

LABOR DEFENDER

April
1932

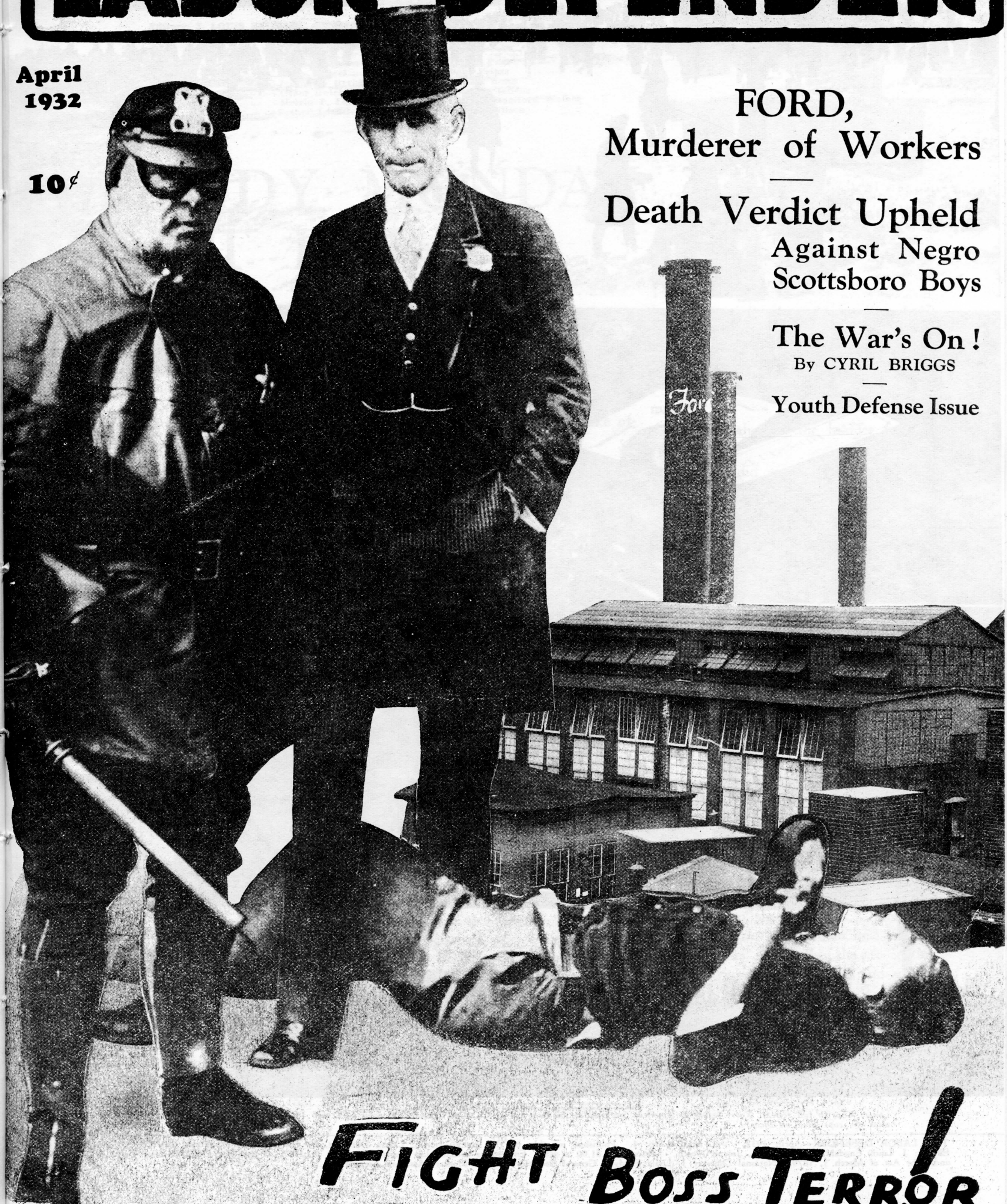
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FORD,
Murderer of Workers

—
Death Verdict Upheld
Against Negro
Scottsboro Boys

—
The War's On!
By CYRIL BRIGGS

—
Youth Defense Issue



FIGHT BOSS TERROR!



Upper scene: 5,000 Ford jobless sweeping uniformed thugs before them as they rush on despite gas bombs demanding work or relief. It is a few minutes before the gunmen fired: killing four and wounding sixty.

Middle scenes: The four young workers who were murdered. Inset, two of the New York cops guarding Ford's agency at protest demonstration.

Lower: Cops in full retreat. Never before in American workingclass his tory was such a scene. "And we'll come back with 100,000!" they said after the cops fired on them.

LABOR DEFENDER

Editors: J. LOUIS ENGDahl, SENDER GARLIN, JOSEPH NORTH

Contributing Editors:

Henri Barbusse
Jacob Burck
Whittaker Chambers
Robert W. Dunn
John Dos Passos
Maxim Gorki

Eugene Gordon
Hugo Gellert
Josephine Herbst
Grace Hutchins
Melvin P. Levy
Esther Lowell

Joseph Pass
Paul Peters
Ludwig Renn
Lincoln Steffens
Charles Rufford Walker
Waiter Wilson

BLOODY MONDAY AT FORD'S

By MARY GOSSMAN

LIKE many others, I saw the strength of the masses pictured on "Bloody Monday." Even machine guns could not stop the anger of the workers towards Ford.

In an orderly manner we started towards the Ford Factory to ask for bread. There was no violence whatever. At the beginning a leading comrade warned us, "Remember no trouble, we want to ask for bread in a peaceful manner." There we were met by the Dearborn uniformed thugs—40 of them. They at once shot tear gas pistols at the workers. With eyes covered, the crowd wavered a moment, and someone shouted, "Let's go! Let's give it to them!" Then they started throwing stones and fought so fiercely that the 40 Dearborn police had to retreat—and how they ran!

I never saw such angry militancy. We had 5,000 workers fighting for their very existence. This was not enough. Next time we will go down there with 100,000 workers.

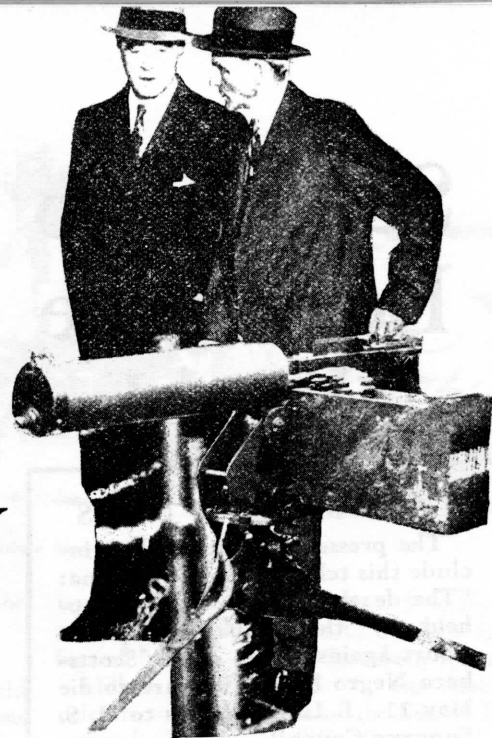
I witnessed the death of Joe York, the District Organizer of the Young Communist League of Detroit. I was about five feet away from him when the machine guns of the thugs spat out the bullet that pierced his lung. I rushed him to the hospital—but it was too late. Comrade Joe York tried to open his mouth on the way, but he could not say anything. Joe York is dead. I took his watch off his right hand and put it on my right hand and pledged over his dead body that I shall never rest until the murderers will pay—and pay dearly. The scandal papers of Detroit tried to play up a story that he

was my sweetheart. They do not know what it means to go through such daily struggles and become so clear in the movement that we are willing to give up our lives and make sacrifices for the sake of our comrades.

