

SOUTHERN WORKER

The Paper of the Southern Toilers

Vol. III, No. 12

Birmingham, Ala., July, 1934

Price 2 Cents

STRIKE WAVE SWEEPS SOUTH

I. L. D. To Appeal Lynch Verdict of Ala. Supreme Court; Demands Action from President Roosevelt

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Striking out all testimony in the trials on the grounds of a vicious trick technicality, the Alabama Supreme Court refused to consider the merits of the case and affirmed the death sentences against Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the innocent Scottsboro boys. Their date of execution has been set for August 31.

The decision of the Alabama Supreme Court was unanimous. Associate Justice Lucien Gardner, wrote the decision, which sounds more like the speech of a prosecutor. In it he whitewashes the jury commissioners for the forgery of names on the jury rolls, and claims that the fact that no Negroes ever serve on juries in Jackson county is not proof at all that they are discriminated against. The Supreme Court ruling also upheld Judge (Lynch) Callahan in his barring of important testimony from the trials and added that all of the judges of the Alabama Supreme Court think the death sentence should not be "disturbed."

An appeal from this decision will be carried to the United States Supreme Court once again, the I. L. D. has already announced. The filing of this appeal will automatically stay the planned legal lynching on August 31.

NEW YORK.—Fulfilling the request of President Roosevelt made on May 14, through his secretary, Marvin MacIntyre to the Scottsboro mothers at the White House, the I. L. D. mailed him a complete statement on the Scottsboro case, demanding his intervention, and quoting the precedent set for such action by Woodrow Wilson in the Tom Mooney case.

"Your actions in these and other instances compel us to recall the following statement among the catalog of oppressive acts set forth in the Declaration of Independence as the occasion and necessity for the revolution of 1776: 'In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injuries.'

"We demand that you act as chief executive of the United States government to secure the immediate, unconditional and safe releases of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys. We demand that you set to enforce all the democratic rights of the Negro people and the working class enumerated in the Constitution. We demand full equal rights, economic, political and social, for Negroes, and the right of self-determination for the Negro people in the Black Belt of the South. We further demand the release of Angus Morrison, Tom Mooney and all victims of class op-

Herndon Granted Bail

(Story on Page 4)



ANGELO HERNDON

NEWS FLASH: Winifred Chapel, leader of the Methodist Federation of Social Service, Rev. Theodore Miner of Philadelphia, and John Howard Lawson, prominent playwright, Martin Russak, editor of the Textile Workers' Voice, Herbert Abrams, American Civil Liberties Union member, and William Serber, both of Yale University, will join with a group of prominent southern intellectuals to investigate the treatment of Angelo Herndon in Fulton Tower, Atlanta, and will then proceed to Birmingham, Alabama to see the Scottsboro boys and investigate growing fascism and the denial of rights to workers. They will hold open meetings to test the rights of free speech. The denial of constitutional rights and the raiding of workers' homes by police were important factors in deciding on the investigation.

pression. We demand that you take steps to stop the lynching and oppression of the Negro people, the murder of striking workers, and the increasing brutal attacks upon the masses of impoverished and unemployed workers and poor farmers and their organizations." It is signed by Wm. L. Patterson, secretary of the I. L. D.

White Legion—Fascist Spy Gang Against Workers

By Nat Ross

"Are you opposed to Communism? Are you willing to do all within your power, honorably, legally, and with your ballot, to defeat the purposes and practices of Communists and all other radical agencies in their efforts to embarrass and destroy the American government, its courts and juries?" These are two questions to which you must answer "yes," if you apply for membership in the White Legion, the Fascist organization of Commissioner W. O. Brown, Judge Alcorn and Roanoke Ford and others of the Birmingham (T.C.L.) government. New masters of the old Ku

Bankhead Bill, AAA Hit Farm Toilers—Aid Landlords.

By H. G. Share Croppers' Union Leader

DADEVILLE, Ala.—Roosevelt's promises don't feed empty bellies. His N.R.A. means "No Rights At All." The A.A.A. with its acreage reduction program is just a "New Steak." Bankhead's gin tax bill on cotton is just another part of the robbery scheme. It means hunger, evictions, and forced labor, while giving riches to the landlords.

Bankhead Bill

"What does the Bankhead cotton gin tax bill mean to me?" is the question sharecroppers and tenants ask. In a meeting of the Sharecroppers' Union we discussed this.

"As I see it, this law will force me to further starvation," spoke a tenant. "It sets the number of bales of lint cotton I'm allowed to sell without the tax. No telling what this may be. The bosses control the committee that decides this. Maybe I'll sell one or two bales out of the four to six I raise. And for the rest, I'll have to sell at 5c a pound. I got to sell it to get some food. It won't even be enough to pay my other debts on making the crop."

Boss Gets His

"Death to the croppers, or revolution," grimly begins a destitute sharecropper, as his opinion of the bill. "It will be another big steal for the landlords. How do we know that the bosses will let us have any tax free bales? We saw what we got out of the 'plow under' checks, and this spring the renting of land to the government. The bosses will see that the sales going tax free will be fixed so he gets his, and we'll have to sacrifice at 5c a pound, or let the landlord put it in his pool. Once in there we'll never hear any more about it."

