court so that the mandate,
the will, of the people might be carried out.
And lo! five of the nine old men saw the
handwriting on the wall. After a long, long
delay, they ruled on the Wagner Act and
declared it constitutional. This means a
great deal to American workers. It means
even more to Southern workers.

The Wagner Act says:
"Section 7. Employees shall have the right
to self-organization, to form, join, or assist
labor organizations, to bargain collectively
through representatives of their own choos-
ing, and to engage in concerted activities
for the purpose of collective bargaining or
other mutual aid or protective protection."
"Section 8. (1) An employer must not in-
terfere with, restrain or coerce employees
in the exercise of rights guaranteed in Sec-
tion 7. (3) An employer must not refuse to

bargain collectively with representatives of
his employees."

THE illegal status of the yellow company
unions, the poppies, is shown in this
provision:

"It shall be an unfair practice for an em-
ployer to dominate or interfere with any
labor organization, or contribute financial
or other support to it."

Who shall represent the workers? The
law says very clearly that a union which is
backed by a majority (51 per cent) of the
workers in the plant, shall represent ALL
the workers.

Under this Act, to discharge a worker for
union activities is unlawful? It is unlawful
to use labor spies
and thugs. It is un-
lawful to set up a
stuffed-shirt com-
pany union and sup-
port it with company
money. It is unlaw-
ful to refuse to bar-
gain with represen-
tatives chosen by the
workers. And when
a majority of the
workers vote for the
union, the company
must recognize the
union as the repre-
sentative of the
workers.

NO ONE who
knows about
Harlan, Kentucky,
Gadsden and Talla-
dega, Ala, and the
hundreds of other
cases of company

thug terrorism in the South can doubt that
this is a new Declaration of Independence
for Southern workers. This indeed means
happier days for Southern workers.

Thomas L. Stokes, a Scripps-Howard staff
writer says:

"Nowhere as in the South do the decisions
mean so much to the workers, for outside of
a few large cities the South is a virtual No
Man's Land as far as union organization
goes, and hitherto, union organizers have
exposed themselves to all sorts of indigni-
ties."

It is up to the Southern workers and their
unions to take advantage of this new situa-
tion by organizing the unorganized with in-
creased speed. Let us see that Unionism
make a clean sweep through the South,
brushing out the cobwebs of long hours, low
pay, child labor, inhuman speed-up, and
company thuggery. Let us make the South
one hundred percent union!



SENATOR ROBERT F. WAGNER

AN IMMEDIATE TASK

Labor continues to march forward in the
political field as well as on the industrial.
Labor's Non-Partisan League has announced
that it is setting up permanent state and
local organizations. The recent convention
of the International Ladies Garment Work-
ers Union passed a resolution that they
would participate with other labor and pro-
gressive groups in setting up a national
party of labor.

Southern workers, oppressed by company
law, have a big stake in the Farmer-Labor
Party movement. The first step in the South
is to develop strong local organizations of
the Non-Partisan League.

Labor played a big part in the last elec-
tion. But it must not stand still or drift
backward. It must get ready to play a big-
ger, better, more independent role in the
next. An immediate task for workers, North
and South, is to prepare now for putting
Farmer-Labor men in Congress in 1938.

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 com-
mon people of the South:

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____

(Fill this coupon out and send it to
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Chattanooga, Tenn.)

THE SOUTHERN WORKER

MAGAZINE OF THE COMMON PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH

Published Monthly by the Communist Party

Box 1182

Chattanooga, Tennessee

June, 1937.

Dear Readers and Friends:

For several months the Southern Worker has been coming out as just the magazine the workers and farmers of the South look to to answer the important problems of the day. We know you like it. The hundreds of subscriptions which you sent in told us so. Your letters and orders for bundles of the magazine are proof to us that the Southern Worker is serving its purpose in helping you organize to win a free, happy and prosperous life for yourselves and your families.

The staff of the Southern Worker has really been inspired by your response to redouble its efforts towards improving the magazine. We know that we can with your help.

But no matter how hard you and we may work towards that end, our efforts are hamstrung unless we have enough money to pay our bills for printing, engraving, an office and the wages of the staff.

As you know, our subscription price is only 2¢ a year. We know that even two bits looks big to you steel workers who see little in cash because you must trade at a commissary, to you textile workers who make as little as \$5 a week, and to you farmers who sometimes do not see \$100 in cold cash throughout the year. That is why we do not want to raise the subscription price.