I took another comrade to the hospital, Joe DiBlasio. He was still conscious and was sitting opposite me in the same car. Joe DiBlasio was shot through his mouth and he was bleeding to death. We tried to stop the blood, but it was impossible. The blood was fresh young, red-blood—that will never be forgotten by the working class. DiBlasio said he was all right and made place for Joe in the car, and ten minutes later both were dead. The blood still rushes through my memory. Ford's River Rouge will never be washed off from the blood and sweat of the workers that he made his millions from.

DANGER!

This issue of the LABOR DEFENDER has only 16 pages. This is due to the fact that three of the largest districts, New York, Chicago and Cleveland have neglected the LABOR DEFENDER, failing in their financial responsibilities to this magazine. It is criminal for the Defender to go to 16 pages, forced to leave out Edith Berkman's article on Deportations; Mary Himoff's article on Bloody Ford; the I.L.D. financial statement and other very important articles. Comrades, about face on the Defender! Let's have a 40 page May issue. Every I.L.D. member a LABOR DEFENDER booster! Save your magazine! Build it to 60,000!



Mayor Murphy of Detroit and his boss Henry Ford, murderer.

When they took me to the detective bureau, they questioned me:

Q.: Who was the leader? A.: The masses.

Q.: But who led the hunger march? A.: Everyone.

Q. What did you do there? A.: The same thing everyone did.

Q.: Did you not hear them say that you shall go down there with guns? A.: What I heard the speakers say was that we shall go out in a peaceful manner.

Q.: Where did you get information about the demonstration? A.: In the Unemployed Council from the Ford Workers.

Q.: Who told you to go on the demonstration? A.: The Ford workers.

Then they started to ask personal questions about my private life, and the answers to all of them were, "I don't have anything to say." I told them if they ask me about the demonstration, I will tell them exactly how it happened otherwise—I have nothing to say. Then they tried their torture system. One bully grabbed hold of my arm and pinched it and said that they are going to cut Joe York's body into little pieces. But I told them that doesn't work. Then one guy roared, "Lock her up, she won't talk." And they took me in the other room and left me for two hours. After this, the prosecuting attorney came into the room and started to talk in sugar-coated words:

"Mary, why don't you speak? It's for your own good. We will make it as easy for you as we can if you will only tell us what happened. You were right there

(Continued on page 75)

Scottsboro Before the World

LAST MINUTE NEWS

The presses were stopped to include this telegram from Alabama: "The death sentence has been upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court against seven of the Scottsboro Negro boys. They are to die May 13. I. L. D. appeals to U. S. Supreme Court."

Workers! Death is the bosses' decision. Protest! Demonstrate! Rush resolutions to Gov. Miller at Montgomery, Alabama.

By J. W. FORD

(Formerly Secretary of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers)

... The Negro workers are heroically struggling side by side with the white workers on the trade union and political fronts.

"The solidarity of the American workers has thrown the master class into a white rage. The black and white workers of America have found that the misery and suffering they endure do not flow from differences of race. They have learned that the struggle is basically a struggle of class against class.

"As this inter-racial solidarity is manifested, the ruling class as never before resorts to lynching and white terrorism in an effort to defeat the unity of the working class, and to cower and demoralize the Negro workers. A new wave of lynch terror is sweeping over America. The violence of the mob spurred on by the provocative propoganda of the Negro-baiting capi-



Mother Mooney and Mother Montgomery, of Scottsboro, traveling together to speak at meetings to free their sons.

talist press and the armed forces of American imperialism knows no limits. Court houses and jails as in Texas and Oklahoma, are burned to the ground in an effort to get militant Negro workers who are imprisoned on any and every pretext. Almost every day the press recounts new acts of mob terror and violence against Negro workers. To perpetuate racial strife among the white and black workers the reptile capitalist press invariably gives out the report that the Negro prisoner is guilty of an act of sex violence against a white woman and that the racial purity and integrity of the white race must be maintained. But the myth of white supremacy and of inherent white racial superiority is going down before cold facts.

—From the Resolution on Lynching adopted at the First International Conference of Negro Workers in Hamburg, Germany, in 1930.

AT THE opening of the Hamburg Conference of Negro workers a widespread wave of terror was being carried on against the Negro toilers in the United States. New waves of terror are now sharpening against the whole working class of the United States.

The Hamburg Conference of Negro Workers correctly estimated the growing resistance of the Negro toilers not only in the United

States but thruout the Negro world. The Negro toilers everywhere were staggering under burdens placed on their shoulders by the capitalist imperialists. There was not a Negro colony nor any section of the United States, where the effects of the economic crisis was not causing untold misery to the masses of Negro toilers.

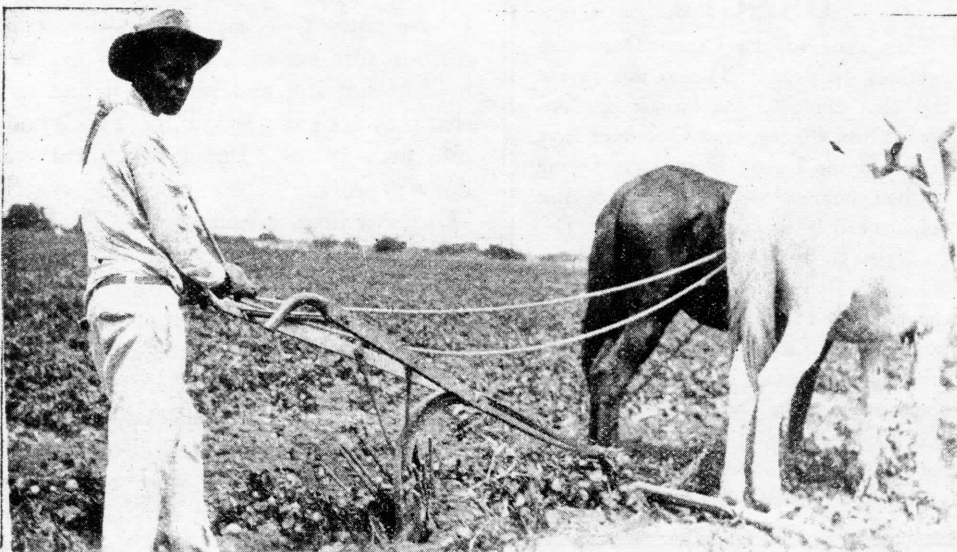
In South Africa, Madagascar, Kenya Colony, Gambia, Nigeria, the French and Belgian Congo, Guadeloupe, Honduras, San Domingo, Haiti, the Negro masses have taken up arms in the struggle against the terrible conditions placed upon their shoulders. Almost immediately, a wave of imperialist terror was started in an attempt to stifle the resistance of the Negro toilers. Here is what was carried on in—

Black Africa and the Negro Movement the destruction of native villages in the Sudan and Central Africa by the French imperialists because the natives refuse to pay taxes, the same in Sierra Leone by the British imperialists who at the same time killed many native peasants, also in the Belgian Congo where only recently a revolt of the natives has been suppressed by the ruthless slaughter of natives; suppression of the harbor workers strike in Dahomey, suppressions in Madagascar — jail hard labor for non-payment of taxes; the shooting down of native women in Nigeria by the British imperialists; suppression of the movement of the natives in East Africa, and brutal murdering of native workers in South Africa on Dingaan's Day, sluggings and brutality on May 1st when the workers stormed the houses of the rich demanding work and relief from unemployment; the reign of murderous lynch law in the U.S.A., the frame-up and sentencing of eight Negro boys in Alabama to be electrocuted; the suppression of the workers and peasant movement in the West Indies by U.S. marines.

Subjection, Plans for War

All of this is proof that the capitalists and their native lackeys are not only trying to smash the struggles of the colonial masses for freedom, but are also trying to safeguard themselves in case of war, by having the colonial masses and oppressed races completely subjugated.

