

SCOTTSBORO---THE 20TH CENTURY DRED SCOTT CASE DRAWS SHARP AND CLEAR LINES OF CLASS STRUGGLE

Students Unite On Scottsboro

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crimination in the colleges and high schools.

Plans are already under way to organize a delegation of college editors to go to Alabama during the Christmas holidays to present a student petition demanding the immediate release of the Scottsboro boys.

In the letter of the I.L.D. protesting the "Nation's" attack on the mass fight and peddling of the lies of Samuel S. Leibowitz that the I.L.D. had collected "several hundred thousand dollars" for the Scottsboro defense, Anna Damon brands the editorial as a deliberate distortion of facts, and a web of outright untruths, and demands a retraction of these statements and the publication in full of the protest of the I.L.D.

"Nation" Lies on Funds

"Perhaps one of the most revealing things about the 'Nation' editorial," she writes the editors, "is a matter of omission rather than commission. Nowhere in the entire editorial do we find any attack upon the state of Alabama or its courts or officials for their frame-up of the boys, nor for their manner of conducting the trials."

Damon points out that the "Nation" has been kept fully informed on the sums collected by the I.L.D. in the case and that such information was readily available, and that therefore the "Nation's" statement that "several hundred thousand dollars have been raised for propaganda" in the Scottsboro case can lead to no other conclusion than that the editors of the "Nation" have deliberately misstated the facts. The financial statement of the I.L.D., showing a total of \$55,194.32 raised and spent by the I.L.D. on the Scottsboro case, was sent at that time to the editors of the "Nation." Damon points out in her letter to the editors. In addition, the I.L.D. has spent several thousand dollars more on the case than it has collected.

Reply to "Nation"

"Without the 'propaganda' the Scottsboro boys would not have been alive today, according to your own admission," she reminds the "Nation" editors, "and without it the huge amounts—between forty and fifty thousand dollars—which have been involved in purely legal expenses, could not have been raised."

In the editorial objected to, the "Nation" admitted:

"There is small question that only the widespread publicity which the mass pressure movement gave to the case could have produced this result (that the defendants are still alive after three and a half years—Editor of the Daily Worker). There can be no doubt, however, that mass protest does, at a certain point, stiffen the resistance of the organized forces—in this case the courts of Alabama—against which it is directed."

Wholly ignoring the fact that eight of the nine boys had been sentenced to burn in the electric chair before the I.L.D. took over their defense, the "Nation" then proceeded to attack the mass defense tactics of the I.L.D.

Issue of National Oppression

Damon also takes issue with the "Nation's" attempt to hide the monstrous national oppression of the Negro people which shows itself at every point in the Scottsboro case.

In answer to the "impartial" protest of the "Nation," "Nation's"

Liberation Fight Is the Challenge to Lynch Rule in U. S. A.

By HARRY HAYWOOD

WITH the approach of the day set for the first executions in the Scottsboro case, Feb. 8, and the appeal coming before the Supreme Court in the cases of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, it is necessary to make absolutely clear the issues that are involved in this attempt of the government to wipe out the lives of nine innocent Negro boys seized in a typical lynch frame-up in Alabama three and a half years ago.

The fight for the liberation of the boys has crystallized opposing class forces around the Scottsboro case. As the famous Dred Scott case before the Civil War became the wedge that drove a sharp and deep line between the forces of reaction supporting slavery and the forces fighting for the abolition of the feudal slave system, so the Scottsboro case has become the Dred Scott case of the twentieth century separating with unerring accuracy friends and enemies of the fight for Negro rights, for the liberation of the Scottsboro boys, for the smashing of the lynch system, clearly differentiating all progressive forces from reaction.

True Meaning Clear

Despite the desperate efforts of the reformists and such organs as the "Nation" to conceal the true issues at stake in the Scottsboro fight, the real meaning of the fight has not escaped either the ruling class lynchers or the oppressed Negro masses. To the ruling class, the landlords and plantation masters of the South, the fight for the liberation of the Scottsboro boys is a challenge to their rule, a challenge to the whole system upon which rests their exploitation and oppression of the Negro masses.