25¢ a year for subscriptions and 1¢ a copy for bundle orders of 10 or more does not bring in nearly enough to pay the bills. This year the magazine has a deficit of \$3,000.

Instead of improving the magazine this month, the crisis in our finances has forced us to cut this issue of the magazine down to 8 pages.

The Southern Worker is your magazine. It has no rich backers or advertisers. It depends on you to spread its message. It depends on you right now for its life. Help it immediately. Send your contribution in money orders or checks at once to Jim Mallory, Box 1182, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Yours for Freedom, Progress, and Happiness in the South,

The Editor

COMMUNIST PARTY IS LEGAL

● By WILLIAM O'NEALE

THE Communist Party has been adjudged legal anywhere in the United States—that is the main conclusion to be drawn from the Supreme Court decision freeing the youthful Negro Communist organizer, Angelo Herndon, from an 18-20 year chain-gang sentence. By their persecution of Herndon and others the Georgia reactionaries headed by Talmadge and the Ku Klux Klan had hoped to crush the Communist Party leadership, to subdue the Negro people, yearning for freedom, and the unemployed, demanding food. How far they missed their mark may be seen from the fact that the Herndon decision is the clearest Supreme Court decision on record upholding the legality of the Communist Party.

But they might well have succeeded with their plans if intense public pressure had not reached a high point just as the case came up for consideration. There was the pressure from two million citizens who had signed the petition demanding Herndon's freedom, including members of the International Labor Defense and scores of other organizations. At the same time the people showed their determination to liberalize the courts. Even this pressure was just enough to win a 5-4 decision. With the Supreme Court as now constituted the liberty of American citizens, we see, rests in the unsteady hands of Justice Owen J. Roberts, the vacillating member of the court.

THE Herndon decision clinches a recent trend of court actions to explode the fiction that the Communist Party "advocates force and violence" and is therefore "illegal." Considered together with Chief Justice Hughes' opinion in the Oregon case against Dirk DeJonge, and Vice-Chancellor Fielder's decision in the Communist Party's injunction suit against Jersey City officials, the following constitutional rights have been won:

1. American citizens have a right to speak openly in the name of the Communist Party at meetings arranged by the Communist Party.

2. It is illegal for officials arbitrarily to prevent Communist Party meetings.

3. A citizen has a right to be a member of the Communist Party, to possess party literature, and to solicit others for membership.

In all of these cases the reactionary forces tried desperately to make the courts accept their theory that the Communist Party "advocates force and violence" and that laws making the party illegal do not abridge the constitutional rights of free



Angelo Herndon, National Vice-president of the Young Communist League. The Supreme Court's decision which freed him from a twenty-year sentence on the chain gang clearly upholds the legality of the Communist Party in the United States.

speech, press and assembly. In his argument of the Herndon case before the U. S. Supreme Court, the Georgia prosecutor built up an elaborate web of fine-spun reasoning. It went something like this: He first read certain portions from the program of the Communist Party dealing with land for the landless, the rights of the Negro people as a minority nation, and the need for an alliance between the Negro people and the industrial wage-workers so that each can secure the drastic changes in their conditions they both require. Next he proved that Angelo Herndon was a member of this party and showed from literature on party discipline that every member accepts and advocates the entire party program. The final step in his argument was to state that the landowners of Georgia will never accept this program without forcible resistance. From all this he drew the conclusion that Herndon and the Communist Party, by putting forth such a program, advocate force and violence no matter how they propose to put the program into effect.

THIS argument was good plenty for four of the "justices." In his minority opinion Justice Van Devanter says in high-flown legal language that, even if Commu-

nist activity is legal for some people, surely we are not going to let a Southern Negro get away with it. He says in his opinion:

"It should not be overlooked that Herndon was a Negro member and organizer in the Communist Party and was engaged actively in inducing others, chiefly Southern Negroes, to become members of the party and participate in effecting its purposes and program.

The court majority could not bring itself to accept this interpretation at a time when their actions were being carefully watched by the American people. The majority opinion freeing Herndon said:

"His membership in the Communist Party and his solicitation of a few members wholly fails to establish an attempt to incite others to insurrection. . . . In these circumstances, to make membership in the party and solicitation of members a criminal offense, punishable by death, in the discretion of a jury, is an unwarranted invasion of the right of freedom of speech."