New exceptional laws, the increased taking of the land of the natives, the intensified ter-



From the Black Belt: a share cropper in Texas. He might be lynched for asking for higher wages.

roristic measures of the white slave-holders, the wave of terror, lynchings and persecutions in the U. S. A., have been unable to stop the rising tide of the Negro's struggle for emancipation from colonial imperialism, from brutal exploitation and oppression in the United States. *New and tremendous reserves of Negro masses are swung into the class struggle.*

Herein lies the significance and importance of the resistance of the Negro toilers on an *international scale*. Herein lies the significance of the Scottsboro case to the international working class and why workers in every country thruout the world, set up a storm of international protest.

BULLETIN

A telegram from Atlanta reaches us as this issue goes to press saying that Georgia has called the cases of the six white and Negro organizers—demanding that they be given the *death penalty* for organizing white and Negro workers on equal basis.

"We must execute them in order to halt the unity of white and Negro workers" the bosses say. Workers, unite! and smash the Atlanta case as well as the Scottsboro case and all other instances of working-class oppression!

Mass Demonstrations Thruout World

Mass demonstrations, meetings and conferences of workers were held thruout the world. The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, at Hamburg, was able to cooperate with workers in Europe. We received protests from workers in colonial countries. As far away as Australia, New Zealand and Japan, resolutions of solidarity and protest came in to us.

In Hamburg special meetings were held with African seamen where resolutions in protest against the Scottsboro frame-up and the persecution of Negroes generally were drawn up, discussed in detail and adopted.

International Seamen Join Fight

In some cases these meetings were held on board ships. The African comrades expressed great indignation at the treatment of their brothers in the U. S. A. They related their experiences in Africa, they told of the unspeakable butchery of African toilers by the imperialists in Africa.

On July 9th, 1931, a great interracial protest meeting of seamen was held at the International Seamen's Club at Hamburg. Many African seamen attended this meeting. German seamen and workers expressed great indignation at the treatment of their Negro brother workers.

German Workers Protest

German workers held demonstrations before the American Consulate at Hamburg, demanding the release of the Scottsboro boys.

In Berlin, Dresden, Cologne and other German cities, mass meetings of protest were held. In some cases, bottles were hurled thru windows of American consulates, containing mes-



Brothers and sisters of the Scottsboro boys—Picking coal they can't buy.

sages which demanded the release of the Scottsboro boys.

Africa, India, China

In South Africa, protest meetings were held in defense of the Scottsboro boys. Resolutions were adopted in meetings of native and white workers. In Cuba and Latin and Central America, protest meetings have been held. From Chinese and Indian workers protests poured in.

In Soviet Russia, nation-wide mighty protest of workers and peasants against this brutal attack on the Negro workers in the U.S.A. was exposed.

In Moscow, Leningrad and other large industrial centers, mighty mass meetings were held. Cultural and scientific workers also took part in these demonstrations and protest.

Role of Reformists

On the occasion of the holding of the World Congress of the Second "Socialist" International in Vienna in July, 1931, this writer spoke at several meetings in Austria exposing the role of the Second International in helping the imperialists exploit and oppress colonial toilers. He especially emphasized how the MacDonald "socialist" Labor Government supported slavery and brutality in Africa, how the French socialists support the bloody action of French imperialism in the French African colonies, how the Belgian socialists support bloody

terror in the Belgian Congo and finally the attitude of socialists in the U. S. A. to lynchings of Negroes and the Scottsboro frame-up.

Hillquit of the U. S. A. was American delegate to the Congress of the Second International. He was feted in Vienna, while this writer was arrested, held in jail three days and deported from Austria as an undesirable alien for his activities in behalf of oppressed people and the Scottsboro boys. Money was taken from his pockets by the Socialist Austrian administration to defray expenses of two police escorts to the Austrian border.

The Negro reformists and organizations, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the U. S. A. have said that the International protest prejudiced the case of the Scottsboro boys. This shows not only how low they stoop to lick-splitting, but how they actually help capitalist bosses execute the boys.

Only international proletarian protest and organization stayed so far the execution of the Scottsboro boys!

In order to release the boys, the fight must be increased tenfold. *The international proletariat must raise its fist.*

Organize the united front of the working class against terror, lynching, hunger and imperialist war in China and the attack on the Soviet Union!



Terror not only against Negroes. Foreign-born workers and families deported for working-class activity. At Ellis Island.



The growth of terror against the American working class is part of the war preparations of Wall Street. Shooting down of strikers, (Kentucky), murder of demonstrators (Detroit), mass arrests, (California, Tampa, etc.) is one of the means the boss-class uses to try to cow the workers who don't want war. The job of the defense movement today is to halt this terror and aid the fight of the workers against the war being prepared on the Soviet Union! The first week in April will be a period of anti-war demonstrations. All I.L.D. members and sympathizers must take part.

By CYRIL BRIGGS

THE robber war against China is proceeding under cover of a sham truce at Shanghai and a barrage of pacifist phrases at Geneva.

The heroic workers and soldiers who defended the South China city of Shanghai for 35 days against the combined might of the Japanese Navy and Army have been shamelessly betrayed by the Kuomintang Nanking Government. The Nineteenth Route Army, whose soldiers joined the worker defenders of Shanghai in defiance of the orders of the Nanking government, has been forced to retreat from Shanghai. A new bloody terror has been launched by the imperialists and their Kuomintang tools against the revolutionary masses of Shanghai.

The imperialists have met with machine guns the demand for food of the tens of thousands of starving refugees, rendered homeless and destitute by the wanton destruction of their homes by the Japanese invaders. As in Detroit, so in China the demands of the starving workers for relief are met with bullets and clubs. The former populous proletarian district of Chapei lies a smoking, smoldering ruin, under whose battered walls are buried tens of thousands of Chinese workers and their babies.

Fear that the heroic resistance of the workers of Shanghai would serve further to develop the national revolutionary struggle throughout China, led to the betrayal of the Shanghai de-

fense. That betrayal was engineered by the United States and British consular agents at Shanghai, with the connivance of the Kuomintang counter-revolutionary scoundrels. Like the deliberate campaign of frightfulness carried out by the Japanese against the Chinese masses, the betrayal of Shanghai was aimed at crushing the resistance of the masses. It has failed of its purpose. The Chinese masses, furious at the betrayal, has met the new imperialist attacks with a tremendous upsurge of the revolutionary movement, with a rapid trend toward the proven revolutionary leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

The imperialists are now more than ever alarmed. They see on every hand the rising revolutionary wave threatening to wipe out their privileged positions, their robbery and oppression of the Chinese masses. They see the influence and authority of their Kuomintang lackeys withering before the flaming fury of the Chinese masses. The imperialists are trembling in their boots at the spectacle of the toiling worker-peasant masses, and ever larger sections of the petty bourgeoisie, rallying to the Chinese Communist Party, to the powerful Chinese Soviet Republic and the victorious Red Armies operating in Central China.

While all the imperialist powers have huge fleets and military forces in China and are actively participating in the joint armed intervention against the Chinese Revolution, it is Japanese imperialism which is acting as the imperialist spearhead in the attack. Japanese imperialism is now sending its army and warships up the Yangtze Valley for a direct attack against the ever-expanding Chinese Soviet districts, against the heroic Chinese Red armies.

Japanese imperialism is at the same time moving with frantic haste to carry out its openly announced plans for an armed attack against the peaceful Soviet Union, against the victorious Five Year Plan and the successful Socialist Construction in workers' Russia. Japanese air bases have been constructed on the Manchurian frontier of the Soviet Union. The Tsarist White Guards in Manchuria are being mobil-

ized and armed by the Japanese. Imperialist press dispatches on March 7 reported a Japanese fleet off the Soviet port of Vladivostok. High Japanese officials have declared Japan's intention to seize the Far East region of the Soviet Union.

In its seizure of Manchuria, in its attack on the Chinese Revolution, in its bestial cruelties against the Chinese masses, Japanese imperialism is supported by the United States, British and French imperialists, by the League of Nations, and by the social-imperialists.