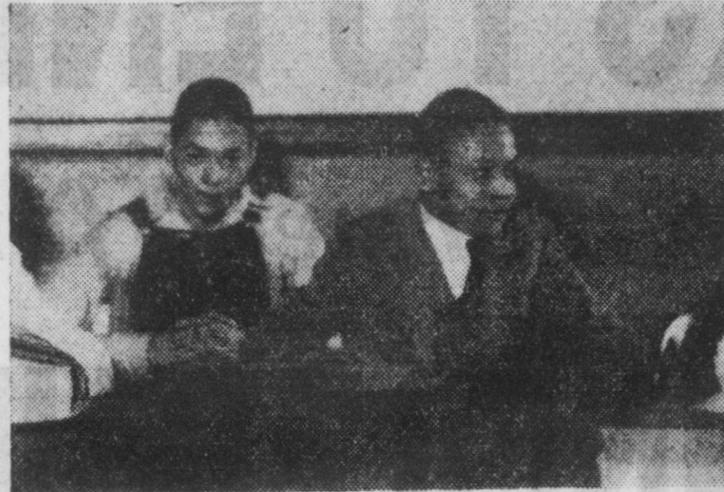
To the Negro masses, the Scottsboro case has become the vital symbol of their struggle for liberation. It has brought new hope, new energy and the will to struggle.

White House Approval

The Scottsboro case today, seen in this light, has become also the spearhead of the whole reactionary offensive of the Roosevelt New Deal against the Negro people. The legalized wage differentials of the N.R.A. codes, giving official White House sanction to the jim-crow discrimination against the Negro workers, the eviction of Negro sharecroppers by the thousands under the provisions of the Bankhead cotton destruction program signed by Roosevelt, the rising reign of terrorism throughout the South as evidenced in the growth of fascist bands—all point to the fact that the headquarters of the terrorism and oppression of the Negro masses, symbolized in the lynch frame-up of the Scottsboro boys, is in the White House. It is the Federal government supported by Wall Street finance capital that is the backbone of the terrorism against the Negro masses, that leads the forces of reaction for the execution of the Scottsboro boys, for the maintenance of the lynch system, that supports and organizes the growing fascist reaction throughout the country, directed with especial viciousness against the Negro masses. Roosevelt's deliberate silence on the matters is only the expression of his consent and approval.

Two Opposing Lines

The recent attack led by Leibowitz on the Scottsboro defense, with the support of leading elements in the Ministers Alliance and Negro bour-



Clarence Norris and Heywood Patterson, two Scottsboro defendants, who are sentenced to die February 8.

geois publicists, can be understood best in this light. It is obvious that the "liberal" notion that the fight between Leibowitz and the I.L.D. is merely a "quarrel" is a miserable distortion. It is, on the contrary, the struggle between two fundamentally opposed lines, two camps, two class viewpoints. The Leibowitz attack is only the latest and most desperate of a long series of attacks which the ruling class has launched against the working class defense from the very beginning of the case. Its very unscrupulousness and desperation reflects the class character and purposes of the Leibowitz attack.

The Leibowitz attack is the continuation, in its basic tactics and purposes, of the attack begun by the Negro reformists led by the N.A.A.C.P.

The line of this series of attacks has always been the same, to strip the case of its social significance, to separate the case from the roots of national oppression which is the soil out of which grows the whole lynch terror, to conceal from the masses the class character of the courts, urging the masses to place their faith in these "impartial" courts, to disorganize the mass movement and turn it away from militant action. In short, to shrink the whole struggle and protect the basis of the ruling class oppression, to conceal the role of the Federal government as the organizer and supporter of the lynch terrorism.

"Bargaining" Tactic

From this fundamentally treacherous strategy follows their immediate tactic in the Scottsboro case. This explains the line of Leibowitz and the reformists who have grouped about him for "bargaining," for a "compromise," for "negotiation" with the lynchers in the Scottsboro case.

Their line is to "compromise" in the sense that they give up completely the fight for the full and unconditional release of the boys, and strive to convince the lynchers of the benefits to "both sides" of some kind of horse-trading in the case.

This, as can already be seen in the moves of the Leibowitz group supported by the Negro reformists, takes the form of "sacrificing" one or more of the boys to provide a loophole for the sentencing of another group of the boys, thus splitting the case.

Thus, this line, under the appearance of "practicality," really permits the lynchers to solve the Problem of the case for themselves without surrendering one iota of their class rule, and permits the reformists to strengthen their hold over the masses under the guise of a "victory." Actually, of course, this line is the worst

treachery to the boys, and to the whole fight for Negro rights against the lynch oppression.