GEORGIA reaction, however, openly defies the United States Supreme Court and the constitution. An Atlanta newspaper mockingly calling itself "The Constitution" commented on the Herndon decision on April 28, saying:

"Regardless, however, of whether or not this particular Georgia statute is constitutional, Communists of all shades, whether deep-dyed reds or mere dilettante pinks, may take warn-

ing. Evidently they have not learned the lesson of the Herndon case—that the free air of American traditional democracy gives us the strength to oppose their worst persecutions. As the Kentucky miner's wife said, "American flesh don't scare easy." Probably they will try more "drastic measures" in their frantic attempt to divide and rule—to split the organizations of the common people into a dozen fragments—whites against Negro, employed against unemployed, South against North, and by threats, terror and red-baiting to wrench the Communist Party away from the open body of labor. The lesson of the Herndon case is: **THEY WILL FAIL.**

The unity of labor and the progressive forces behind the Herndon defense was a heavy blow to reaction. Herndon, a Negro, unemployed, Southern Communist, received abundant support from all sections of progressive and patriotic Americans—Negro and white, employed and unemployed, Northern and Southern, Socialists, Communists, and non-party liberals. A powerful united front supporting a militant defense policy won the victory for Angelo Herndon and for American traditions of freedom, liberty, and progress.

C.I.O. FIGHTS FOR UNITY

● By R. F. HALL

THE splitting policies of President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, and George Googe, his Southern representative, have reached a new stage. After several weeks of criminal wrecking of central labor unions and state federations in the South, they have embarked on a course of open dual unionism.

What is dual unionism? This means to enter a field where a trade union which is organizing the unorganized and is fighting for the interests of the workers already exists. It means to begin in this field to set up a rival union and to compete with the bona fide union, already existing, for membership and recognition. Why is dual unionism a crime against the working class? Because it means splitting the labor movement and forcing the workers to use their energies fighting each other instead of fighting jointly TOGETHER against the employers for better conditions.

The speeches of George Googe at the recent conventions of the state federations of labor of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee give ample proof of this. His actions show a conspiracy to wreck the labor movement in the South.

His wrecking activities are aimed particularly at the textile industry where the Textile Workers Organizing Committee, affiliated with the C.I.O., is carrying on a sordid drive to organize the half-starved, persecuted, terrorized mill hands.

IN opposition to the United Textile Workers and the T.W.O.C., Googe is attempting to set up federal locals of textile workers which will be granted federal charters by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L.

In order to cover and "justify" this criminal dual unionism policy, Googe raises the "red scare" and accuses the C.I.O. of being a Communist organization "straight from Moscow."

But Googe and Green realize that they will not be able to win the workers for their reactionary policies, no matter how loud they may rant against "Moscow" and the

industrialists. Therefore, they are hoping TO WIN THE INDUSTRIALISTS. In his speech at Anniston, Googe spoke directly to 25 or 30 representatives of the Chamber of Commerce who were invited especially to hear him. "The Southern industrialists can either sit down and see their workers absorbed by this new ism or they can see them organized into the A. F. of L. under Southern leadership," he said. He assured the employers that "our policy will be for the advancement of Southern industry as a whole."

Can anyone doubt that behind the scenes Googe is bidding for recognition from the employers and offering them contracts which

protect the bosses, not the workers? Dual unionism has a way of becoming COMPANY UNIONISM.

THE Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has already granted charters to some company unions. Will it grant a charter to the new company union at the T.C.I. plants, the "United Iron, Steel and Mine Workers"? Will it grant a charter to the "Brotherhood of Captive Mine Workers"? Unless the honest workers in the A. F. of L. put a stop to the activities of Green and Googe, they will be forced to address Popsicle members as "Brother."

In his Anniston speech, Googe attacked Sidney Hillman, head of the T.W.O.C., as an outsider, a foreigner. He spoke of "Hillman's hired mercenaries coming into the South to propagandize a foreign political philosophy to the Southern people." He said the A. F. of L. meant organization "by Southerners for Southerners."

Googe deliberately tried to give the impression that Southerners did not like the C.I.O. and that the C.I.O. is made up only of Northerners. This is far from the truth. We know many T.W.O.C. and S.W.O.C. organizers working in the South and ninety-nine out of a hundred are Southerners.