While the Japanese invasion of South China, threatening as it does the loot of the United States and British imperialists in that area, has tremendously sharpened the conflict of interests between the imperialist brigands, every effort is being made to confine to diplomatic channels this clash of interests, in order to maintain intact the anti-Soviet front. The imperialists are frantically striving to submerge their own differences in their common hatred of the Soviet Union.

The dying world of capitalism is seeking a way out of the crisis by war, a way out at the expense of the life blood of the toiling masses, at the expense of the tremendous achievements of the working-class in the Soviet Union and in Soviet China, a way out at the expense of increased misery and lowered living standards for the home workers, of intensified oppression for the colonial masses.

As part of their war preparations, the Wall Street imperialists have launched a terrific wave of terror against the Negro and white masses, against the struggles of the unemployed millions against starvation and for unemployment relief and social insurance. Workers demonstrating against hunger have been shot down by the Ford police at Detroit. All over the country, the bosses are launching a savage attack against the hungry, destitute white and Negro unemployed masses.

Negro and white workers! Halt boss terror! Smash the imperialist war plot! Stop the robber war against China! Stop the war provocations against the Soviet Union!

From Florida's Dungeon Holes

County Jail, Tampa, Fla.

Fellow readers of *Labor Defender*:

Fight for your liberty in mass demonstrations! We are all innocent! Only because we asked for bread have we been sentenced to the dungeon holes of Florida!

The lynching bourgeoisie of the South is keeping itself filled with proletarian blood!

Listen to our case:

From Tampa's tobacco factories we left to hold a mass meeting; that was on November 7th—the date on which the Russian proletariat finished with hunger and misery, injustice and whip. The streets belong to the workers and we decided to hold a parade. We had hundreds of flags. The unemployed were waiting for us already. They wrote the demands themselves with red letters that said: "We are hungry and we want bread," "We want work not imperialist wars," "Our children did not eat and they need milk," "The money you spend on guns for the imperialist war you ought to use to buy bread for the 12 million unemployed workers," "We cannot pay for electricity or gas—neither the water we drink nor the food we eat, because we are unemployed." "The winter is hard and our children are going to school without food, with-



Tobacco worker's family in Tampa: three generations—all fighters! Caroline Vasquez, daughter (insert left) sentenced to one year for striking; Mother, Francisca (insert right), also got a year.

out clothes and without materials," "Don't evict us from our houses because we don't pay rent—we are unemployed," "That a public hospital be built to cure our wives and children that are tubercular because of lack of food." "That there be no wages cut as you did last year," "That the children won't be allowed to work 10 hours in the factories and that they won't be insulted," "That we are ready to defend the Soviet Union from the attacks that the imperialist nations are making to destroy it."

In our demands there was our misery; there was our defiance to the bourgeoisie. We wanted to parade thru the streets of Tampa with those red letters; we wanted to shout with all our strength the misery and hunger in which we live. We were starting to get together in the Centro Obrero local waiting for the order to start the parade, when the lackeys of the bosses came provoking and

beating the workers. The American Legion and 50 K.K.K. armed with pistols brand new. The sons of the rich, the lackeys and the misleaders and traitors were waiting for us with a cross and a pistol in their hands. The sheriffs, fat and cowardly, showed their ugly and repugnant faces thru the windows of the old houses waiting pistol in hand the order to attack from the master.

They beat up a child pioneer that was selling the *Liberator*, the organ of the Negro workers. A worker came to his defense—he was also beaten up. A K.K.K. shot at our fellow comrade, but he missed and hit a policeman of white cap. It was the signal.

Then they all attacked us with tear gas bombs, and with machine guns and pistols in their hands. Fifty more American Legionnaires were called. We were beaten and arrested—17 of us, two of whom were women workers and also two children that came to help their mothers who were badly beaten. They brought us to jail and we were savagely tortured. An officer of the police spat in my face while two of his thugs were holding me by the hands just because I said that I will fight against the lynchings, the injustice and the jim-crowism they used against our brother Negro workers. They beat us in our faces and used every kind of tortures. And now they find us guilty of felonious assault with intent to kill, illegal assemblage and what not. The judge, chewing gum, told four of us: 10 years in prison, and to another two—3 years, and to the rest—one year and a day.

All the workers of United States, working and unemployed, especially those of the Spanish language, must link up the Tampa case with their struggle against the regime of hunger and misery, with their struggle against unemployment and for a social insurance bill linking up the struggle for unconditional release with the defense of all the victims of the class struggle. For the organization of the five and a half millions of Latin-American workers in the revolutionary trade unions. For the destruction of all the imperialisms, especially the Yankee imperialism in the Caribbean and in the Latin-American countries.

A TAMPA PRISONER.



Schoolboys trained to shoot down workers. Preparing them for war on the Soviet Union.

Workers! Replace Our Fallen Leaders

By MAX WEISS

(Editor of the Young Worker, official organ of the Young Communist League)

More and more it is clear that the capitalist class is using the weapon of bloody terror against the working youth in a desperate effort to prevent them from carrying on the struggle together with the adult workers against hunger, terror and imperialist war.

The terror against the youth has always been sharp but now with the rapid development of the war preparations of the capitalists into actual provocative attacks upon the Soviet Union, the terror against the youth has increased a hundred fold. This increase is due to two main reasons: First, the bosses recognize in the youth one of the most militant sections of the working class army and they therefore try to crush it, secondly, the militancy of the youth places the young workers in the front ranks of the battles of the working class with the result that every attack of the bosses upon the struggles of the working class finds an increasing number of youth victims of boss terror.

A brief glance at the list of young workers killed, jailed or otherwise singled out as objects of capitalist terror is sufficient to convince us of this. Fresh in our minds is the murder

of Harry Simms in Kentucky, the murder of York, Leny, and Bussel in Detroit, the jailing of Harry Chandler, youth organizer for the National Miners Union in Pineville, the jailing of Ann Barton and Doris Parks in the same state during the early days of the strike, the six months' jail sentence given Bill Sroka, youth organizer of the National Textile Workers Union, the two and three year sentences passed on Bob Young, Leo Thompson, Stella Rasefski in Pennsylvania for their part in the militant leadership of the Penn-Ohio coal strike of last summer, the criminal syndicalism and sedition charges under which Shantzek and Greenberg, two young workers in Colorado, face twenty year sentences, the attempted legal lynching of the nine Scottsboro Negro boys, the attempted railroading to the electric chair of Jesse Hollins in Oklahoma, the legal lynching of Bonnie Lee Ross in the same state.

The youth must join the fight of the International Labor Defense against boss-terror! Build a strong defense movement!

FREE THE IMPERIAL VALLEY STRIKERS

TWO YEARS ago, on the night of April 1930, a mob of police, deputy-sheriffs, and privately-hired thugs and gangsters, all in the

service of the great landowners of the Imperial Valley, burst into a dingy working-class hall in El Centro, California. They were armed with revolvers and sawed-off shotguns.

Sheriff Gillette, notorious gunman of the Imperial Valley bosses, stepped out of the crowd, and ordered all the workers to be chained in groups after which they were marched under heavy guard to the El Centro jail.