Rent Over Double

A standard, or what you call "sure-rent" tenant, speaks. "Now I'm supposed to get the full benefit payments for renting fifteen acres to the government. But the

(Turn to Page 2)

Klux Klan are reported organized in rural northern Alabama and Bibb Graves, former K.K.K. governor is slated for a new term. But Hiram Evans, who calls himself an imperial wizard, has a new rival in the person of Robert Gulette, directing head of the White Legion and receiver of the \$5 dues each member is supposed to pay.

They Can't Stop Communists

"The White Legion was organized to stop Communists," they openly state in a letter to prospective members.

"We are doing this too," they boast in a circular which reveals

(Turn to Page 2)

Ore, Coal Miners, Longshoremen Lead Way; N.R.A. Officials, A.F.L Big Shots Stall Steel and Textile

Fighting militantly against every force of terror and suppression the bosses are able to muster, and breaking down the barriers against the unity of white and Negro, the toilers of the South are sweeping forward in a wave of strike struggles which mark a new era in southern labor history.

TEXTILE WORKERS ATTACKED

ANDERSON, S. C.—Armed scabs, deputies and state highway patrolmen united to attack pickets of the Orr Cotton Mills when workers went on strike here. Although greatly outnumbered the union men defended themselves, and fought back heroically. Gov. Blackwood ordered heavy forces of highway patrolmen to help break the strike and promised National Guard help if necessary. No warrants for inciting to riot or assault with intent to murder have been sworn out against the mill bosses.

Relief Workers Strike; Win Demands

GREENWOOD, Ark.—Relief workers, most of them unemployed miners and poverty-stricken farmers, struck here against a wage scale of 20 cents an hour, and won their fight.

Scabs were sent in, but the strikers picketed and kept them off the jobs.

The wage scale was increased to 30 cents an hour, and many who could get no relief before are now on the rolls.



ERNEST THAELMANN

Heroic leader of the German workers and anti-fascists and secretary of the Communist Party of Germany whom Hitler plans to murder this month!

Defying every effort of the fascists to break his undying spirit by torture, Thaelmann's life is in danger NOW. ONLY YOUR PROTEST, together with thousands of others can save him from the ruling class lynchers.

Write, telegraph or wire to Hans Luther, German Embassy, Washington, D. C. Demand the immediate release of our German fellow-workers and that the trial against Thaelmann be stopped.

(Turn to Page 2)

Sell-Out Agreement In One Braving the National Guards, company thugs and police, 8,500 red ore strikers of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., the Woodward Iron Co., Schloss-Sheffield Steel Co., and the Republic Steel Co. kept the ore mines shut down for eight weeks with mass picket lines of white and Negro workers. The sell-out agreement finally signed by officials of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (A. F. of L.) with the T. C. I. while marking some small gains of 3c to be an hour in wages of skilled workers, fails to call for union recognition for which the workers struck, gains no increase for common labor and leaves the hours at 8, instead of the 7 the strikers had demanded.

The settlement with the company also breaks the solidarity of the strike and is expected to force the other strikers back with few gains. The agreements also sends the ore miners back to work with many of their number under indictment on frame-up charges resulting from the armed clashes with scabs and deputies but with no prosecution of the company murderers of four Negro strikers.

Republic Steel Strike

In spite of the vicious injunction granted the Republic Steel bosses to prevent mass picketing in the strike of 400 white and Negro blast furnace workers at the Thomas plant, the strike still holds strong. Production is reported crippled although attempts are being made to operate with scab labor.

One hundred and fifty workers, brought in to scab, dropped their tools and walked out in solidarity with the strikers. This followed injuries to many of the inexperienced workers, including the loss of an arm by one. A series of bombing blamed on the strikers are believed to be the work of hired agents of the steel company as an effort to break the strike by provocation. Two workers who have been indicted for murder in the death of Green Patton, Negro scab, have just been granted bond after a habeas corpus hearing backed by the protests of masses of workers.

Longshoremen Struggle

Longshoremen in Mobile, New Orleans, Galveston, Gulfport, Norfolk, Va., and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., have all waged struggles for high or wages and overtime, with 1,000 Mobile strikers still out. In Gulfport port a strike which closed the port last week.

(Turn to Page 2)

More About STRIKE WAVE

any ships which had been handled by scabs in Mobile and continues for 70¢ an hour and \$1.05 for overtime.

Thirty-four workers have been indicted on framed-up charges in the strike of the Houston longshoremen, although no action has been taken against the armed guards of the Southern Steamship Co. who wounded four pickets when they opened fire on the picket line at the docks there on May 14. One worker is dead in the Mobile strike.

Defying the traitorous no-strike agreement which Wm. Mitch signed with the bosses to break the strike of more than 20,000 Alabama miners, 700 coal miners of the Moss and McCormack company's three mines in the Birmingham area, have struck over the heads of the U. M. W. A. officials for higher wages and against discrimination. Rainey, U. M. W. A. official, is working with representatives of the company to send the men back to work.

In Hopewell, Va., workers in the United Textile Workers Union pulled the switches and struck solid against the Tubize-Chattillon rayon plant, against the firing of union men. In Harriman, Tenn., a lock-out has followed a strike which has been holding out for months and which finally forced the N.R.A. to act against open violation of the textile code.

Butchers and packing house workers in Birmingham and Hamilton, lumber workers in Centerville, Ala., restaurant workers in Birmingham, Montgomery, taxi drivers in Chattanooga—throughout the South the masses are waging struggles. Pipe shop workers and milk drivers have already presented demands to the bosses, while Department of Labor and N.R.A. representatives are working frantically to "arbitrate" and prevent the spread of the strike wave.