BUT Googe had a purpose in mind. He was trying to appeal to regional prejudice to turn the South against the North, as in the days of the Civil War. Why does he do this? Because he has in mind a SOUTHERN FEDERATION OF LABOR, divorced from the labor movement in the North. Green and Googe realize that the workers in the North are going over to the C.I.O. But they hope to take advantage of the prejudices of the more backward Southern workers.

What would a Southern Federation of Labor, divorced from the American labor movement, stand for?

It would stand for the Southern differen-

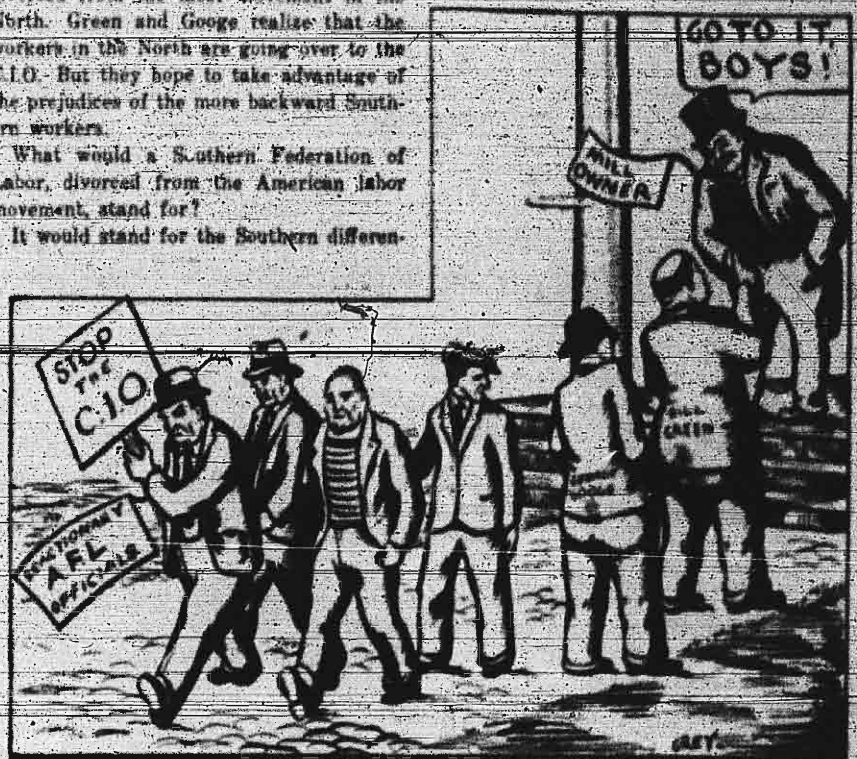
tial. Speaking in Anniston, Googe said he was against widening the differential, but he did not say he wanted to abolish it. While Bill Mitch and other C.I.O. leaders are struggling to narrow down the differential and wipe it out altogether, Googe is appealing to Southern industrialists by saying that the A. F. of L. wants to advance "Southern industry as a whole."

THE Southern mine operators and mill owners got the point immediately. John Temple Graves, Age-Herald writer, immediately said that Googe was a fine man and that the idea of a Southern Federation of Labor was a fine idea. He let the cat out of the bag by pointing out that a Southern Federation would "protect" the Southern wage differential.

Applause and praise came from the source from which one would expect it, the mine operators who were just recently defeated by the United Miners in their efforts to widen the wage differential. Writing to Graves, Harold McDermott, chairman of the committee for the Alabama coal operators, said, "The point is certainly pleasing to me."

We don't doubt it. A Southern Federation of Labor would be pleasing to all the industrialists and reactionaries. It would not be pleasing to the workers, North or South.

So the forces are lining up, C.I.O. on the side of progress, Googe and Green on the side of reaction. Every honest worker will know where HE belongs.



HARLAN CRACKS OPEN

● By LARRY FRENCH

IN A hall outside a United States Senate committee room Ted Creech, a burly, labor-hating mine superintendent, walked up to R. C. Tackett. "You've made a lot of trouble for the coal operators," he told Tackett. "I'll see that you do eight or ten years for it when you go back to Harlan."

The trouble which Tackett had made for the coal operators was confessing to the Senate committee investigating violations of civil liberties that the coal operators had hired him to murder a union organizer.

