

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

WORKERS OF THE WORLD  
UNITE!

Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

Volume 6 No. 2 Whole No. 68

February 1, 1941

VOLUNTARY LABOR

Price: 1 Cent

## 'Lend-Lease' Bill Pushes U.S. Further Into Imperialist Blood Bath

All the political tricks and methods of propaganda, all the strength and influence of the Roosevelt regime are being used to "convince" the American people to support the "lend-lease" bill (H.R. 1776) for greater aid to Britain.

The administration openly admits that this is "passive belligerency"; it is "passive" only in the sense that no troops are being sent yet; but from the amount of actual military steps and military aid that has already been taken and will be increased a hundred-fold by the "lend-lease" bill — military activity which is far

greater than any which America took even 8 months after the declaration of war in 1917 — it is really ACTIVE belligerency.

For American Imperialism is already in the war as an active belligerent; this new proposal for making the U. S. the "arsenal of Britain" is designed to intensify and increase America's participation and activity in the war — but in such a way that the capitalists can still hypocritically talk about "peace".

America IS in the war with everything but a formal declaration, and the use of its own troops. And the "lend-lease" bill which now

increases America's participation, will tomorrow FORCE the formal declaration of war, and the use of American troops. This will occur because the Axis powers will inevitably find it necessary — now that the die is cast for America's role — to take military steps against the U.S. military activity. More-over, having bamboozled a large section of the American people into support of "lend-lease" measures, the Administration hopes to have an easy time to show the necessity of troops and a formal war declaration when that time of Axis military opposition increases. War is inevitable even though a formal war de-

claration may not result from the "lend-lease" bill; for the present, American Imperialism would like to postpone it as long as possible.

America, in effect, is playing the same role that Britain used to play: Just as Britain was willing to fight "for democracy" to the last Frenchman, so today American Imperialism is ready to fight for the same kind of fake democracy to the last Britain. Just as Britain used France as her imperialist buffer to control Europe, so today Wall St. wants to use London as her buffer against German Imperialism and the Axis.

And for the same result: namely, that Britain shall be subordinated to a world-powerful Uncle Sam, once British man-power and the resources of the Empire, augmented by the "aid" of America, is able to defeat the Axis — so the American Imperialists hope.

## U.S. IS MAIN POWER FIGHTING TO CONTINUE THE WAR

Behind the news from Europe is the news of American imperialist POLITICAL maneuvers (not yet military, but already advanced beyond the economic stage) for the continuance, intensification, and deepening of the bloodbath in Europe, and an attempt to avoid direct military intervention as long as possible.

The pacifists and social-patriots may babble endlessly about "America's mission of peace", "Uncle Sam's struggle against the 'Dictators'", but the unvarnished fact is that, more than any other factor in all the world, it is AMERICA'S needs to dominate completely the world market, AMERICA'S imperialist aims to re-organize the world, AMERICA'S desire for profit and booty, that shape the course of the war, that force its continuation, that create famine, epidemic, misery and death in Europe.

### A MORE SUBTLE POLICY

America's participation in the war is more subtle than that of the other five imperialist powers, but it is more deadly — and what is more important — MORE COMPREHENSIVE.

The fall of Bardia and Tobruk, and the Greek successes in Albania are important but are not the outstanding events of the last month in the war. The important news is the SECRET diplomacy of the United States behind the scene:

1—The attempt through a promised 100 million dollar loan and food to keep Spain out of the war and to make it break with the Axis;

2—The pressure and the various promises and concessions of Uncle Sam to Mussolini, in order to force a separate peace with Britain;

3—The continuing attempts of Washington to break Russia away from the Axis through increased trade, etc., and thereby to create a new battlefront in East Europe;

4—The increasing aid, amounting to dozens of millions of dollars, to Chiang-Kai-Shek so that the Chinese Nationalists will continue to harass America's great rival for imperialist gains in Asia, Japan, and aid other Asiatic countries threatened by Japan;

The various behind the scene maneuvers to keep Russia's large Siberian army posted on the Manchukuoan frontier so that Japan

shall not be free to divert any large part of her troops for the invasion of the Southern Asiatic lands, Dutch Indies, Singapore, etc.;

### AGAINST FRENCH ARMISTICE

6—Maneuvers with the Petain regime in Vichy in order to smash the armistice of last July and to spread the war into the French colonies in South Africa;

7—Pressure by Uncle Sam in the Balkans to check further Axis penetration.

