

A "Russian Heathen" Tells B'ham Jailers About "Ism"

By Eugene Braxton

I was thrown into the Birmingham City Jail on September 1 and later I was transferred to the county jail. There they took my finger-prints. When they put me in the city jail they put me in "523.C" where they put murderers or very dangerous criminals.

The county jail is a burning hell for the Negro workers. The same day I was released they sent a Negro worker to the mat-killing chain gang for 32 days without a trial. When this worker told the sheriff that he had not had a trial the sheriff said: "To hell with you!" When the worker refused to go the sheriff got his gun and said "Get the hell out here before I kill you." That is what the bosses call justice.

The Dog House

In this county jail they make the workers have church services on Tuesday night and Sunday. If they

start the meeting and there is any one who doesn't feel like singing they will put him in the dog house. In this dog house you can't get any air and they pour water in the cell and you have to stand up all night because they won't give you no bed to sleep on. If you sleep any you have to sleep in the gutter.

Too Much "ism"

The second day I was in jail the officer who arrested me came over and tried to buy me off by telling me that I was just disgracing myself by fooling with the Reds. Then they told me: "See, you have been in jail twice and you never were in jail until you started fooling with them Russian heathens." I told them "Never did I fool with the right thing until I started fooling with the Russian heathens." And I told them it was no disgrace to go to jail when you go there for the right thing. After they saw they could not buy me off they said they just wanted to talk with me and try to get some of that "ism" out of my head. I told them that what was the matter today was that we all have too much "ism" in our heads, and capitalism at that.

We white- and colored workers must organize together in strong masses and break down this damn rotten system which is oppressing both Negro and white.

in Sent From Another--In Vain

compensation Burrows flatly refused to advance cash or any aid until he heard from the New York office. He is making the statement that it will be at least eight days before he could