

# WHAT WE MUST DO AT ONCE

## Next Organizational Steps in the Scottsboro Defense

By Anna Damon

With December 7th, the date set for the execution of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, drawing dangerously near, at a time when all the true friends of the boys should be straining every effort to save their lives and win their freedom, a number of people, lawyers, Negro ministers, Negro reformist misleaders, are indulging in manouvers which are not only creating great confusion in the minds of thousands of Negro and white workers, but are actually playing into the hands of the Alabama lynch lords.

The manouvers are explained and exposed elsewhere in this issue. Here we will concern ourselves with what we must do to develop the broadest Scottsboro campaign and to get all the true friends of the defense to do.

### WHAT THE MOTHERS ARE DOING

The determined spirit of the four Scottsboro mothers here in New York at this time to carry on mass protests on even a greater scale than before, should serve as an inspiration to all. When an agent of the misleaders, a Negro woman reporter, came to one of the press conferences arranged by the I.L.D. proceeded to slander the I.L.D., before the other reporters and before the mothers, they listened carefully to her speech. They smiled a little when she told them that "the best people, colored and white" who had been helping their boys would leave them if they did not repudiate the I.L.D., Mrs. Montgomery spoke up, "You say you're from some paper. Well put this in your paper. My boy is in jail for something he ain't done for the same reason that other Negro boys is being lynched."

This is how the mothers understand the class struggle program of the I.L.D. which has kept the boys alive for 3½ years. Only a few days ago the four mothers attempted to address a meeting of the ministers alliance and in spite of the fact that they were not permitted to take the floor and the chairman kept banging on the table with his gavel, one of the mothers stood up and told them what she thought of them and who the only friends of the boys were.

### CONFERENCES

1. Broadest emergency conferences, involving organizations of all kinds, on the widest united front basis—churches, trade unions, fraternal organizations, reformist organizations—must be held *at once*. They must work out a concrete plan of work, action, meetings, demonstrations and should constitute themselves Scottsboro Herndon Action Committees.

*These postcards addressed to the U. S. Supreme Court must be mailed by thousands. Order at once from National office—75c per 100.*



### ACTION COMMITTEES

2. Every I.L.D. district committee should appoint a special Scottsboro Action Committee to work within and with the united front committee and independently to spur on the work of swamping the U. S. Supreme Court, the President, the Governor of Alabama, with protests and resolutions demanding the immediate and complete freedom of all the boys.

### PROTESTS

3. Protests in the form of post cards, telegrams, letters, resolutions must be called for, organized and *sent off*. Street and indoor meetings, daylight and torch-light parades using trucks covered with placards and loud speakers wherever possible, should be organized to converge upon the city halls where delegations should call on the mayors and city officials demanding their protest action to the President and to Governor Miller of Alabama.

### LEAFLETS

4. Leaflets, calling for immediate mass action, exposing the role of the splitters and reformists and most important of all, carrying a detachable blank addressed to the U. S. Supreme Court must be put into the hands of hundreds of thousands from coast to coast.

### FUNDS

5. Funds must be raised more energetically and rapidly than ever before. The legal, and even more important at this moment, the *mass campaigns* must not be hindered or held back for lack of funds. This situation will certainly develop unless all members and friends of the I.L.D. utilize every mass protest action, every conference, every meeting, every oppor-

tunity for raising funds for the Scottsboro Herndon Defense and send them into the National Office at once.

### I.L.D. RECRUITING

6. The best answer to the slanderers of the I.L.D., the best weapon in the fight to free the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon and all class war prisoners, will be an unparalleled recruiting drive for thousands of new members for the I.L.D. within the next few months. A mass defense organization will build the strongest shield for the working class in its fight against terror, will build an impenetrable wall against all enemies and slanderers.

The time is too short for lengthy discussion or analyses. Lagging behind in the Scottsboro Herndon Campaign at this moment when strenuous efforts are being made to cripple the defense and hand the two boys over to the executioners on December 7th, will be doing just what the lynchers and their assistants want more than anything else at this time. **ACTION—PROTEST—AT ONCE—EVERY DAY—CAN AND WILL LEAD THE I.L.D. TO VICTORY IN THE THREE AND A HALF YEARS BATTLE FOR THE LIVES OF NINE INNOCENT BOYS.**