8—The continued pressure in both Americas to drive out all European capital and to take it over for Wall Street.

Behind every nook and cranny of world diplomacy stands an American diplomat trying to push America's WAR AIMS: to tie what is left of the Empire to the Dollar, to smash the rising German Empire as well as to check the imminent series of revolutions.

### U. S. EVERYWHERE

Behind every nook and cranny of the world stands an American banker and industrialist waxing fat on the ruination of hundreds

(Continued on page 2)

### TWO-EDGED SWORD

In this way American Imperialism hopes to be able to postpone its formal and complete entry into the slaughter as long as possible in order that Britain and Germany can exhaust themselves; thus "aid to Britain" is a two-edged sword which enables Britain to bear the brunt of the drive to defeat Germany, but also wears out the forces of the British Empire. This will "simplify" America's job of scooping in the spoils of victory — IF the workers don't settle it decisively.

But Britain still has some say in these matters; she wants to involve America as rapidly as possible, and also to get all the aid as cheaply as she can. Because of the parallel need to defeat Germany, Britain is able to demand, and receive "loans". Morgenthau and the financial "experts" whittle down Britain's assets to deceive the people that John Bull is broke, and that we have to "give" to her. This is a concession which Uncle Sam will make to John Bull; but tomorrow the day of reckoning will come, and the Uncle Shylock will strip Britain of all her collateral in the U.S., of her investments in South America, of

(continued page 2)

## Poll Tax and the New Deal

Pressure for repeal of the poll tax in the south, which deprives millions of their votes, is being increased, especially by the forces of "liberalism" and "New Dealism" in the South.

What is the meaning of this New Deal campaign?

For at least eight long years the rotten southern system which deprives almost all the Negroes and most of the whites of their vote, has been tolerated by the New Deal. The remaining Scottsboro boys still sit in Alabama jails without presidential pardon, despite their crystal-clear frame-up. Negroes in the army are still segregated in Jim-Crow units, and Negroes in the navy are dishonorably discharged for protesting against being merely servants and janitors for the Admirals. Over half of the Negro population of the large American cities are unemployed. At least two million whites are roaming the country without home or income because of Mr. Roosevelt's farm policies.

### A POLITICAL MOVE

The move to abolish the poll tax is therefore not a "socialist" or a humanitarian measure. It is pure and simple politics.

Under the present system only 5.2% of the people of South Carolina vote. In Mississippi only 8%. Georgia only 10%. Alabama 10.4%. And so on. In Chatham County, Virginia, where Odell Waller was framed up for murder only 200 out of 27,000 Negroes voted in the last election, and only 6,000 whites out of 36,000.

The poll tax, where every citizen must pay sums up to \$5.00 in order to vote (sometimes much more, where the tax is cumulative) is a very effective measure by which small cliques can dominate the Democratic party primaries and keep themselves in power. The New Deal with all its strength and jobs has been unable to completely win the battle against the "old deal" section of its own party in the South precisely because of this factor. It has been unable to purge the party of these elements which obstruct the New Deal road.

### Conscription of British Labor Today - Planned For U.S. Tomorrow

Conscription of labor in England is now a fact. "Socialist" (read: social traitor) minister Bevin introduced the details in parliament recently. In "democratic" England no one can quit his job when he wants to. He must take work anywhere, anytime, AT ANY PAY.

England (and the U.S. at a slower tempo) "fights" fascism by accepting its methods.

This correct struggle against an immediate demand, a struggle against the poll tax for many years, has been snatched from the working class and revolutionary elements by the bourgeois reformists.