But Creech had forgotten for the moment that he was not in Harlan County where the law and its officers are owned and operated by the coal companies. He was called before the Senate committee and questioned about his threat. He denied making it, although a United States marshal testified that he was present and heard what Creech had said. Washington police arrested Creech and charged him with perjury.

THE coal operators had good reason to use desperate measures to try to keep their record away from the Senate and the public. They had a story to hide—a story of murder, graft and terrorism—the story of why Harlan County, Kentucky, is the only coal mining county in the United States where the miners have been unable to organize.

But they could not hide their shocking, bloody record. Witness after witness revealed to the Senate committee how company-owned officers of the law had terrorized the people to prevent union organization.

Tackett and two others were hired by Ben Unthank, a deputy sheriff paid by the mining companies, to murder Lawrence Dwyer, 72-year-old organizer for the United Mine Workers. They were supplied with 15 sticks of dynamite to do the job. They blew up Dwyer's room in a Pineville hotel. Dwyer was thrown against the ceiling, but escaped unhurt. Dwyer told the LaFollette committee that he thinks he bears a charmed life and that he was shot at, assaulted, and dynamited so many times by company thugs that he had lost count.

Others were not so lucky. Marshall Musick, a Harlan County preacher, was a union miner that the companies wanted out of the way. Thugs fired into his home at night. They missed Musick, but they killed his son.

ELMO MIDDLETON was one of the few county attorneys in the recent history of Harlan County who tried to enforce the law. Because of that he was a marked man and he knew it. He told a minister that he would like to clean up the graft and crime in Harlan County but that he would never live to do the job. One week later he was dead. A charge of dynamite was concealed in his car and wired to the mechanism. When

he started the motor it exploded and killed him.

GEORGE S. WARD, secretary-treasurer of the Harlan County Coal Operators Association, told the LaFollette committee that it took "considerable money to resist union organization in the county." The testimony of later witnesses showed that it takes considerable murder, too.

Other revelations before the committee made very clear the method by which Harlan County coal operators were able to maintain their brutal reign of terror to prevent union organization. Sheriff Theodore Middleton testified that he had saved and invested \$102,000 in his three years and four months in office, although his salary was a little less than \$4,000 a year. He refused to say where he got the rest of the money, though he did mention that the largest coal operators endorsed his performance bond and that he was part owner in a company store where the miners had to spend their wage scrip and which made a profit of 170 per cent in a year.

Sheriff Middleton revealed that he had appointed 379 deputies during his term in office, 104 of whom had criminal records, and that of these only seven or eight were paid by the county. The rest of these deputies were paid directly by the coal operators.

SOUTHERN workers who live in company towns know that these conditions

are not peculiar to Harlan County, although Harlan County displays them at their worst. They know that the same sort of thing goes on year in and year out in thousands of little Southern towns where one boss or one little clique of bosses owns the town's only industry and controls with an iron hand the whole political, social and economic life of the community.

And Southern workers by the hundreds of thousands are demonstrating by their actions that they have learned what to do to smash this boss tyranny. They are forming great mass industrial unions, organizing the unorganized, rallying to the great organization drive of the C. I. O. The next step is for labor to develop its own political power and elect its own officers and law makers. Then the terrorist rule of the bosses in Harlan County and in the company towns will be broken.

HARLAN miners are fighting people in the face of the worst kind of oppression and violence they have struggled heroically for years to assert their right to organize. Now they are breaking through. Not long ago, an open union mass meeting was held in Harlan County, and 1,000 signed up at that one meeting. Last month the coal operators, hard pressed by the union, drive and by the public exposure of their record in the LaFollette committee hearings, announced that they were ending the system of company-paid deputies which served them so long and so well in keeping Harlan County tightly under their control.

The independent kingdom of the Harlan County Coal Operators Association is crumbling. Harlan County is about to be made safe for democracy.