More About BANKHEAD, A A A

"Boss says he is going to get it. Last year I paid two and one-half bales lint cotton per plough as rent on 32 acres. I worked two plows. This year the landlord is making me pay three bales on half this ground. It looks as if I won't get to sell many bales on what I raise. And I have not received any payment for renting the land on the acreage reduction scheme. I hear the landlords have gotten theirs."

"I'm a farm laborer," said another speaker. "of course I'm working for a cash tenant who's having hard pulling too. He feeds me on through the season and I get \$7.50 a month during the working season and two and a half acres which I put into corn."

Evictions, Forced Labor

"Evictions, hunger and forced labor, that's what this Acreage Reduction program means," explained a cropper. "The bosses rented the land and will get the checks according to the contracts. Many croppers were told to move off. Others are 'squating' in some shack. Landlord are asking some of them to pay rent, although the contract says they shouldn't. Most of them make these croppers, they don't need, after having reduced their acreage, work out the rent for being on the place. This way they get forced labor. Some are

Important News In Short

I. L. D. 9 YEARS OLD

Meetings throughout the U. S. A. are celebrating the 9th Anniversary of the International Labor Defense with a glorious record of struggle as "the shield of the working class," the I. L. D. reached its 9th Birthday on June 28, 1934.

"The ILD has a tremendous job to perform in the South," says Bob Lawrence, District organizer. "The attacks of the bosses are increasing and growing sharper. There is not a single democratic right that is not denied the Negro masses, and most of them are denied the white workers as well."

As the struggles against starvation conditions grow and develop, the ILD will be called upon more and more to defend the rights of the workers. We must draw thousands of new white and Negro workers into the ranks in order to successfully fight these new attacks of the bosses."

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—A delegate of the Share Croppers' Union will represent the toiling Negro women of the South at the International Women's Congress Against War in Paris, France on July 28. Elections being held throughout the locals of the union will decide who will leave shortly for New York, where the woman chosen will speak at a monster mass meeting before sailing for Paris.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A good example of what workers get when they put off struggle and wait for arbitration from the NRA, is shown by the textile workers experience. They got exactly nothing. "Under existing conditions there is no basis for any general increase in cotton textile code wage rate," says Henderson, NRA big shot.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Attempting to revive the Ku Klux Klan for a new weapon against the growing struggles of the workers and the Negro people, Hiram Evans, who calls himself an imperial wizard, has called a state-wide meeting for July 8 in Birmingham.

CLARKSDALE, Miss.—Two Negroes, Joe Love and Isaac Thomas, were lynched by a small, well organized mob near here after an argument over terms of their labor on a farm. They were accused of attacking the landlord's wife. The lynch gang had no trouble taking the prisoners from Sheriff Hanes, who later swore he recognized no one.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—When a Judge is forced to admit that a company thug committed assault and battery with a weapon he does the next best thing for his friends and makes the fine only \$5. That was what Judge Abernathy fined TCI deputy J. H. Bell for beating Ed Patterson, striking miner, with a pistol.

DECATUR, Ala.—Judge James E. Horton has been defeated for re-election in the Democratic primaries, the only issue against him being that he yielded to Russ pressure and revolted against the too open frame-up, when he granted a new trial in the Scottsboro case. Even before the regular campaign season, there has been a constant organized, underground campaign against him. Some reports claim a revival of the Klan in Northern Alabama had this as one of its purposes. Of course, Negroes as well as poor white workers and farmers who couldn't pay the poll tax weren't allowed to vote.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Eviction writs against 51 Republic Steel Blast Furnace strikers have been issued by the Ensley court and were served. The union local telegraphed President Roosevelt demanding that he stop the evictions and pointing out that the National Labor Board has been stalling their decision while strikers have been out for more two months.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Twenty cents a day for a family, is the average of relief payments in the Southern states, according to figures of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Six dollars a month for a whole family—if you get anything at all!

MOSCOW, U. S. S. R.—Steel production for Soviet Russia reached a new high on May 18, when 30,268 tons were produced. And wages keep going up.

PORT OF BIRINGHAM—Demanding the firing of two non-union foremen, seventy-five workers at the docks of the Inland Waterways Company docks on the Warrior River, have gone on a strike.

HOUSTON, Texas—A telegram of protest against the brutal lynching of Son Griggs, near Kirbyville, signed and sent by white and Negro members of the Houston Young Communist League, to the district attorney at Newton, was turned over to members (or should we say "other members?") of the Lynch gang by this official. An answering wire signed only by "two hundred and fifty men and women of Newton County" threatened any investigators of the lynching. Officials, including this same district attorney, claim to be unable to identify any members of the murder gang.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Warrants have been sworn out for four scabs who mobbed him at night, by Will Johnson, Negro union miner for the Red Diamond Coal Co.

thrown off the land. The contract says slow, sure death. Hardly any now the bosses can do this if they want. All they have to do is declare he is a "nuisance" or "menace" to his interest. Then it is a far 30¢ to 50¢ a day."

More About White Legion

their tie-up with Judge Abernathy, and their stool-pigeon role for the police. "We have broken up the I. L. D. headquarters, caused Laura Stark, Ned Rose and five others to be placed in jail. They are to be tried in Judge Ab's court today." We need your help and co-operation. Remember that we played a very important role in preventing the May Day celebration." Willie Barr, also active in local American Legion affairs, openly boasts of stealing property of the I. L. D. (money was also stolen) and of the support of Chief of Police Hollums in the thefts.