### GIVES F.D.R. NEW WEAPON

Repeal of the poll tax, would give the New Deal its opportunity. It would give many thousands the right to vote, especially in the lower classes. Roosevelt hopes on the basis of this new enfranchisement to gain enough Southern votes to throw the - Garner - Dies - Glass Clark forces out of the Party and of power.

THAT and that only is the significance of the New Deal moves to repeal the poll tax.

Those people who think this step will really bring the vote to most Negroes and poor whites, however, are in for a sharp disappointment. The elimination of the tax in Florida and North Carolina did not greatly increase the number of voters. Only 23.3 voted in N. Carolina and only 25.7% in Florida. In Kentucky, on the other hand, 35.3% voted.

The capitalist class does not depend on the poll tax alone to disfranchise voters. It is only one of the many legal forms of discrimination. It has its extra-legal methods of intimidation. In Florida, for instance, the Ku Klux Klan is permitted to ride the streets daring any Negro to vote. Effigies of hanging Negroes were pinned to ballot boxes wearing the sign "this nigger voted". In addition the landowners find a thousand different ways to intimidate their croppers and tenants.

The repeal of the poll tax may open the way to vote by a small number of New Deal sympathizers, but the right to vote by the oppressed Negroes and poor whites of the South will be gained GENERALLY only as a by-product of the militancy of the labor movement in the South, the growth of trade unions which bury the color issue, and the strikes and demonstrations against the present war plans.

Republic Steel — strike-breaking Tom Girdler's company—had the best year in its history last year. It made over 20 million dollars profit, TWICE AS MUCH AS THE BEST YEAR THEY EVER HAD BEFORE THAT. The gains were made on the basis primarily of war orders.

These facts prove two things:  
1—Profits are made directly in proportion as wages are kept down;

2—The Washington government is very partial to strike-breakers and subsidizes them liberally. Note: Girdler, Ford, Weir and many others.

## 'Lend-Lease' Bill Pushes U.S. Into Blood Bath

(Continued from page 1)

sections of her colonies and spheres of influence.

The Axis, of course, is trying to disrupt Roosevelt's plans as much as possible; but there is little at the moment that Hitler can do, because he has his hands full with the war against Britain, the defeats in Greece and Africa, unrest and strife throughout Europe, complete chaos in Rumania, etc., but the Axis is trying to push Japan to further moves in Asia in order to divert Uncle Sam's attention; the Nipponese however, show their understanding of America's grim determination to fight for world control by stepping warily, and be very cautious with Uncle Sam. Hitler, therefore, has another problem on his hands and since he cannot now commence hostilities with the U.S., he is forced to face a Britain that will be equipped by America.

### WILLKIE REPRESENTS MORGAN

The "lend-lease" bill sharpens the struggle between the opposing blocs of American Imperialists. On the other hand, it brings closer the large imperialist blocs, as is illustrated by Mr. Willkie (remember him?) who goes down the line with Roosevelt. The FIGHTING WORKER pointed out during the election campaign that there was no essential difference in the foreign policy of the two candidates; now Mr. Willkie gives further

proof to our statement. He goes to Britain as a personal representative of J.P. Morgan in order to safeguard the political and financial interests of Wall St. — and that "enemy" of the financial tories, Mr. Roosevelt, gives him his blessing.

On the other hand, the isolationist section of the capitalist class is increasing its struggle. This is indicated by the fury with which they attack Willkie (as if they didn't know he was Morgan's man) by the further speech of Lindbergh, etc. These forces, who are content to keep American Imperialism confined to exploitation of the Western Hemisphere, and do business with Germany, are in a minority, and will lose the foreign policy fight. For the decisive section of the imperialists are determined on world control, and they are willing to spend billions of dollars and millions of lives to try to get it.

That is why the working class can have nothing in common with the war aims of the bosses; because the war aims do NOT mean "democracy" either at home or abroad, but means the crushing of the democratic rights of the American people, and the further enslavement and exploitation of millions of colonial toilers that is why the main enemy is at home, our own boss class. That is why we must ceaselessly work for the end of the imperialist war by revolutionary working class means.