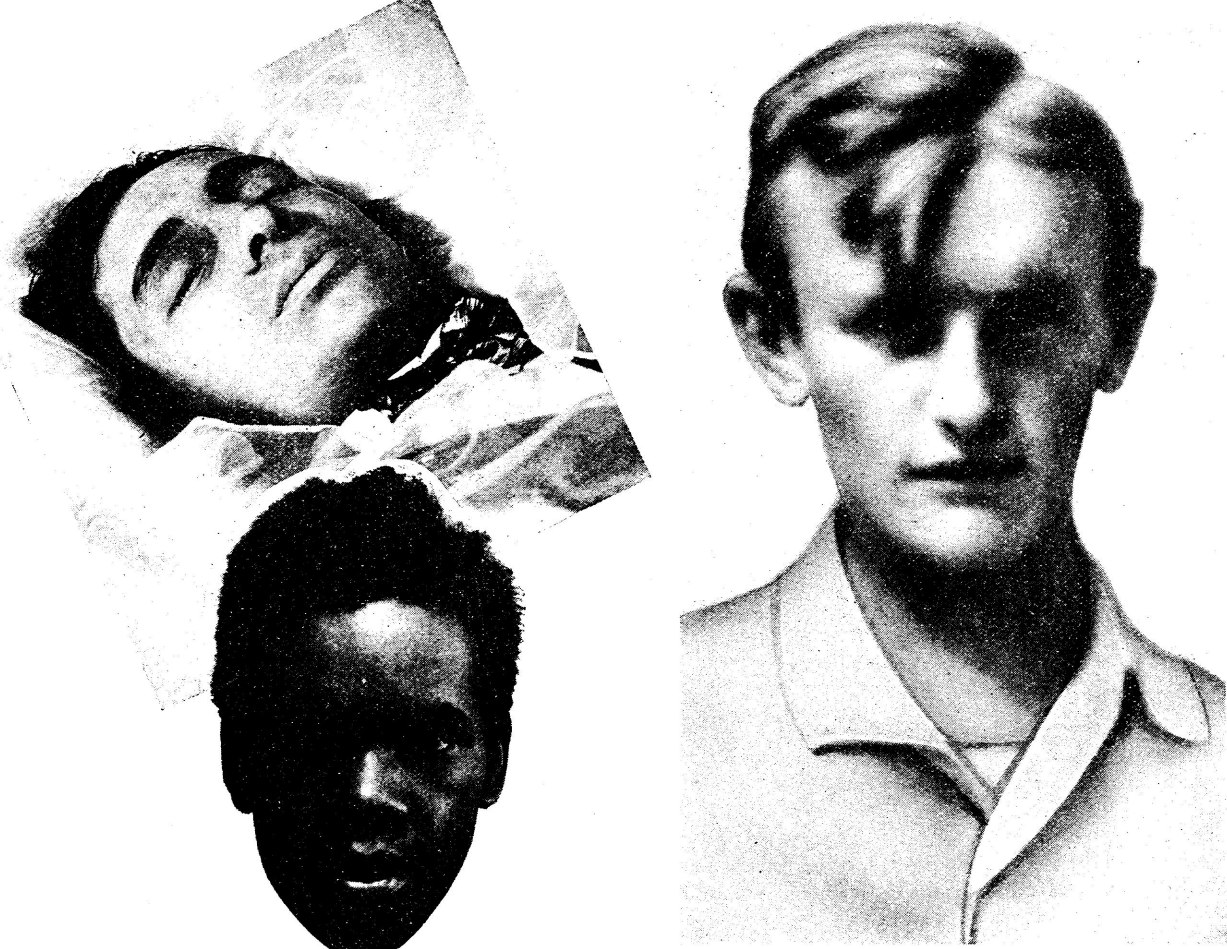
Carl Sklar, Los Angeles organizer for the Communist Party; Tetsuji Horiuchi, Japanese organizer of the Trade Union Unity League, were sentenced to serve 3 to 42 years in Folsom Prison. Oscar Erickson, national secretary of the A.W.I.L. Lawrence Emery, of the Marine Workers Industrial Union; Frank Spector, Los Angeles district organizer, I.L.D., and Danny Roxas, Filipino worker secretary of A.W.I.L. in the Imperial Valley, were sentenced to similar terms in San Quentin. Eduardo Herera and Braulio Orosco, Mexican workers, have been deported.

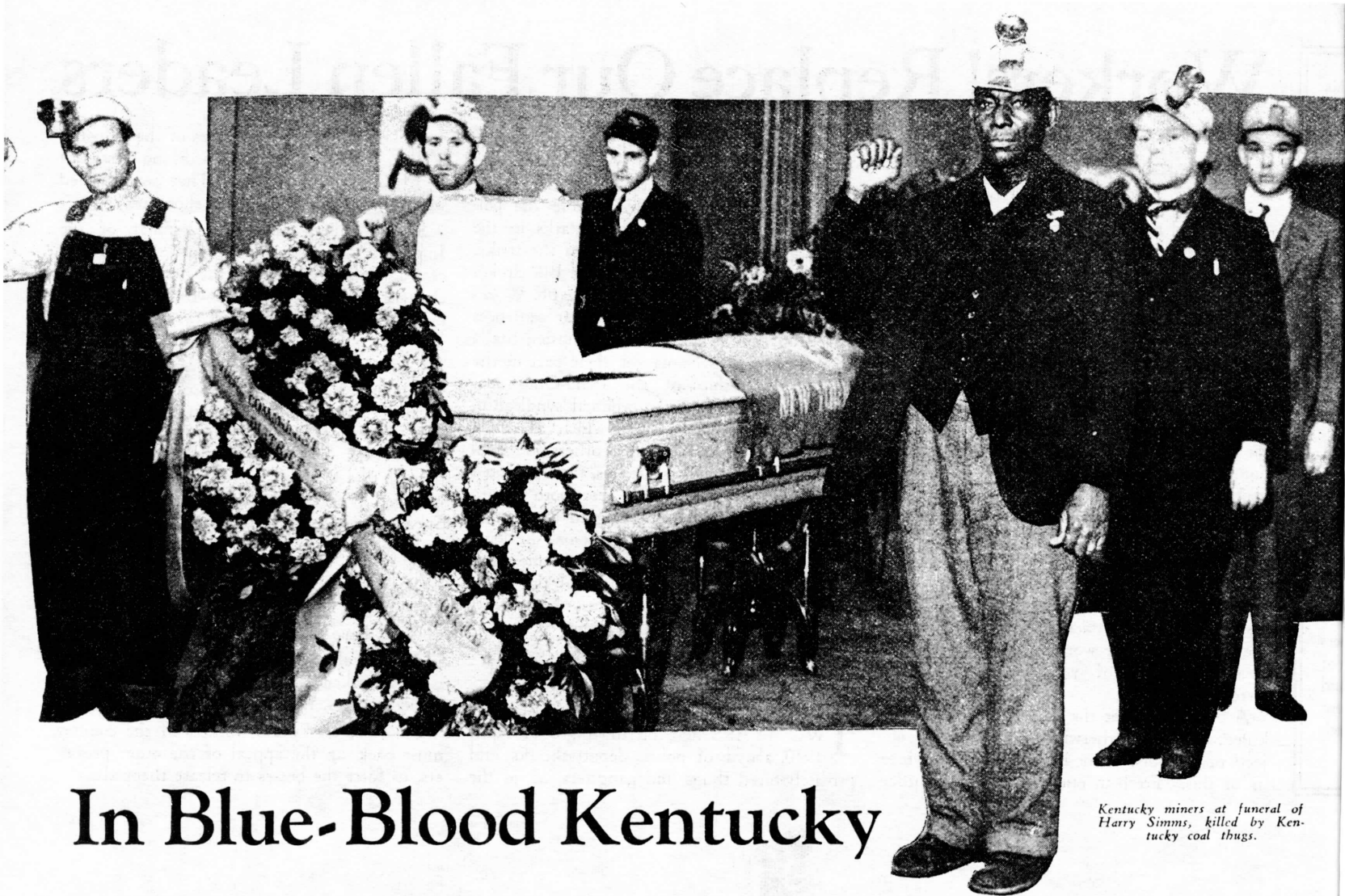
An appeal on the Imperial Valley decisions is being taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. Mass protest freed Spector.

Mass protest by the workers of the country must back up the appeal of the other prisoners, to force the bosses to release them also.