D. P. W. Stool Pigeons

Stool pigeons and labor fakers, please apply. That is the sign they ought to hang out on the new White Legion headquarters, 216 22nd street, N. Ben Scarborough member of the Birmingham Trade and Labor Council and cheap politician, who is rumored to be one of the White Legion leaders, has recently been given an \$18 a week job by Col. Bennett in Miss Roberta Morgan's Department of Public Welfare, while workers starve. At the same time Fred Horn, president of the Jefferson County Foremen's Assn. (A. F. of L.) and at least six others who are known to meet with the White Legion gang, have received similar well-paid jobs. What do they do for this money? They investigate the activities, meeting, places and try to find out the leaders of militant workers groups that are being organized, with special concentration on Communists. Meanwhile, Patte, who for a time, sat in the White Legion offices to receive applications, has been appointed Superintendent of Streets and Sidewalks by Commissioners Downs and Robinson. This is obviously a move to try to stop the organization of a militant independent union of the Negro sweepers, which has already been started after the workers appealed to Communists for leadership.

Supported By Judges, Commissioners

Romaine Boyd offers the use of his courtroom for meetings, to plan attacks on the rights of the Birmingham workers. Judge Abernathy

"The release of all of the framed-up workers and their leaders was forced by the mass protest of the workers and the militant self-defense of those on trial.

JULY 4—REVOLUTIONARY HOLIDAY

The revolutionary traditions of July 4, 1776, have long been forgotten by the bosses, who falsely use that day for their propaganda to try to get the masses behind their program of hunger and war, while they brand the revolutionary way out of the crisis as "un-American." The Manifesto of the 8th National Convention of the Communist Party explains:

Today the only party that carries forward the revolutionary traditions of 1776 and 1861, under the present day conditions and relationship of classes is the Communist Party. Today, only the Communist Party finds it politically expedient and necessary to remind the American working classes of how, in a previous crisis, the way out was found by the path of revolution. Today only the Communist Party brings sharply forward and applies to the problems of today that old basic document of "Americanism," the Declaration of Independence.

Applying the Declaration of Independence to present-day conditions, the Communist Party points out that never was there such a mass of people so completely de-

privated of all semblance of "the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness." Never were there such destructive effects upon these rights by any form of government, as those exerted today by the existing form of government in the United States. Never have the exploited masses suffered such a long train of abuses or been so reduced under absolute despotism as today under capitalist rule. The "principle" which must provide the foundation of the "new government" mentioned in the Declaration of Independence is, in 1828, the principle of the dictatorship of the proletariat; the new form is the form of the workers' and farmers' councils—the Soviet Power.

Old-Time Scab Leader

Robert S. Gadsden is directing head. By his own perverted boast he acted as stool pigeon and strike breaker against the heroic Marion county miners in the 1931 Kentucky strike and served the textile bosses of Gastonia, N. C., in the same yellow dog manner in their murderous attacks to break up the textile unions and enforce starvation. Many policemen and company deputies are reported as members.

In the tie-up with the Birmingham City Commissioners, they have proposed laws to bar I. L. D. attorneys from other states "from embarrassing our courts and juries" when they want to put over a legal lynching, as in "the Scottsboro case . . . in Tuscaloosa in the Harden-Pippen cases." They would like also to make it a crime to either print, have in your possession or circulate any Communist literature. Downs is trying to frame such a law now. By Communist literature they mean, of course, anything which tells the truth about the murderous policy of the bosses and their fascist agents, and which calls upon the white and Negro workers to organize solidly together to fight against this.

The Communist Party does that. The Communist Party organizes and leads the entire working class against fascism, the oppression of the Negro people and all boss oppression and exploitation. The Communist Party calls for the disbanding of the White Legion, the K. K. K. and other such outfits and a strengthening of the struggle for the day to day demands of the toilers, for the right of self-determination for the Negro people in the Black Belt and for a Workers' and Farmers' Government.

Workers and Farmers Report For Themselves

Carolina Textile Workers Win Gains In N.T.W.U.

By a Concord, N. C., Textile Worker Correspondent

With the stretch-out worse than ever, with wages being cut for the skilled hands, with the cost of food and clothing cancelling out the slight increase a very few have reached—many textile workers are joining the National Textile Workers' Union. This union is dedicated to a program of real struggle against the bosses, for better conditions and pay.

Leaflet Got Better Conditions

The workers are organizing mill committees of the union and are making real gains. Take what happened at the Gibson mill. The workers put out a leaflet calling for some needed changes. The weavers had to run seer-sucker at the same rating as the plaid, although seer-sucker runs much slower. As a result of the leaflet, the rating on seer-sucker was changed from 49 cents per 100,000 picks to 65 cents per 100,000. The rating on plaid was changed from 49 cents per 100,000 to 56 cents. The speed-up on the clumber hands was stopped and the lighting system is being improved.

In both the Gibson and Cabarras mills, the workers have joined the National Textile Workers' Union in sufficient numbers to get their charters.

In the Cabarras mills, the weavers were stretched out in the last two years from 16 and 18 looms to 26 and 30 looms. The loom fixers were stretched out from 88 to 110 looms. The frame hands were stretched from two to three frames. In the spinning room, the speed of the machines has been increased to where it is dangerous to the health of the spinners.