January 24, 1941.

## U.S. FIGHTING TO CONTINUE THE WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

of millions of people. America's favorable balance of trade last year rose by over 600 million dollars, almost double the previous year; and American profits at home rose by more than 50%.

Behind and on top of all the battlefronts of Europe stand American tanks, planes, machine guns and other implements of war. It is only a question of time and expediency when American workers will man these things.

American Imperialism is in all spheres the MAIN driving force for the present bloodbath. Not a secondary power in the fourth re-division of the Earth; but the main, the outstanding, the most subtle and most influential imperialist power of all capitalist history.

### NO SUPPORT TO ISOLATIONISTS

In the light of all this it is hypocritical to speak of supporting America's "aid to Britain", or America's "peace" armaments. It is a policy just as fatal and harmful to the working class as the sup-

port of the Hitler war aims by Stalinism or the support of the British war aims by the British "socialists" (read: social-traitors).

The struggle for peace begins here at home, IN OPPOSITION to the glaring war policy of American Imperialism. IN OPPOSITION to the blackouts on workers rights, IN OPPOSITION to the growing war dictatorship.

Peace is advanced every time an American worker uses militant action to fight the speed-up, low wages and strike-breaking policies in war industries; every time American worker — independent of the fraudulent "America First" or "Keep America out of War" committee (or even the Stalinist Peace Mobilization Committee) — every time American workers demonstrate against these war plans. Peace — real peace — rests not on military venture by American capitalism to defeat an imperialist opponent (both Britain and Germany), but in every movement that undermines the strength of American Imperialism, that paves the way for establishment of a Workers Government in the United States.

**THE FIGHTING WORKER**

Central Organ of the  
**REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.**  
 (Affiliated to the Provisional  
 For a New Communist (4th) International)  
 Published twice a month by  
 The Fighting Worker Publishing Company  
 1904 Division St., Chicago, III.  
 Subscriptions: FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR

## F. B. I. and Democratic Rights

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has begun a campaign of terrorism in Chicago and all other cities. 4,000 people in Chicago alone are being picked off the street, taken to FBI offices and questioned. In addition plain clothes men and FBI agents are being sent to the offices of various organizations and to those who work for the revolutionary and labor movement in an obvious effort of intimidation.

The purpose of the campaign is very easy to understand. The government is preparing legislation of decrees to eliminate the 40 hour week and the right to strike in the war industries. To facilitate passage of these measures it attempts first of all to scare off many sympathizers of the revolutionary movement and to keep the revolutionists so occupied that they will be unable (the FBI hopes) to give any leadership or guidance to the developing struggles of the working class against the reactionary measures now being taken by the New Deal.

These tactics again reveals that the bourgeois police force does not hesitate to break even its own laws when it serves their purpose. The whole effect of the campaign is to keep meeting halls closed to the revolutionists, to abridge their freedom of speech, assembly, their right to publish their press and their political views and other "fundamental" rights that are supposedly guaranteed by the constitution. They attempt to force the working class movement underground not by direct, frontal attacks but by subterfuge and intimidation.

Needless to say no sincere revolutionist will get "cold feet" because of this campaign of fear; that is just what the FBI is angling for at this stage. Instead of stopping our revolutionary activity it will merely increase it, bring out more sacrifice, more loyalty and devotion from the comrades. Instead of driving people away from us it arouses their hostility, brings them closer. Instead of driving us further away from the working class it can serve no other purpose but to arouse new suspicions in the mind of the average worker about the New Deal's "democracy".

## Strikes and the New Deal

Reports from Germany indicate that strikes are brewing there, that workers are not interested in war production, that factories mysteriously blow up, etc. It is certain that Mssr. Roosevelt and Churchill like this very much — so long as it happens in Germany. But they don't like and are trying to stop, the British and American workers from exercising their **democratic rights** to strike, to oppose the profit-butcher, to fight in their own class interests.