The writer of the first article in this issue, a young worker, Mary Gossman, was on the spot when Ford's gunmen poured lead into the ranks of the starving workers. She described what happened on bloody Monday, the day Ford gave bullets for bread. The destruction of the Ford myth—the great humanitarian—cost the lives of 4 young workers and maimed bodies of 60 more. Foremost in these struggles for the working-class we find the youth. Three of those killed at Dearborn were less than 24 years of age. One of them, Joe York, was a district organizer of the Young Communist League. A month ago it was a Rockefeller thug who killed Harry Simms in Kentucky, another district organizer of the Y.C.L. Three months ago the effects of starvation and bad food took the life of Ronald Edwards, outstanding Negro leader of the Y.C.L. (Their pictures are to the left. York is the large picture.)

These 3 young workers were members of the National Executive Committee of the Y.C.L. All workers—youth and adult, must join the defense movement against this slaughter regime, which shoots down young and old alike.





Kentucky miners at funeral of Harry Simms, killed by Kentucky coal thugs.

In Blue-Blood Kentucky

As this issue goes to press we receive word from Kentucky that Vern Smith, Ann Barton and Doris Parks, three of the 11 workers under criminal syndicalism charges, have been transferred to bloody Harlan County and placed in separate cells. This is an attempt to terrorize the prisoners into an agreement to leave Kentucky, or be taken for a ride and be lynched. Already 2 of the 11 have suffered pneumonia from the intolerable conditions within the prison cells. These are: Clarina Michaelson and Dorothy Ross Weber. Twelve locals of the National Miners Union in the strike area have passed resolutions of protest demanding the prisoners be released. Workers in all parts of the country must storm the Kentucky governor, Laffoon, at Lexington, with protests demanding the release of these and all other prisoners jailed by the thug agents of the coal corporations.

DEMAND THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

By GERTRUDE HAESSLER

THE whole capitalist world sobs at the plight of the Lindbergh family, and hopes that the baby, until it is returned by its underworld captors, will get the right food to eat. But who, in the whole capitalist world, has a tear to shed at the

death from undernourishment, of the 13-month old son of Comrade Ed Stanley, in Peabody, Tennessee? Ed Stanley, a miner, starving while working, not only could not give his little son the "right kind of food," but could hardly give the little one any food at all.

And so Ed Stanley, and thousands of miners in Tennessee and Kentucky, who also were starving and whose wives and children were dying from want of food, went on strike in order to be able to give their little children not "the right kind of food"—their plans were not quite so ambitious—but to get them just any old food to keep them alive.

Lindbergh, the "symbol of clean-cut Americanism," makes a deal with the underworld to get his baby back. In appointing two prominent big-boys of the underworld as his representatives in negotiating with the kidnapers, he has exposed the entire united front of capitalist forces, from the lowest thug to the highest type of American civilization. He has given racketeering, gangsterism, thugery, and crime a respectable position in the bourgeois world, and the criminal sits at the same table with the most respected upholders of bourgeois civilization.

"Honorable, straight-forward, tender-

hearted" Lindbergh, the ideal of young American boyhood, never made a move to see that Mother Mooney got her son back during the entire 15 years of his legal kidnapping. Lindbergh, shaking hands with the czars of the underworld, in the frantic effort to get back his "chubby golden-haired son," doesn't give a damn for the nine terrified little dark-skinned, Scottsboro lads, imprisoned on a frame-up, nor for the grief of their mothers. And as to undernourished baby Stanley, looking so peaked and blue from want of food, and finally giving up his weak hold of life,—how can the bourgeois world begin to grieve over every miner's baby that lies dead in the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee from not having the right kind of food to eat!

But what happened in Kentucky and Tennessee, when the miners began a fight for their babies—a fight for a decent living, a fight against starvation! The same united front of all the forces of capitalism, but directed at a quite different object. Municipal, county and state officials, state and federal troops, police—all together with the armed thugs of the underworld, hired by the coal operators—in short, the lowest filth of the underworld up to the

(Continued on Page 74)

THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

By ESTHER COREY

Repression and Struggle In Poland

Resistance against the terror develops. Ten thousand political prisoners have gone on hunger strike against the harsh prison regime. Andrew Wash was murdered in the Piotrkovsky prison; another political prisoner, C. Atlas, was poisoned through forcible feeding. Among other atrocities, a woman political prisoner in Pinsk was buried alive and almost suffocated in an effort to make her confess.

The Polish fascists are trying to drown in blood the growing mass movement of the workers and peasants. But the movement grows, the struggle for the right to live and for the release of political prisoners. This spirit animated the strikes of the Warsaw street car workers, the Lodz textile workers and the miners, and the struggle of the Polish, Ukrainian and White Russian peasants against the tax collectors. In Warsaw, the 17-year-old tailor, Cohen, and the student Gradovsky were murdered by detectives on a busy street in broad daylight. In Posen a member of the city council, Jan Briger, was imprisoned and severely beaten and mistreated with sadistic cruelty.

The humanitarians "protest," the socialists are silent, the workers and peasants *fight!*

A Letter From a Cuban Worker

A clear light is thrown on the Machado terror in Cuba, which serves the interests of Cuban capitalists and landlords and American



Chinese children in the Soviet Union. No starvation or murder here as in Chapei, where Jap militarists murdered thousands

imperialists, by the following letter from a Cuban worker:

"On December 21, the student Felix Alpizar was attacked by the detective Olave openly on the street. The assassin fired upon Alpizar, wounding him in the arm. Despite the injury Alpizar defended himself valiantly and wounded the detective, but was overcome and taken to the Bauba, where he was killed and

his body concealed from the working-class.

"Because of their protest against Alpizar's murder, several students and workers imprisoned in the Havana fortress El Principe were attacked by one of the prison officials. When the students and workers defended themselves, Diaz Galup, the warden, organized a band of criminal prisoners who, armed with knives, guns and sticks, entered the cells where 150 political prisoners were confined and attacked them. Oscar Andino received a knife wound in the lungs; Raoul Diaz was beaten to death; Polo Miranda and Bernardo Blanco suffered fractured skulls; and seventeen others were badly wounded, many of them while asleep."

Mass Arrests of Japanese Communists

The communists, who oppose the imperialist war on China while the socialists support it, are increasing their activity. The government orders mass arrests. At one of the trials in Tokio only fifty of the prisoners were present, as the courtroom could not hold all of the accused. Four leaders of the Communist Party were arrested and ordered tried by a military courts; they were charged with organizing three districts and eighteen branches of the Party after the mass arrests in July, 1930. These comrades were arrested in September, 1931, in connection with the sixth conference of the Communist Party.

A dispatch to the *New York Times* from Asuncion, Paraguay, reports that the chief of police is mobilizing forces for an offensive against "the Reds." Police guards in important cities are being strengthened. A Communist meeting was broken up and a number of workers arrested, including three "aliens." Political refugees are being deported, among them several Brazilian and Chilian communists. Communist sentiment is growing all over South America.



They were workers—in China. They wanted liberty. Murdered by European and Yankee controlled war-lords.



Mother Mooney greeted by Negro and white workers in Washington, D. C. Thousands acclaim her demanding Mooney's freedom.

“They Have Not Broken My Spirit” —

The arch faker, Governor Rolph of California, delays from week to week his decision upon the Mooney case. In the meantime Mooney's aged mother travels across country, triumphantly acclaimed by tens of thousands of workers who demand that her son be freed. Mrs. Mooney in company with mother Montgomery, mother of Olen Montgomery, one of the 9 Negro Scottsboro boys, are speaking at great mass meetings in the heavily industrial centers of the country. Everywhere they go they are greeted by masses of white and Negro workers, who unite in the demand for the freedom of Tom Mooney and the 9 Negro Scottsboro boys.