Workers Want One-Loom System

In the Hartwell mill, all the NRA has brought is a big grocery bill and more stretch-out. The workers want the one-loom system, for the job is too hard. Also this system would give some jobs to weavers laid-off by Hartwell.

Workers CAN win gains if they are organized, and put up a real struggle. This is shown by what happened in the Locke mill. Members of the N. T. W. U. there put up a leaflet demanding an end to the 20-loom system, a new lighting

WRITE FOR YOUR PAPER

Fellow workers and farm toilers. The Southern Worker is your paper. It is not only for you. Every one of us must realize that we are responsible for it, that we must write it as well as read it. The Southern Worker hasn't a big staff of paid reporters, to write things for us. But we have the greatest staff of reporters of workers' news there can be right in every factory, mine, mill and shop, and on every plantation and waterfront—the workers themselves! Write regularly to your paper.

News of important struggles in sections of the South is not in this issue. This is because you did not report it. Send us letters of struggles and conditions! Tell us what your demands are, of your successes and of the doings of working-class enemies. Send us facts and names. No worker's name will be used without his permission. Let's make the August issue live and breathe the toiler's life and struggles! It's up to you—reader and fellow-worker.

Florida Fruit Packers Can't Make Enough

(By a Worker Correspondent)

EUSTIS, Fla.—This is a great orange-growing section, and if the working people do not get to pick oranges in the shipping season, and pack them, they are naturally out of luck.

Packing and picking is on a piece-work basis. The prices have been cut, and the volume of fruit packed is so small that the workers in the industry have barely made enough to buy beans. Now that the fruit season is over, they are in a terrible plight. The NRA has made conditions here so bad for the workers, not only in the fruit industry, but everywhere.

There are expert mechanics who were making \$60 to \$70 per week, who are not able to pay rent and live like human beings should.

ing system, and calling attention to a safety hazard in No. 2 spinning room. Almost immediately the stretch-out of the weavers was stopped, the safety hazard ended and the lighting system fixed. That was because the bosses knew the N. T. W. U. is ready to fight.

MINERS' "HOLIDAY" GAINS DEMANDS

(By a Walker County U. M. W. A. Worker).

The Alabama By-Products Company had been cheating on the scales up to 600 lbs. a car even after Mitch signed the agreement that sent us back in the mines. The scale committee of the local got an expert from Ohio to inspect the scales and forced the company to fix the scales.

Even if Mitch signed a no-strike agreement the miners aren't going to give up their only weapon so easily. Three times since then our local has called a "holiday" to enforce demands and won every time. If it wasn't for the threat of that holiday the company would still be cheating us on the scales, I reckon.

There's no doubt that this success is due to the solidarity of the workers and the unity of the white

and Negro miners. We've established real rank and file control and we run our union no matter what Mitch and Lewis say. And we don't have no Jim Crow. We're all of us, black and white, brothers in the union fighting for our rights.

We have it now so they can't fire a man for rock in the coal, but the next step is to demand no deductions for washer losses. It used to be the company had a flock of stool pigeons, but we decided nobody could go to the office without the union grievance committee in there and we're stopping these stool pigeons right.

The miners down here don't know much about Communism, but what the boss and his agents put out. It would help a lot if more miners could see the Southern Worker.

Negro Ore Striker Shot Down On Picket Line

(By a White Ore Mine Striker)

BESSEMER, Ala.—I was on the picket line and saw a Negro brother miner mowed down by the guards within 25 feet of me when we hadn't been doing a damn thing. Just killed like that without him making a move, just picketing.

Now the National Guards are forcing us from the picket lines. Even our own leaders in the union tell us to "be easy." We went on strike to win our demands and the only way to get them is by mass picketing, all of us, the white and colored. The bosses aren't easy with us. They shoot us down. And we ain't going to win being easy.

Florida Jobless Organize Stick-Together-Clubs

(By a Woman Worker Correspondent)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—In the last three weeks, four branches of the Stick-Together Club have been organized among the Negro workers. These are branches of the unemployed to get more relief, etc.

Among the members there were those who have not received grocery orders since anywhere from February to May 2. These cases were brought to the attention of the clubs.

A committee of eight which included Negro workers was elected to go to the relief station. They went Monday morning at 11 o'clock. After a hearing of about 30 minutes we were told these cases would be taken care of. The woman in charge of the relief seemed quite frightened. She said she was given only 10 sacks of flour at a time for over 2,000 unemployed. She also stated, "All those who have received grocery orders on or since April 25 haven't much of a kick coming." This was on June 18.

Miss Field also admitted that the white and Negro workers was were the victims of racial discrimination, but when asked to protest this treatment she said: "We can't possibly fight our own organization."

The regular meeting of the Stick-Together Club was on that night. Three representatives were present from the Relief Bureau to find the leaders of the club and the ones that introduced the committee. This neighborhood has been patrolled by relief authorities all this week. The members got their grocery orders and one branch alone gained ten new members.

PIPE SHOP CUTS PAY

(By an Acipco Pipe Shop Worker.)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—When the depression came on, the Acipco bosses began turning off workers. They gave them a little bush-mouth money, if they wanted to make their home in the country, they would send them. If they didn't they could starve.

They were giving \$1,500 for a worker's death, but now cut it down to \$500.

