

HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS -- OUR FIRST OFFENSIVE IN FIGHT TO FREE DEBS

THE OHIO SOCIALIST

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WE ACT AND ASK YOU TO ACT WITH US

help!

We call to YOU for HELP!
IT IS FOR DEBS WE CALL.
It is for the hundreds of political prisoners we call.
Of course, even you are not free. But are freer than Debs, Emil Herman, Kate Richards O'Hare, J. O. Bentall, and hundreds more upon whom the dead weight of iron rests day and night.

THE DEAD WEIGHT OF IRON!
Iron bars, iron bolts, iron walls, iron, iron beds—yes and in many cases metal dishes from which a meager fare is gulped. You are outside. The sunshine is yours, at least. They are inside, carrying around all day a weight of stone and iron, a dead weight under which no man can grow or smile.

AND THE PRISON ROUTINE!
Have you ever had the honor to be caged?
If you have you know the deadening effect of prison routine.

Everything is REGULATED. You walk by rule. You talk by rule. You go to sleep by rule. You wake up by rule. You eat by rule. You bathe by rule. You dress by rule.

Everything you do, everything you do not do is done or not done because a PRISON RULE commands you.

THAT'S PRISON.
It is for Debs and all our prisoners that we CALL TO YOU for help.

We must release them before iron, stone and prison rules kill them mentally and physically.

help!
DEBS WAS ARRESTED IN OHIO.
He was indicted in Ohio.

He made the speech for which he was indicted in Ohio. OHIO NOW COMES TO HIS RESCUE and to the rescue of all political prisoners as well.

The best there is in Ohio comes to the rescue. The politically and industrially intelligent workers of Ohio have resolved to labor unceasingly to liberate Debs.

TO YOU WE SAY—JOIN OHIO IN THIS CAMPAIGN for the liberation of Debs and all.

Up to now not one well planned, well organized attempt has been made to liberate Debs. We have waited, waited and waited—yet no opportunity presented itself for co-operation with other forces in a demand for Debs' freedom.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO QUIT WAITING.
WE HAVE DECIDED TO ACT!

And this is an invitation TO YOU to act with us. JOIN OHIO IN ITS CAMPAIGN TO FREE DEBS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.

TO THE RESCUE!

help!
Mails leaving Cleveland are heavy with CALLS FOR HELP.

One of these calls is traveling in your direction. IT WILL REACH YOU IN A VERY FEW-DAYS!
Watch for it. And if by chance it does not reach you, write to us at once.

We want you to receive one of these CALLS.
There is printed upon them pictures of Debs you've never seen, pictures of prison gate and steel cells. It is a call which EVERY SYMPATHIZER WITH OUR IMPRISONED COMRADES WILL RESPOND TO.

Take this call and visit EVERYBODY YOU KNOW—AT ONCE.

Then visit those you don't know—for everybody will give and give liberally. Circulate the call for help among the members of your labor union, among your relatives, among your neighbors. Miss no opportunity to SWELL THE LIBERATION FUND.

The campaign to liberate Debs and all the rest HAS ALREADY BEGUN. The first gun has been fired. You are now wanted to enlist in the front ranks.
JOIN THE ARMY OF LIBERATORS!
HELP SECURE A LIBERATION FUND OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!

We'll need it—
FOR VICTORY!

SPECIAL ISSUE
A special "FREE DEBS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS" issue of THE OHIO SOCIALIST will be printed dated September 3rd.
Orders must be in BEFORE August 30th.

PRICE—\$1.00 per hundred.
Every subscriber, every local should buy a hundred or more. This SPECIAL will be replete with illustrations and excellent "FREE THEM ALL" articles.

Don't procrastinate.
ORDER TODAY.

JOIN!
SIGN UP in the Army of Liberators. Write to headquarters, 3207 Clark Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, for application blanks.

A MEMBERSHIP CARD in the Army of Liberators will have historic significance in the years to come.

Admission fee \$1.00. Monthly dues—going your duty daily. Join today. Secure applications of other workers.

Join THE ARMY OF LIBERATORS.



BOLTS AND BARS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE.

Drawn by Ollie V.

Truth About Debs' Transfer to Atlanta.

The story by David Karsner, printed in the Ohio Socialist some weeks ago, that Debs had been removed from the Moundsville, West Virginia penitentiary at the behest of the coal barons must have gotten under the hide of the governor of that state, J. J. Cornwell.

The result has been that we are now treated to some very interesting correspondence. Two or three readings of the letter from the West Virginia board of control to the Department of Justice at Washington and the answer from the Department of Justice are advisable.