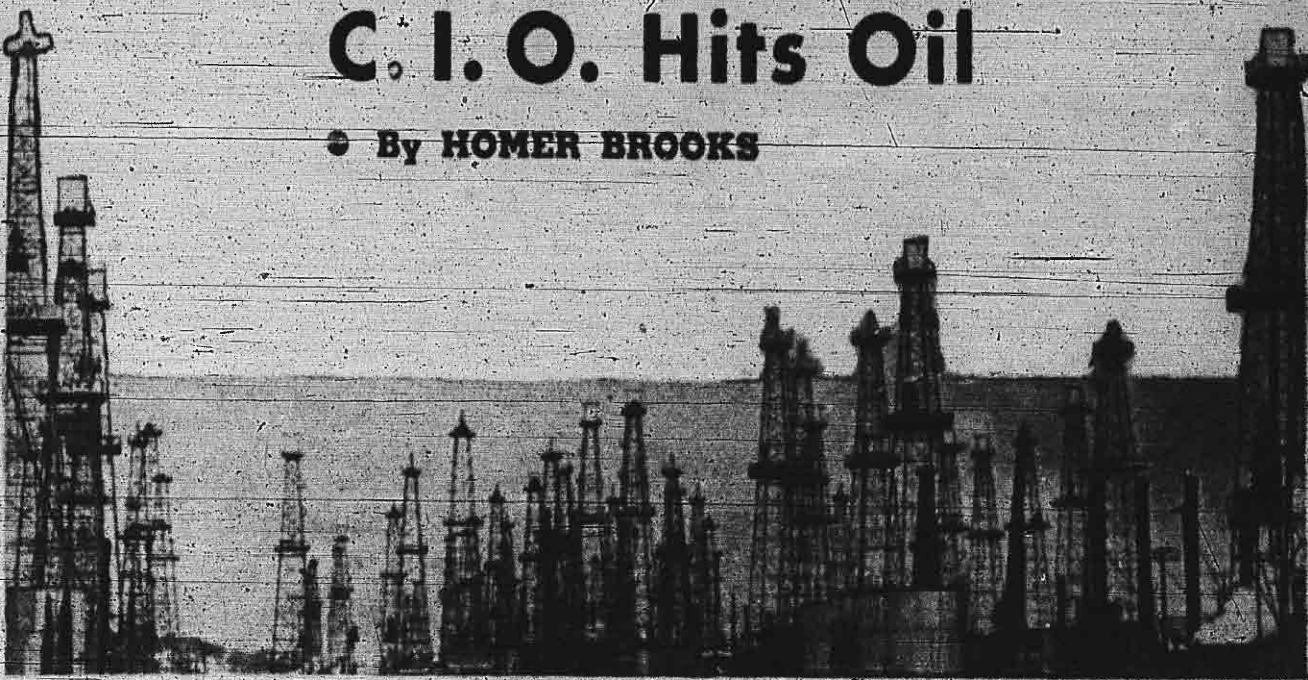


Here is the mugshot gallery photograph of Ted Creech, the Harlan County, Kentucky, boss who was arrested in Washington, D. C., charged with perjury before the Senate Civil Liberties Committee. He was taken to police station by Washington detectives where he was obliged to submit to having his picture taken for the police records. The number plate shows him to be prisoner No. 41887. The above picture will be of special interest to the miners of Harlan County, especially those who have been already tried to put in Harlan County bluff on the detectives while on the way to the police station. "You don't do that to me," Creech shouted to the detective. "Come on, you're going to the police station," replied the detective. Creech was slated, mugged and finger-printed on the arrival at the police station.

—Reprinted from United Mine Workers Journal

C. I. O. Hits Oil

• By HOMER BROOKS



THE great wave of organization and labor militancy which is sweeping the country has struck the oil fields of Texas and the Southwest. Hundreds of thousands of oil workers are feeling new hope, new strength, new confidence in themselves as the C.I.O., fresh from its stirring victories in the auto and steel industries, opens its great organizing drive in oil.

Oil is a prosperous industry to lay for the companies. In the last two years profits of the oil companies have swelled to the bursting point. But none of this has been passed on to the worker. Instead, speed-up and new methods of production have made the job of the oil field worker much harder and, in some lines of work, much more dangerous.

Speedup methods have brought the time required to dig a well to less than half of what it was 10 years ago. But the money saved by this increased efficiency has gone into the profits of the big companies, not into the wages of the workers.

BESIDES speed-up the average oil field worker is plagued by lack of steady employment, insecurity of jobs, inadequate safety measures, and lowness of wages, especially annual earnings.