PICTURES

Get pictures of picket lines, militant workers, Armed Strikers, etc. Workers want to see things as well as read of them. Will pay 50¢ for every picture used. Send them in!

SELL YOUR PAPER

The Southern Worker is your best organizer, your best weapon of education against the bosses. Use it. Don't waste it. Thousands of southern toilers, white and Negro, want to read a paper that they know is theirs, a paper that will smash the lies of the bosses and show the workers the way out. When you fail to get a copy of the Southern Worker into their hands, you are denying them their right to know of this way out and to join other workers in realizing it.

Reach the mass of the southern toilers with the Southern Worker. Order a bundle to sell to your shop mates or fellow workers in the mine or on the farm. Get other workers to get a bundle. Start with ten. Increase it every issue. And pay for them promptly. Carelessness about paying for the Southern Worker endangers our very existence. No rich bosses give us money to publish. This paper depends on you. Send payment and increased bundle orders for the August issue, right now!

At one time, the bosses would give a worker, if he made one hundred percent time from Christmas to Christmas, a bonus of \$25 and a turkey. Now at the end of the year they give \$2 and call that a year's bonus.

Two Weeks to Pay Day

They give four days a week and make two weeks before pay-day. And the money each week is \$11, and two weeks is \$22. And when we go to the commissary it cuts the wages so low until we don't have enough to pay the rent and furniture bills.

Sharecroppers Only Way Out To Build Union

(By a Sharecropper Correspondent)

LUVERNE, Ala.—We of the Sharecroppers Union do not have the rights for our children to ride the C. bus to school. Some of our children have to walk six miles to school. We pay taxes for the road on cigars, tobacco, cigarettes and gas, and yet we get no service.

The AAA and government demands that we plow under our cotton. They take everything away this year. The only thing I see through the AAA and Bankhead Bill plans are iron-clad slaves. Our houses are not just what they

STUDENT SEES INCREASING FASCISM

I am a relative of one of the Thomas strikers and a student at Howard college. I have been reading Communist literature for the last two or three years and have become intensely interested in the movement. Although I accepted a great deal there were some things that I was doubtful of, but since the Thomas strike, which I have seen from first hand, these doubts have vanished.

The police brutality, the private army of the Republic Steel Corporation, armed with pistols, rifles, gas and machine guns, and the demonstration of the Birmingham Police Department on May Day have convinced me that the only hope of the working class lies in a militant movement such as the Communist Party has shown itself to be. Even if the Thomas strike had not occurred, I think the May

Dock Workers Organize on Norfolk Waterfront

(By a Dock Worker)

NORFOLK, Va.—The Marine Workers Industrial Union has put the bosses on the run in Hampton Roads. We have been organizing on the P. & N. Steamship Line, better known as the black boat, where men are forced to work like jackasses, stay on the dock for 15 and 18 hours and only make an average of \$1.80 per day and then to be chased out of 40 or 50 cents of that.

The M. W. I. U. is organized on six docks, and has organized a local on the black boat. We drew up our own code and elected delegates to the NRA code hearing and exposed the rotten conditions in Hampton Roads and opened up on the facts on the P. & N.

The company has been forced to shorten hours, and hire regular gangs. They are now talking about a pay-day once a week, which is something the P. & N. never had.

Organize, Make More Gains

The conditions are still pretty bad, though. Our wages ran from 28 cents to 40 cents an hour. Coal-tar longshoremen on two docks are called on the job at six in the morning and stay until 6:30 or 7:00 in the evening to make from five to seven hours work.

We don't get any pay for floating time, or waiting for any freight.

The M. W. I. U. calls on all workers on the waterfront to rally to its support. Don't let the bosses sweet-talk you! A hog will go back to its wallow and leopards don't change their spots. Anything they give us today, they'll take back tomorrow, unless we're organized.

You can find a national organizer at 553 Church street, Norfolk, day from 10 to 2 o'clock. Open charter, no joining fees, dues 50¢ per month. The M. W. I. U. is the only union on our docks that we can belong to and have our own rights in it and run the union ourselves.

Ought to be. The only thing I see best for the Share Croppers' Union to do is to organize and spread all over the country like wild fire and paint plantations red with a joint tie together united bond and we will win.

Day affair would have been enough to prove the Communist cause.

This shameful show of armed force against free speech and other traditional American liberties shows, more than anything else I have ever witnessed, the need for a drastic change in government.

Again in another thing the Thomas strike has opened my eyes. The government, as shown through the Thomas strike and many other strikes throughout the entire country, is against any effective labor movement and, in reality, the primary purpose of the Roosevelt administration is to bolster up the dying capitalistic system.

P. S.—I noticed and read "An Appeal To Labor," issued by the C. P. on the window of the headquarters of the White Legion. It was an excellent piece of work and the best I have seen so far.

THE SOUTHERN WORKER

THE SOUTHERN WORKER

The Paper of the Toiling Masses of the South.
Official Organ of the Communist Party of the United States.
JIM MALLORY, EDITOR
Address: Box 572, Birmingham, Alabama.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

25 ISSUES	50 Cents
12 ISSUES	25 Cents
SINGLE COPIES	2 Cents

Bundle Orders: For Ten or More, 1 Cent Per Copy
Send No Checks, Send Stamps or Money Orders
Payable to JIM MALLORY

Volume 131

JULY, 1934

No. 12

COMMUNISTS LEAD STRIKE STRUGGLES

The Communist Party and its members in the South, as well as in other places, is facing more and more vicious attacks at the hands of the bosses. The police, National Guards, company thugs and politicians who serve the capitalist interests, together with the labor racketeers and stool pigeons and such openly fascist outfits as the White Legion and K. K. K. are trying every way they can to stop the growth and activity of the Communist Party. Why?