15,000 were present at the New York Coliseum meeting. Greetings came from workers in all countries of the world, demanding Mooney's release. The following article is a letter from Mooney to a (M.O.P.R.) I.L.D. section of Red soldiers in the small Siberian town of Tara. These workers addressed a letter to the political prisoners in San Quentin. "Do not lose courage," they wrote, "we are firmly convinced that the time will come when those prisons in which you are now captives, will under our united onslaughts be turned into ruins. Instead of them there will be the factories of labor and the culture of socialism." Tom Mooney's article follows:

California State Prison,
Dear Comrades:

I read the letter addressed to the political prisoners at San Quentin. It gives me

great pleasure to answer and I know that I am also voicing the sentiments of the other victims of capitalist justice incarcerated here.

What a tremendous inspiration is your glowing message of hope, coming from far-off Siberia. It seemed like a dream to have penetrating these thick walls a message directly from workers, descendants of those who were serfs for centuries, just a few short years free from Czarist oppression and bondage.

You tell us not to lose courage:—I have never wavered one iota in my devotion to the cause of Labor. That is why my enemies are so relentless. That is why they have willed that I die in prison. I have grown old in this Bastille where they keep militant fighters for Labor who have dared to take a stand in defense of their interests, who have had the courage to demand some of the good things of life for themselves and their families and their fellow-workers. They have not broken my spirit. I gaze unflinchingly into the future. I have never compromised my principles, and have ever held aloft the banner of a better world for workers and shall continue to do so as long as a spark of life remains within me.

At a time when the capitalist world is experiencing a crisis which is shaking it to its foundations; when death is raining on workers and their families in far-off Shanghai and Manchuria; when imperialism is getting ready to cut loose with

another mass slaughter on an unprecedented scale, it is an unforgettable sensation to read how you workers are constructing a new land and a new life.

I agree with you that the time will come when the gates of the prisons where the fighters and martyrs for labor are buried alive shall swing open and free those who have devoted their lives to the cause of the toilers. I greet you in the name of that day when the blackness of reaction shall be dispelled by the sun of freedom and an opportunity to live like human beings, to be able to work constructively for the common welfare, shall be given to the toiling masses the world over.

So build your land! Rest assured that though entombed as we are by concrete and steel, our vision is not blinded. We are watching you closely. We glory in your achievements. We are with you in your struggles, as we know it is difficult to build where there was nothing before. We are thrilled to see arising out of the muck and filth and ignorance and superstition that was old Russia, the new land of the Soviets, the homeland of the world's proletariat. From the ashes of the dark past we see arising, phoenix-like, a new world. I express to you from the bottom of my heart, my solidarity with you.

Comradely greetings to you all! I am with you heart and soul.

Comradely yours,

TOM MOONEY—31,921.

Voices FROM Prison

About To Be Deported

Dear Comrade Maurer:

I received your letter with \$2.00 check for which I thank you very much and also comrade Marinich, he thanks you because I bought some tobacco for me and him and we got money to buy some more of it. The immigration tried to send me to Ellis Island January 26. They had mean list to go but at last moment they called the other and did not call on me. Seem to be they have trouble to get my passport, they want me to write to Italy for the passport. I told them that is up to them to get it and not up to me. But I think sometime this month they will ship me to Ellis Island. Now, Comrade Maurer, I got a family—a wife and three children, and I cannot leave my family in this country. I want my family to go with me to the Soviet Union, either before or after I go, depending on the financial situation. But they cannot remain here. I like to know what you got to say on this question. Also if the I. L. D. now could do something at the present time. Because the family are in a bad condition. Over four months the house rent is not paid, \$12.00 a month, and one of this days the land lord will put my family out on the street. And they'll be with no house and no furniture. I realize the bad financial situation at the I. L. D. now, but if something can be done it should be done. Also I wish you'd write a letter to my wife because she is very worried about whether I go to the Soviet Union or Italy. And also whether the I.L.D. will do anything to send the family to Soviet Union, or not.

Please, Comrade Maurer, write to her and explain to her all about it, that it may make her feel better. Comrade Marinich is held also for deportation to Jugoslavia and he is good comrade also.

I hope you will answer this letter soon and let me know all about it. I wrote to the N. O. before Christmas but no answer. I have the chance because I am working in the kitchen.

Fraternally yours,

PHILIP GIAMBATTISTA.

Wife's address: Mrs. Annie Giambattista, Box 424, Brownsville, Pa.

Please send me the last number of the *Labor Defender*.

For the Children

Slovan, Pa.

Dear Comrades:

I received the letter and the check of five dollars (\$5). It was a great help to me and my children. I thank you kindly for the money.

Comradely, MRS. BOLLER.

Old Mother of Billings Writes

Feb. 8th, 1932.

Dear Friends:

Just received the check for five dollars and thank you very much. Am very sorry I have to take it but I have no other income. Wishing you good luck I am,

WARREN K. BILLINGS' MOTHER.

Mrs. Anna G. Billings, 1357 St. Marks Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.



Mothers and babes herded into police patrol in India: for demanding freedom.

From Imprisoned Miner's Wife

Jan. 29, 1932.

Dear Comrade:

Please try and do something for me and my son for I went to the Conty Welfare for help they told me to go to the National Union for help: if your husband was fighting for them let them help you; for you know I only received the \$10.00 you sent me Dec. 7. I worked a little in Bridgeville but only got two days a week you know I cannot live on that with my son, no home or anything, if you promise to send me something I will have a place to stay at my mother's. Please send me something soon, for I haven't got anything to eat now, I will be in E. Pgh.

Answer soon please.

Yours comradely,

MRS. PAULINE CRILLO,
c/o 228 Dixon Avenue, East Pittsburgh, Pa.

From Bloody Kentucky

Evarts, Ky., Feb. 8, 1932.

International Labor Defense,

I received your letter and how glad I was to find the relief check in it and I thank you all for it. I need it awful bad, how glad I was to know some one in the world was thinking about me and that I wasn't forgotten. How it helps me!

Comradely yours, CATHRINE BONKS.

A Scottsboro Negro Boy Writes From the Death Cell

Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala.
Feb. 26, 1932.

Dear Miss Dillon:

Just in regards to your most kind and welcome letter which I received. It found me well in health and fairly well in mind and over-joyed over the dollar which you all have sacrificed time and pleasure to send me. I am sitting in my lonely cell trying to make the best of life I can with some of the little things which I have bought myself. It pleases me very much to have the golden privilege to read a letter from some one who has made every effort that is possible to liberate me. With the very best of my knowledge in return I am wishing you all the success in the world.

Dear comrade, of course I suppose you know that the characteristic of most young men are disliking to write, and I am one who was always thought it was a heavy burden put on me when it comes to writing but your encouraging letters have caused me to prefer to enjoy carrying the responsibility on myself which I had thought to be a heavy burden. Now as I am just about to come a close I will ask you to please give all of our dear comrades my best regards. Looking to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

I am yours fraternally,

HAYWOOD PATTERSON.

From a Coal Striker

Washington, Pa., Feb. 9, 1932.

Dear Comrades:

I received your letter and check and am thanking you very much for it.

It may be a small amount but it is a big relief to me.

Comrades, I am leaving the jail on the 18th of this month that will make it four months and a week. I was put in absolutely for nothing same as lot of our comrades who are serving much longer sentences. But I will fight just as hard and much harder than I did.

Yours comradely, MIKE TARAS.

P. S. When writing me again, this is my home address: Mike Taras, Box 364, Bentleyville, Pa.



Mothers and babes herded into police patrol in India: for demanding freedom.



Jobless workers of Oakwood (suburb of Detroit) marching in blizzard demanding food—a week before Bloody Monday at Dearborn.

The Labor Defender Appeals to You!

This issue of the LABOR DEFENDER is only sixteen pages, fellow-worker. The reason? Funds due the LABOR DEFENDER have not been forthcoming from several of the largest districts: namely, Chicago, Cleveland, and New York, and as a result, the DEFENDER has been forced to cut its size by four pages.

Now, comrades, if the LABOR DEFENDER is to continue as the collective organizer of the I. L. D.; if it is to be the mass organ that we propose: the districts must immediately make a turn about face on the matter of payments to the DEFENDER. If the official organ of the I. L. D. is to live, we will have to face our obligations to the DEFENDER.