The wave of patriotism and war-hysteria which is sweeping the country is sufficient to put a damper on most of the strikes that have been brewing. The boss press is yelling as loud as it can against "strikes against defense" but it so happens that actual strikes are on the decrease, that of 27 threats of strikes in war-production plants, only 7 were called, and these squelched very shortly. But the pressure of the class for strikes is still increasing.

Congress is considering legislation to outlaw strikes; a draft officer has stated that those who strike will lose draft deferment; the labor fakers

are talking about patriotism, and all helping to break strikes.

### ROLE OF LABOR FAKERS

Mr. Hillman of the defense board, representing "labor", is there in order to STOP labor from exercising its own rights and needs against the war plans of the bosses; Mr. Frey of the A. F. of L. who promises to stop strikes shows that he is a 100% patriot" who would rather agree with the Manufacturers association than with workers who have to defend their democratic rights, and their right to live by organization and strikes.

Not so long ago Roosevelt told the WPA workers that "you can't strike against the government". It will not be long, unless the labor lieutenants do a real job, that no strikes will be permitted; of course such a military-dictatorship policy will be in the interests of "democracy" (just as it was in France under Daladier when strikes were called treason, when the 40 hour week was abolished, when labor was squelched by the same "democrats" who surrendered to Hitler.)

The RIGHT TO STRIKE was won after years of struggle AGAINST the bosses and their government. Now this democratic right must be maintained and exercised. The profits of the big war-production companies is enormous, and getting even vaster; prices are rising; wages are not. Labor has to live, not die in the imperialist war; labor has to fight the war aims of American Imperialism. Labor has to exercise its right to strike and win immediate demands of an economic nature; labor has to unite on a class struggle basis to throw off the labor lieutenants, to stop the witchhunt against unionism, to fight the MAIN ENEMY, the American boss class.

## LENIN LIEBKNECHT- LUXEMBURG

We pause during January to give tribute to three of the most diligent fighters for freedom the workers of the world have yet produced. Their political clarity, their unswerving personal courage, their ceaseless activity for the cause of the working class, strike terror into the hearts of the bosses of the world even today, just as surely as these same attributes inspire and enthuse the workers of the world.

Lenin's contribution to the emancipation of labor still stands in the Soviet Union, despite Stalin's distortions. This work, the October Revolution of which Lenin was the leading master, is the greatest achievement in all history to date.

Liebknecht's years of fighting, his courage in alone voting against war credits in the German Parliament during the last war, will remain forever to give hope and light the road for workers everywhere.

### WE WILL FINISH WORK

Rosa Luxemburg, the organizing genius of the Spartakusbund, who with Liebknecht led the struggle against war in Germany during the last war, is a beacon for the oppressed of the present slaughter.

The working class will not very quickly forget the gruesome slaughter of Liebknecht and Rosa by the traitorous social democrats.

So long as Imperialism writes its profits with the blood and sweat of the workingmen and women, so long will the counterparts of Lenin, Liebknecht and Luxemburg continue to rise and point the way to freedom.

During the last war these three proletarian fighters made giant strides — even though the world revolution outside of Russia was setback — in undermining world capitalism and liberating the proletariat. During the present war the new forces that are striving to build the Fourth Communist International will finish this task.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

February, 1941

What Next in the European Imperialist Blood-Bath?

American Imperialism Prepares Entry Into the War

## RUMANIAN PURGES EXPRESS CLASS FERMENT IN BALKAN

Civil war rages again in Rumania, as we go to press. War between the "Iron Guards", fascist organization, and the government. The bourgeois press reports the bare military details—so many men killed, so many cities taken, etc. — without even giving an inkling of the BASIC factors behind the bloodshed.

The war rages in Rumania between two bourgeois cliques. The working class attitude is "a plague on both your houses". But at bottom the battle is pushed by the starvation raging in little Rumania, by the misery caused to countless thousands who lost their homes in the transfer of part of Transylvania to Hungary, by the hunger raging amidst plenty as Nazi Germany literally milks the country dry.