Because the Communists are the only ones who have consistently, fearlessly and correctly welded the unity of the workers, white and Negro, and led them in the struggle for their basic demands. Exposing all the tricks of the bosses, the Communists have constantly pointed out that the toilers can win better conditions for themselves only by the path of struggle. We can get from the ruling class only what we force from them. Arbitration, conciliation, mediation—these are just big words to bury the real needs and demands of the toilers.

In every strike struggle—steel, coal, ore, longshoremen, textile—it has been the Communists who called for mass picketing, for rank and file leadership and negotiations, for militantly carrying on the struggle to victory. Communists have been in the front ranks of the strikers, leading the way, while leaflets and meetings have drawn large sections of workers into active support of strikers. While not always strong enough as yet to defeat the sell-outs of NRA and big shot labor officials, the best and most advanced of the workers and poor farmers are swelling the Red ranks day by day, convinced that the Communist way is the only way to victory for the toilers.

Fascism, the open, armed dictatorship of the boss class against the working class, is developing. But the Communist Party, leader of the struggles of the workers, also grows. Only the continued and increased growth of the Communist Party can save us from the brutal terror of the bosses. Only a dictatorship of the workers and poor farmers against the capitalist class, with all power in the hands of the toilers, can smash the hunger, oppression, fascist and war plans of the exploiters.

Stop the Communists? They might as well try to stop the sun! Forward toward greater strike struggles, toward a Soviet America. Join and build the Communist Party.

A. F. OF L. BIG SHOTS BETRAY RANK AND FILE

The nation wide steel strike has been temporarily blocked. How? Why?

Even though the steel bosses hired hundreds of thugs prepared with machine guns and gas to enforce their starvation, this did not halt the workers will to struggle. The threats of the police and the lies of the boss newspapers didn't hold back the steel workers who were preparing to fight for their right to live. The NRA gang, with Gen. Johnson at the head, failed to head off the struggle. It took Wm. Green, \$25,000 a year labor misleader, Mike Tigue, who "welcomes" an end to all strikes, and their whole army of little big-shots to betray the strike.

The regular A. A. convention in April adopted seven basic demands: (1) For the 6 hour day, 5 day week; (2) One dollar an hour minimum wage, with increases in proportion for skilled trades; (3) Abolition of differential between North and South; (4) Equal rights for Negro workers; (5) Recognition of the union and grievance committees; (6) Adoption of the Workers' Unemployment Insurance Bill, HR 7598, now before Congress, and (7) Abolition of the speed-up.

Not one of the demands have been won, yet Tigue is "confident" of a square deal! Crawford, A. F. of L. organizer of Alabama steel workers, says he's glad there was no strike and claims the Southern steel workers don't want to struggle.

But the struggle is not over. The struggle isn't over until the demands are gained. But another bitter lesson has been gained. To win we must drive the strike breakers from our ranks. Only the organized might of the workers, led by rank and file committees in every local and in every shop, can gain victory.

Steel workers: The Communist Party has called upon you to join and build the A. F. of L. union, the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, in order to gain for yourselves better conditions, higher wages, a right to live and not starve. At the same time, the Communists have said: Beware of the strike-breaking agents of the bosses within your ranks.

It is your union, not theirs. Elect your own rank and file leaders. Demand all negotiations to be done by a committee elected directly from your rank and file, let those big shots barter your lives away in hotel room conferences. Build rank and file opposition groups in every local. Join with the greatest forces of the militant workers who are following the lead of the Communist Party. Working for revolution, uniting all red forces with the 100,000 labor revolutionaries who think like us!

Bail Forced For Angelo Herndon; Appeal to Go To U. S. Supreme Court

By John Geer,
I.L.D. Attorney with Ben Davis,
Jr. for Angelo Herndon

ATLANTA, Ga. — Bombarded for a year and a half by protests from all over the country, and from workers in other lands, the state of Georgia has at last been forced to grant bail for Angelo Herndon, militant young Negro leader of the white and Negro workers who has been sentenced to 20 years on the chain gang. Lee B. Wyatt, trial judge, though yielding to the tremendous mass pressure organized by the International Labor Defense, set the bond at \$15,000 and has refused to reduce it up to the present time.

Meanwhile Herndon's conviction on the charge of "attempting to incite insurrection" which was upheld by the Georgia Supreme Court, May 24th, is being appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court by the I. L. D. Herndon's arrest and conviction grew out of his leadership of a demonstration that was successful in forcing thousands of dollars of relief for Atlanta workers.

Supreme Court Trickery

The Georgia Supreme Court, in affirming the vicious sentence handed out to this young working class hero, gave a unanimous decision, with the exception of the Chief Justice, who was absent. Regarding this decision the Chief Justice said: "I would have dissented. The other judges knew that I was in disagreement and chose a time when I was in the hospital to write the decision. The evidence did not warrant a conviction."

Negroes Have No Rights

The entire decision written by Judge Bell is a new, vicious attack upon the working class and particularly upon the rights of Negroes. The decision said in effect: "that Negroes in Georgia have no rights which the southern ruling class is bound to respect; that Negroes cannot serve on juries because they are all incompetent; and that it is perfectly all right to insult them in court by calling them 'darkies,' etc."