Crawford Case

In the recent Crawford case the results of this line were revealed in all their treachery. Here an innocent Negro worker was sentenced to die. The reformists succeeded in choking off any mass fight for his liberation, and "bargained" with the courts, and won the "victory" of two life imprisonment sentences for the defendant. The innocence of Crawford was forgotten and prostituted to the uses of the lynchers and the reformists, both uniting to hush up the class character of the whole frame-up! Such is the "victory" for which Leibowitz, N. A. A. C. P. groups, and "liberals" of the nation, are now struggling in their fight against the I. L. D.

Aid Lynch Courts

These "defenders" of the boys justify every tactic of the Southern prosecution. They gave the reactionaries every aid in the recent "bribery" frame-up against the I. L. D. lawyers, Cohen and Swift. On the question of the Supreme Court appeals they justified the cunning trickery of the Alabama courts in attempting to block the appeal moves of the I. L. D. attorneys in the Haywood Patterson case launching their assaults at the I. L. D., not the courts. In the "Red scare" maneuvers of the lynchers, the reformists and Leibowitz gave willing aid, adding to the provocations of the lynchers their own provocations.

The Leibowitz attacks, combining the hypocrisy of "gentlemanly" procedure with the methods typical of gangsterism, are only the culmination of these attacks against the class line of the I. L. D. defense, and have for their purpose the betrayal of the boys into the hands of the courts and the lynchers, leaving the boys unprotected by any mass movement.

Against this line of treachery, the I. L. D. places its fundamental slogan of unconditional freedom for every one of these innocent Negro boys, striking the lynch frame-up with its two-fisted policy of best legal defense supported by the power of mass protest.

It would be seriously wrong to underestimate the significance of the Leibowitz attacks. It is not only Leibowitz who is involved. Leibowitz represents and has the support of the whole ruling class machinery as well as the Negro reactionary and reformist leadership, in his fight against the I. L. D. And these attacks have had their effect in creating confusion and bewilderment in sections of the population sincerely interested in fighting for the liberation of the boys.

Without softening for a single

Is Vital Symbol of the Whole Struggle of Negro Masses

moment our exposure of the Leibowitz attacks and their purposes, without for one moment surrendering the independent role of the Communist Party and the I. L. D., we must now make our main objective the building of the broadest united front. The united front—this is our best weapon against the reformists and for the liberation of the boys.

In this fight for united front of all forces sincerely interested in fighting to free the boys, our main slogan is "Unconditional release of all the Scottsboro Boys." On this slogan there can be no compromise or bargaining.

The united front set up through the National Scottsboro-Herndon Action Committee must be immediately strengthened and broadened. Local united front committees should be built up and communications made with the National Committee at 2376 Seventh Ave., N. Y. C.

Broad united front conferences of all supporters of the Scottsboro fight should be stimulated and organized.

With this slogan as our main weapon we must make formal offers for united front to all locals of the so-called American Scottsboro Committee, wherever they exist. Proposals for joint action should be dispatched to the Socialist Party locals, to trade unions, to Negro church groups, and other mass organizations.

The appeals are coming before the Supreme Court, the court around which have been built the most illusions.

The date of the first execution has been set for February 8. There is no time to lose. Act now for the building of the united front to free the Scottsboro boys under the slogan "Unconditional Liberation for All the Scottsboro Boys."

New York Raises \$3,850 at Banquet

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see which can muster the greater strength and the wider support for the moment when a decisive struggle between the two takes place."

Just as there is no time to lose in other aspects of this life and death race, Hathaway pointed out, so is there no time to lose in building the Daily Worker and increasing its circulation. "The Daily Worker is one of our greatest guarantees in this race," he said. "We must make it an ironclad guarantee."

Krumbein, in a brisk talk, praised the work of mass organizations and Communist Party groups in the fund drive, but pointed out that there could be no praise without criticism as long as the \$60,000 objective of the drive was not reached.

"Even now," Krumbein said, "although we have not yet emerged from the last stages of the drive, we must begin to think seriously of building the Daily Worker's circulation in this city to the minimum figure of 50,000. Financial security cannot mean anything to our paper if it does not mean a vastly increased circulation. We are raising this money not merely so that the Daily Worker can continue, we are trying to assure the paper of the means to grow. We must begin now to supply as much, and more, energy to the task of building circulation as we are applying to the fund drive."

James Casey, managing editor of the Daily Worker, outlined the daily tasks confronting the paper in its role as the revolutionary organizer and spokesman of American workers. Pointing to the growing legal and extra-legal terror against workers and working class organizations, Casey declared: "Though the terror grows, though workers and

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