The \$14,000,000,000 petroleum industry employs about 1,000,000 workers, including those in transportation and distribution. It is another great trustified industry such as the C.I.O. faced in the steel drive. An idea of the fat profits it pays the oil magnates can be gathered from the following figures, gathered by the Labor Research Association, showing profits of only a few of the companies during 1935 and 1936.

	1935	1936
Consolidated Oil Corp.	\$11,306,364	\$10,300,000
Atlantic Refining Co.	1,210,501	7,347,197
Phillips Petroleum Co.	15,121,793	17,825,169
Mid-Continent Petroleum	2,417,173	1,652,000
Ohio Oil Co. (Standard)	5,108,267	7,881,371
Shelby Oil	2,585,819	4,619,000
Standard Oil Co. of Ohio	2,690,817	4,194,315
Texas Corp.	17,065,037	34,000,000
Union Oil of California	5,038,184	6,133,398

PETROLEUM is the life blood of industry in this machine age, for without it not a single piece of machinery could be run for very long. Yet, by means of holding companies, interlocking directorates, and such devices, most of the oil industry is controlled throughout the world by two great monopoly groups. One is headed by the Standard Oil Companies and the other by the British-owned Royal Dutch Shell Company.

The oil workers and the C.I.O. have picked a tough crowd to fight. But the steel workers are conquering the mighty steel trust and the oil workers can and will do the same.

The oil workers have learned some valuable lessons from the unsuccessful drives of a few years ago. During the early period of the N.R.A. tens of thousands of oil workers flocked into the union. Almost as quickly they dropped out again. There were two main reasons for this.

ONE was that the leaders of the Oil Workers Union had not learned that workers can win improvements in their conditions only through their own organized power and militancy. Hence they put their reliance entirely on government mediation and arbitration and blocked every effort of the oil workers to strike to enforce their rights.

The other reason was that a rigid and inflexible form of organization was attempted. Usually the main problems of such major groupings of field workers as drilling crews, pipe-liners and rig-builders can only be settled on a regional basis. But no regional organizations existed to handle such problems.

Sub-councils, or some other special organizational form through which concentrated, effective action can be taken by each major division of the field workers on a state-wide, or even Mid-Continent scale,

must be created if the drive in the oil industry is to succeed.

A STEP in the right direction was taken by the Executive Council of the Oil Workers Union during its Houston meeting last April. That meeting authorized a special conference of rig-builders on a Mid-Continent scale. If this is followed up by similar conferences of the other major groups it will make possible quick organization of the majority of the field workers.

The enthusiasm for organization among the oil workers has got the companies scared. Most of the big companies have already granted three successive wage increases in an effort to stall off the union. But the oil workers see through this strategy, just as the steel workers did when it was tried on them. They understand that the threat of unionization won them the increases and that a strong union will therefore win them much more.

The first few weeks of the drive have already brought important victories. Local 227 in Houston won a contract with the Rodnal Oil Company providing for union recognition, increased wages, and the 40-hour week. It also won the reinstatement of one of its leaders, Joe Wright, who had been fired for union activity.

ORGANIZATION of the oil workers means as much to the Southwest as organization of the textile workers does to Georgia and the Carolinas. The successful organization of both oil and textiles in the South will mean increased wages, better living and working conditions, the end of the speedup. It will mean strong unions for all the workers and the beginning of labor's political influence over state and local governments, whose forces in the past have always been directed against the workers.

That is why the entire labor movement must throw its full strength behind these great drives to organize the unorganized.

A PAGE FOR SOUTHERN WOMEN

CONDUCTED BY MARY CRAIK SPEED

Pratt City, Ala.

Dear Mrs. Speed:

The coal strike is over and the miners have won higher wages to help us keep the wolf away from the door. But I wonder how many realize the important part played by the women in winning this victory. Let me tell you a story.

George (that's my husband) is a good union man and he always wanted me to be strong union, too. He used to bring the Southern Worker or the United Mine Workers Journal home at night and say, "Jennie, my eyes hurt. Read this to me." So I would read to him and little by little I learned what the United Miners meant to the workers. I saw that George's fight was my fight.

So when the strike dragged on the third and fourth week, we would discuss the problem together. We didn't have much to eat but we knew that if we stuck together we would win and that the children and I would all be better off.

Pretty soon the local's treasury was spent and the District Office had spent all the money they had. The district officers, Brother Mitch, Ferry, Jones, and so on, were going without wages, too. Some of the men were put on W.P.A. but most of them were not.