Herndon, undaunted in spirit and determination, has begun to break down in health under the long imprisonment, vile treatment and rotten food. Fulton Tower authorities will not allow him food from outside and refuse to give him most of the reading matter which is sent him, while they threaten tortures. A delegation organized by the I. L. D. and backed by mass pressure, finally forced an examination of Herndon, which revealed incipient tuberculosis, but he has been refused removal to a hospital.

Reign of Terror

Meanwhile, Rev. John Hudson, assistant solicitor general, on the basis of the Georgia Supreme Court decision, has unleashed a wave of terror aimed at smashing all workers' struggles in Atlanta. The I. L. D. calls upon all workers to send protest to Gov. Talmadge of Georgia, to Judge Lee B. Wyatt, Atlanta, while, at the same time, rushing funds to the I. L. D. national office, 90 East 11th St., New York, to help save the gallant which will free Herndon from Fulton Tower.

N.R.A. Moves To Fascism
Says Resigning Board Member

NOTE: We are printing here parts of the letter written to President Roosevelt by W. O. Thompson, Chicago attorney, when he resigned as a member of the N.R.A. Review Board. Thompson declared he could no longer serve on the Board when it was so openly going back on its finding. The southern capitalist papers suppressed this letter, which so clearly exposes the N.R.A. (all emphasis by us.)

My Dear Mr. President:

I hand you herewith my resignation as a member of the National Recovery Review Board . . . as a result of my contact with the workings of the National Recovery Administration through membership on the Recovery Review Board. I have been forced to the following conclusion:

The trend of the National Recovery Administration has been and continues to be toward the encouragement and development of monopoly capitalism in the United States.

The N. R. A. handed over to trade associations, formed by the largest corporations in the various industries, the formulation of codes of fair competition without representation of the consumers or workers. Wherever A. F. of L. unions have been represented, as in the clothing industries, for example, the labor leaders have shown by their acts that their chief concern is in the interest of big business. The administration of the codes has been left to code authorities composed primarily of trade association executives. Through their dominating position in various industries, these larger corporations through inter-company relationships, and by control of raw materials, have been able to dictate prices, wage scales, trade practices and other vital matters. As Donald R. Richberg, General Counsel to N. R. A. promised in his address at the Babson Institution, September 8, 1933, "Trade associations can police the members of an industry" . . . For the broad consuming masses of the population, this government of industry by monopolistic combinations has already resulted in a marked increase in prices. This, in turn, has caused a drop in consumption of goods.

Also as a result of high prices and decreased purchasing power, the textile industry has been forced to resort to 25 percent curtailment of production. In other words, the amount of goods that can be bought by workers with declining real earnings has dropped as a result of price advances created by monopolistic practices.

The actual result of the N. R. A. codes has been merely a continuation of the stagger system under which more workers are attached to the payroll but all are receiving wholly inadequate earnings. The minimum wages established under the codes have tended to become the maximum, thus dragging down the general average of all wages. Even these minimum wages have given no relief to Negroes or to many other categories of lower-paid workers.

Presumably as a guarantee against such results of industrial combination labor was given in Section 7 (a) of the National Industrial Recovery Act, the right to collective bargaining through representatives of its own choosing. Step by step that section has been transformed into its opposite—a vehicle for employers to force through compulsory arbitration and company unionism. Compulsory arbitration under various forms of "labor boards," the National Labor Board, industrial relations boards, the Automobile Labor Board, etc., have deprived labor of its only effective weapon in enforcing collective bargaining—the strike. In Gallup, N. Mex., Imperial Valley, Calif., Birmingham, Ala., and Toledo, Ohio, when workers struck to enforce collective bargaining their civil rights as American workers have been violated by martial law, sweeping injunctions, arrests, and the most brutal suppression, including murder, by employers and government forces. No less than a dozen workers have been killed in recent strikes of longshoremen, miners and auto workers.

Thus the N.R.A. clearly reflects its class character as an attempt of the capitalists to find "a way out of the crisis" by passing the burdens onto the shoulders of the masses of workers and farmers. The N.R.A. reflects the inability of so-called "enlightened capitalism" to offer a "planned economy" to improve the living standards of the masses. ITS DEVELOPMENT DAY BY DAY REVEALS MORE CLEARLY A MARKED TREND TOWARD FASCISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

The only solution involves a change in class relationships. Only a government by the workers and farmers can plan production, produce goods for use and not for profit, eliminate poverty, and raise the standards of living of the entire population.

(Signed) W. O. THOMPSON.

WE GOT A STONE

(Words by M. P., Southern I. L. D. Leader)

We got a stone that was hewn out of history,

That was hewn out of history.

CHORUS: Come a-rollin' through Dixie,

Come a-rollin' through Dixie,

A-tearing down the kingdom of the boss,

Don't you want that stone

that was hewn out of history. (Repeat Chorus)

The I. L. D. is the stone

that was hewn out of history. (Repeat Chorus)

The bosses hate that stone

that was hewn out of history. (Repeat Chorus)

The workers need that stone

that was hewn out of history. (Repeat Chorus)

Put your shoulders to that stone

that was hewn out of history.

Come a-rollin' through Dixie,

Come a-rollin' through Dixie,

A-tearing down the kingdom of the boss!