This month, in the monthly bulletin of the New York district—there was *not one word* about the LABOR DEFENDER, although space was found to print a play; one side of the cover was completely left empty; but no consideration was seen of the DEFENDER. There is no better way to entirely destroy the magazine than this type of neglect.

It is up to you, comrades. If you want the LABOR DEFENDER, which has grown from 25,000 to 35,000 in the past six months, then you will have to discuss and act upon the problems of the magazine. You have brought it into being, and by ignoring it now, you can kill the magazine.

MAY DAY — INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS HOLIDAY is only a month off. The May issue of the *Labor Defender* will come out as a special and enlarged issue. We want to have as many greetings from individual workers (at the rate of 25c per name), working-class organizations, publications, etc., to make possible this enlarged issue.

May Day greeting lists to the *Labor Defender* have been sent to every branch of the International Labor Defense. Get busy, fellow-workers, we want to have at least ten pages full of greetings in the May issue.

All cities should order extra large bundles of the May issue, send us your order as soon as possible.

OUR DRIVE FOR 55,000 CIRCULATION of the

Labor Defender, by May 1st is as yet, not a very successful one. Our districts have not taken the necessary steps towards building up an apparatus to conduct the work of the drive, towards spreading the *Labor Defender* in the industrial sections of their districts.

This far, the percentage of the quotas achieved are very poor, the following results to-date (March 19th) will prove:

District	Sub Quota	Subs Sent In
Boston	250	30
New York	700	120
Philadelphia	500	96½
Buffalo	200	23
Pittsburgh	300	40
Detroit	500	40½
Cleveland	500	37
Chicago	700	112½
Minneapolis	200	16
Kansas City	100	13
Seattle	200	18½
Los Angeles	300	38
San Francisco	200	15
Connecticut	100	10½
South	100	3
Denver	150	5
Organizations		38
Foreign		12½
Unorganized Territory		22
Total		691 subs

For this reason, we have decided to extend the drive-time to October 15th, at which time the winner will be announced, and preparations made for his sailing to the U.S.S.R. for the November 7th celebrations.

Comrade Gerber, of Los Angeles, Calif., who won in the last drive, and who is going to the Soviet Union for the May First Celebrations as the winner, writes us the following letter:

"I think your new drive for subs should go over big, the comrades in the big industrial cities must be real sore for letting Los Angeles put something over on them in the last drive and are probably working full speed in getting new subs.

"My method of getting subs, was to let

one read a copy of the *Labor Defender*, the rest was easy. One young worker to whom I sold a sub told me later, 'I read the *Labor Defender* from cover to cover and can hardly wait for the next issue,' and this from a worker who never saw the *Labor Defender* in his life. It hits the spot.

Well, what do you say, fellow workers? Wouldn't you like to go to the Soviet Union to see the Soviet workers celebrate their November 7th?

(Continued from page 70)

most respectable citizens, banded together to crush the struggle of the starving miners.

The virtual beheading of the strike by the jailing of almost the entire strike leadership the first few days of the strike; the outrageous arrest and illegal holding of the I.L.D. lawyer sent down to defend these comrades; the arrest of newspaper correspondents who were after the truth; the kidnapping and beating of Joe Weber and Bill Duncan; the "reward, dead or alive" for Frank Borich posted in Harlan County; the continual arrests on criminal syndicalist charges of local miners who showed initiative and leadership; all testify to the lawless methods of the "law," to the frantic hysteria of the operators, with their "any means, however foul" policy.

This is what the Kentucky-Tennessee miners are up against.

No wonder they are beginning to see that the "law" is not above classes, and they must organize and combat it if they want their conditions of life changed.

No wonder they are determined to free their leaders from the Pineville jail—and they call upon the entire working class to help.

RENEW YOUR Subscription Fellow-Worker!

The LABOR DEFENDER is growing fast. Since the May issue, 1931, we have increased our circulation 10,000 copies and have reached a 35,000 circulation each month.

At present we are engaged in a drive to increase our circulation to 55,000 by November. In March, we had 460 expired subs. In April we will have 545 expired subs. Renew your sub fellow worker, and help us achieve our drive quota.

The growing LABOR DEFENDER is becoming one of the best mediums for building the International Labor Defense into a greater and more powerful mass defense organization, for the freedom of all class war prisoners.

The coming issues of the LABOR DEFENDER will carry unusual articles and more of our fine photographs.

Help us do all we want in the way of making our magazine a bigger and better working class pictorial.

When you renew, send another sub for your fellow-worker and friend.

\$1.00 a year

~~~~~SUBSCRIBE~~~~~

## THE LABOR DEFENDER

80 East 11th Street, N. Y. C.

Enclosed find \$1.00 for a year's subscription, 60 cents for 6 months.

Name .....

Address .....

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(Continued from page 63)

and saw everything and you can give us the right information. This would help you out a lot." I said that I was willing to talk about the demonstration, and only the demonstration.

After that they got sore again and they had the whole police force pass before me to fix my picture in the minds of the uniformed thugs. And all this criminal procedure because I went out to ask for bread! That night I was ill. They treated me rough. But finally one woman gave me some medicine to fix my headache, and at the very same time, she tried to torture me by informing me that four of our men had already died.

They kept me incommunicado for three days, not even letting me with the other arrested comrades; they took us back to the court where they released us on a writ of habeas corpus and subpoenaed us for further appearance in front of the Grand

# May 1st at DNEIPEPROSTROY

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Jury. Four comrades are dead from the bullets of the Ford and Murphy police!

Joe York, age 20, shot in left lung.

George Bussel, age 16, shot in right chest and cheek.

Joe DiBlasio, age 30, shot through mouth. Coleman J. Leny, age 25, shot.

Comrades, answer the attack of Murphy and Ford: Organize into the International Labor Defense.

Read Imperial Valley appeal to Supreme Court by seven prisoners, now in San Quentin prison.

The Infamous Palmer Raids, the Tortures of Political Prisoners, the Formation of the I.L.D. graphically described in

## The ROAD

By GEORGE MARLEN  
A Proletarian Novel

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- Spying on Workers, by Robert W. Dunn ..... .10
- The American Negro, by J. S. Allen ..... .10
- Profit and Wages, by Anna Rochester ..... .10
- War In China, by Ray Stewart ..... .10
- Free the Imperial Valley Prisoners ..... .05

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# The Miners of Kentucky



*Five of the strike leaders in jail.  
Free them.*

## Call You !



*Two of these imprisoned women leaders  
face lynching in Harlan prison.*

In Kentucky, workers are being plugged with bullets, beaten till they can't stand up, and have to crawl home, or jailed in "the rocks," where the rats keep them awake all night. These workers are striking against starvation wages.

In Kentucky, it is a crime punishable by death, to be a striker. In Kentucky, the miners say, if you're "hongry," they call you a *Red*; and if you talke about it, you're a criminal syndicalist. In Kentucky, the miners say again, if you stand your ground, they shoot you in the stomach; if you try to get away, they shoot you in the back.

All along the Kentucky front the Terror is spreading like a prairie fire. This same Terror is sweeping the country; it has flared up in Chicago, Detroit, Tampa. But it is most brazen in Kentucky. *There*, instructions have been given gun thugs to shoot at sight. There, nineteen strike leaders have been put in jail since January first. Each faces trial before a framed jury for 21 years in the penitentiary.

The International Labor Defense is fighting for their freedom. It cannot carry on its fight without funds. The desperate struggle of miners striking for life is your struggle. Every dollar you give is like a bucket of water thrown on this fire of Terror that is spreading everywhere. Get these organizers out of prison! They are your leaders! They are trying to save YOU from what is happening to the Kentucky miners.

Rush funds to:

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE  
80 East Eleventh Street, Room 430  
NEW YORK CITY