"You know Tom Fellows," he said. "Sure," I answered, "he's that miner who used to belong to the Popsicle."

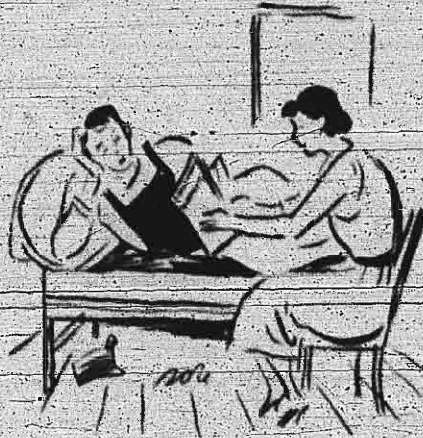
"That's right," said George. "You remember how he came over to the union last year and brought about 30 Brotherhood men with him?" "I sure do," I answered. Fellows had a lot of influence.

"Well," says George, "I saw him today and I am afraid he is going back to the Brotherhood because the Company is furnishing groceries to the Brotherhood men.

If he goes, there may be a rush back. And this is bad because Mr. Mitch is already negotiating with the operators and a settlement is in sight. If a lot of men go over to the Popsicle now, the Company will hold out."

"I am going over to see MRS. Fellows," I said.

On my way, I ran into Tom Fellows. "Mr. Fellows," I said, "how are you all making out?"



He looked at me sort of bitter. "Terrible," he says. "There ain't a thing to eat in the house."

"That's the way it is with us, too," I said cheerfully, "but it won't be long now." So I talked on for a few minutes about how good it would be to get that 50c a day more.

"That's what I told my wife," he exploded, "but she can't see it. She nags me night and day, all the time. I can't stand it any more. You know, Mrs. Davis, I'm going over to the Brotherhood now and sign up."

"Oh, Mr. Fellows," I said, surprised like

"I thought you were a UNION man."

"I have been," he says, "but I can't stand that damn woman's nagging, excuse the language."

"Suppose we go over now and talk to your wife," I suggested, and he rubbed his head and agreed. So we went to see Mrs. Fellows.

Now she was just like most miners' wives. I told her what we women had gone through to build the union, how we and our children had gone hungry in the past so that we would have the protection of the union. The union had given us more bread, more meat and potatoes. It would give us even more if we stood by it now. I told her the women even more than the men needed the union.

She knew I was honest. She knew I had children and that I raised them right. She knew that I went to church often and that I was telling the truth.

"I believe you are right, Mrs. Davis," she said slowly. "Maybe I been mighty unfair to Tom."

Thursday and Friday passed and Tom stood firm. Then Saturday evening, Brother Mitch's office phoned out that a settlement had been made. We had won our demands and the men would go back to work Monday.

So I think this story shows that women are important.

Very truly,

JENNIE DAVIS.

P.S. I hereby certify that the above story is correct as stated. However, the real reason I made Jennie read to me from the workers' papers was not because my eyes hurt me. I just wanted to get her interested in the union. And I sure did.

Yours truly,

GEORGE DAVIS.

LETTERS FROM PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH

C.I.O. Comes to Mobile

Mobile, Ala.

Editor, The Southern Worker.

The C.I.O. officially entered this section of the deep South last month when 500 colored and white shipyard workers heard John Green explain the aims and purpose of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, affiliated with the C.I.O.

We are the first port south of Virginia to

have a local of the C.I.O. Shipyard Union. Most of our members work in the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding Co., the largest drydock in the Gulf.

We in Mobile were the first to break the ice. But from what we hear from New Orleans, Beaumont and Galveston, it looks like it won't be long before all 8,000 shipyard workers in the Gulf will sign up.

Our union means a lot to Mobile. It has always been an open shop town. We expect to change that in a big way.

—L. M.

Farmers Need Wagner Act

St. Landry's Parish, La.

Editor, The Southern Worker.

I am working on halves. I had to give

a lien on my crop to get something to eat for my family. The landlord asked me if I had given a lien on my crop. I told him it was true. He said he didn't allow that on his place. And then he said if I joined the union I must look for another place.

I would like to have some teams and tools so that I could work on thirds. Put this in the Southern Worker.

—Member of Louisiana Farmers' Union.



I DON'T ALLOW THAT ON MY PLACE !!