Various capitalist agents — of Italy, Germany, Britain, the U.S. — utilize the mass discontent for their own imperialist purposes, foment the struggles to gain their own point, with pogroms against the Jews. In addition Stalinism moves in the background like a specter playing bourgeois politics and a bourgeois military game. The elements of the "June purge" caused a deeper rift in the exploiters camp.

### REFLECTS CLASS STRUGGLE

Who is involved in the battles; what are the issues; who are the murderers and who the murdered — that we do not know yet. But what we can be most positive about is that the situation in Rumania is reaching the boiling point. THAT THIS BATTLE BETWEEN TWO SIDES OF THE BOURGEOIS CAMP IS ONLY THE INTRODUCTION. THE PRELUDE TO BATTLES BETWEEN THE TWO DECISIVE CLASSES THEMSELVES.

What is happening in Rumania will happen elsewhere in Europe very soon. It has already happened in a number of African colonies — where M. De Gaulle was able to canalize mass discontent of the natives into a channel favorable to the British. In Rumania the crisis is much sharper. Next time, in the next country, the crisis will be still more acute.

The revolution in Europe and (here) can be temporarily squelched, temporarily inverted; it CANNOT be checked. The civil war in Rumania is another living proof.

**NOTE:—** Representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have visited the printer who has done linotype work for us for three years. This small printer, having no connection with our League or any other radical organization, has asked us to change a few expressions which under the circumstances he considers offensive to the authorities. We were forced to acquiesce to this, although our paper is still legal and it is carried in the mails.

# WRIT OF ERROR PETITION FILED FOR WALLER

Richmond, Virginia  
January 25, 1941

The petition for a Writ of Error in the case of Odell Waller, condemned Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Negro sharecropper, was filed today with the Court of Appeals at Richmond.

The petition cited ten points of exception made by defense counsel during the trial of Waller last September 26th and 27th on a first degree murder indictment handed down by a Pittsylvania County grand jury September 6, 1940.

Waller's trial in September, before Judge Turner Clement, at Chatham, Virginia, resulted in a "guilty" verdict and a sentence of death in the electric chair on De-

ember 27, 1940. The trial jury was composed of ten white farmers who, themselves, had sharecroppers on their land or employed farm labor, and two white businessmen. The entire trial jury panel was drawn from the list of qualified voters and under Virginia law, voting qualification includes the payment of the poll tax.

It is alleged in the petition for a writ of error that this procedure automatically denies a defendant the right of trial by a jury of his peers and thus is in conflict with Article 14 of the Federal Constitution. Defense counsel points out that the tenant farmer, sharecropper and laborer in the South cannot earn enough to pay the poll tax and hence does not vote nor serve on either petit or grand

juries. Defense Counsel further points out that while, in the last election, the national average of the population which voted was about 45% only 12% of the population of Virginia was permitted to vote on account of the inability of the lower income groups to pay the poll tax.

Governor Price of Virginia has previously granted a stay of execution to Waller from the original date to March 14th of this year in order that an appeal from the conviction could be made.

Senior Defense Counsel for Waller, Attorney Thomas H. Stone of Richmond, Virginia and Attorney John F. Finerty of New York City, associate counsel in the case, will jointly present argument before

the Virginia Court of Appeals for a writ of error on the case. Date for this argument will be set by the Court within fifteen days from the time of filing the petition.

The Richmond Waller Defense Committee and its national affiliates as well as the Workers Defense League of New York, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Sleeping Car Porters Union are making a national issue of this case and have pledged to carry the matter to the Supreme Court of the United States unless Waller is freed of the charge of murder.

Edmund Campion, Chair.

Paula Subienne, Sec'y-Treas.

## Are the Southern «Liberals» Planning A Sell-out for Odell Waller?

«Liberalism in the South» ... Sugar-coated Jim Crowism

Recent developments in the defense of Odell Waller, Negro share-cropper under sentence of death in Virginia for the self-defense shooting of his white landlord, are very disturbing to those who are sincerely aiding in the attempt to liberate this man from the clutches of "Southern Justice."

Since the joint action of the Workers Defense League and the Richmond Waller Defense Committee and its national supporting committees, have won a reprieve for Waller there have been renewed and intensified attempts on the part of Southern Liberalism, in collaboration with representatives of the Workers Defense League and the NAACP, to drive the Richmond Waller Defense Committee and the Revolutionary Workers League out of the case.

### "LIBERALISM" CURSES WALLER

Part of this drive against those individuals and organizations which found and made the Waller case and alone publicly and legally defended Waller until after his first trial is clearly shown in a recent editorial appearing in the Richmond (Virginia) Daily Times-Dispatch, most important "liberal" paper in the South.

This lead editorial, written by the new prophet of "Southern Liberalism", Mr. Virginius Dabney, gives a certain amount of lip service to an abstract condemnation of the poll tax system and the evil practices of the Virginia courts in

selecting juries only from the list of those who have paid the poll tax. But most of the editorial is devoted to the villification of Odell Waller who is a victim of the whole rotten situation in sharecropping, as well as the usual situation in the poll tax and Jim Crow institutions in the South.

This villification of Waller can have no other meaning than one of attempting to secure a "properly staged" new trial for Waller and of trying to get a new verdict of guilty against the man in a court where the defense cannot find legal grounds for appealing the new conviction. In other words, Mr. Dabney and his henchmen are telling the Southern landlords that Waller should be electrocuted but it should be done in a thoroughly legal manner and not in the calloused and lax manner peculiar to such cases.

### TALK WITH WDL REP

When it is known that the Field Representative of the Workers Defense League, Miss Pauli Murray, comes into Virginia ostensibly to act in the name of the Workers Defense League, the NAACP and the Sleeping Car Porters Union on behalf of Waller's defense, but that Miss Murray does not see fit to reorganize the local branch of the Workers Defense League in Richmond but, instead, goes into long consultation with Mr. Dabney it becomes clear that there is a very serious danger of an attempted compromise of the Waller case after the manner of the infamous Scottsboro sell-outs.

### FOR UNITED EFFORTS — NOT CONSTANT OBSTRUCTION

All sincere workers who are aiding in the defense of Odell Waller should be seriously alarmed by these developments and should act at once to see to it that the fight against the Richmond Waller Defense Committee and its supporting organizations is stopped.

These workers and their organizations who wish to see the fight to free Waller result in the eliminating of the vicious poll tax system in various states; who wish to strike a vital blow at the evils of Southern share-cropping and tenant farming; who wish to correct the inequalities of parity payments under the Federal Government AAA program, and who wish to drive home another blow at Old Jim Crow, should insist that the Workers Defense League cease its attacks against the organizations which have been in the fight to free Waller from the beginning and that the WDL and the NAACP shall use their energies to publicize the issues of the Waller case and to enlist ever growing public and private support to the case, and shall move to take part in a national conference to unify the Waller defense forces.

Only in this way can Waller be freed and the background of social, political and economic inequality which lie at the root of the Waller case, be successfully fought against and corrected.

### Ninth Plenum Held; Plans for Work Pushed

In the midst of war throughout the world the 9th Plenum of the Central Committee of the RWL met on December 30-31 in Cleveland, Ohio. Comrades came from various parts of the United States to participate in the discussions. Included was a representative of a group of German comrades in the United States who are sympathetic to the International Contact Commission.

The question of the war, the ever increasing drive of the American capitalists to plunge the United States into this bloodbath, and the objective conditions internationally were thoroughly discussed. The February issue of INTERNATIONAL NEWS contains parts of the two main political documents.

The plenum devoted a major part of its deliberations to plans for organizational work to get out of our isolation from the class. Steps were taken to shift leading comrades to different parts of the country where they will lay the base for further work in the class struggle.

The campaign for the freedom of Odell Waller, young Negro who is sentenced to die March 14th for the murder of his white landlord was another major point on the agenda.

Starting with this issue of the FIGHTING WORKER we resume publication once, instead of twice a month.

Because of the financial needs of the Revolutionary Workers League during the coming period in other spheres of activity, the 9th Plenum of our Central Committee decided to make this retreat.