These letters expose the "business" way in which prisons are conducted. The conception that prisons are reformatories is here completely disproven. Prisons are slave pens and the inmates are sold at the cheapest price to voracious contractors.

The ignorance of the state board of control is also refreshing. Debs was sentenced by Judge Westenhaver at Cleveland and not by Judge Landis at Chicago. That it cost the West Virginia state's prison \$500.00 a month extra for guard service while Debs was there is interesting news.

The most important part of this correspondence is contained in the answer of F. H. Duehay, superintendent of prisons to the West Virginia board of control. In the last paragraph of this answer Mr. Duehay admits one of two things: Either the United States army is composed of crooks, or else he understands that the capitalist system breeds crooks at a rapid rate. However, read and study the correspondence for yourself.

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR OF WEST VIRGINIA

Jos. W. Sharts,
State of West Virginia,
Executive Department,
Charleston,

Jos. W. Sharts, Esq.,
Lowe Building,
Dayton, Ohio

July 31, 1919.

My Dear Sir—I have read a story by David Karsner containing a letter to you from Assistant Attorney General Porter regarding the removal of Eugene V. Debs. In order that you may know the facts, I am handing you, herewith, copies of correspondence which led to his removal. I want you to know, as attorney for Debs, that I had nothing to do with his removal

and did not know it was contemplated until the warden called me advising me that he had notice that Debs would be taken away the next morning. Mr. Karsner's article does me a gross injustice and is entirely erroneous in all its statements as to my interests and connections.

Very sincerely yours,
JOHN C. CORNWELL,
Governor.

LETTER FROM THE STATE BOARD OF CONTROL OF WEST VIRGINIA TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

(This letter does not ask for Debs' removal so much as it uses Debs and the added cost of maintaining guard service as an excuse to compel the U. S. government to send the West Virginia penitentiary 100 to 150 more prison "slaves.")

State Board of Control,
Charleston, W. Va.,

June 2, 1919
F. H. Duehay, Supt. of Prisons,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Duehay: Some months ago we made an agreement with the federal government to receive and care for federal prisoners at the West Virginia penitentiary at Moundsville for the sum of 40 cents per day. Since that time we have received but few prisoners and we are informed by the warden that it is not likely that you will send us any more. We would like very much to have some of these prisoners at the present time in view of the fact that we are working many of our state prisoners on the state roads, and we have contracted a number of prisoners to some concerns working within the penitentiary walls in the manufacture of various articles, and we are short of labor at this time on our contracts. We are further confronted with the fact that the legislature made no provision for the maintenance of this institution other than the compensation received for such labor. The institution has been self-supporting in the past and we would like to have it continue to be.

We have Eugene V. Debs, who was sentenced by Judge Landis, confined in the West Virginia penitentiary, and since his admittance we have had to put on extra guard force, which has increased our expenses \$500 per month, but we felt it was necessary to do

this for his safety as well as that of other prisoners. If we cannot get some federal prisoners to help bear this extra expense in connection with his care we shall have to ask to have him cared for in some other institution. We feel in justice to this that we should receive some of these federal prisoners, and in view of the fact that the government is sending prisoners to Atlanta, Georgia, we believe we can take care of them just as well as that state, and the transportation charges would be less to the government.

Will you kindly let us know if you cannot arrange to let us have 100 or 150 prisoners.

Very truly yours,
STATE BOARD OF CONTROL,
By E. B. Stephens, President.

Workers' world Staff go to Prison

Edward Egan, Wm. E. Browder, Harry Doyle, Robt. Sullivan, E. R. Browder and R. I. Moore, all active upon the Workers' World, our middle-west contemporary began a two years sentence in the Leavenworth penitentiary about the middle of July.

They were convicted under the charge of violating the espionage act. Ella Reeve Bloor writes that "we all felt the sacredness of the hour when our seven comrades began their journey to Leavenworth. That hour was consecrated to the very Spirit of Democracy, to the principle of true internationalism."

The Ohio Socialist calls upon all its subscribers to assist these imprisoned comrades by subscribing to the Socialist paper they so conscientiously edited and circulated. Jim Cannon is now the editor and nothing would encourage him more than a flood of subscriptions from Ohio Socialist subscribers. Send a dollar to The Worker's World, Box 697, Kansas City, Mo., and have the paper sent you for six months.

ANSWER TO THE ABOVE LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SIGNED BY THE SUPER-INTENDENT OF PRISONS

(Note the assurance given in the last paragraph that as soon as the army is demobilized prisons will again have sufficient slave labor.)

ORDER A BUNDLE OF THE "FREE THEM" EDITION OF THE OHIO SOCIALIST.

Incidentally—there's no need to build a fire under us to make us move.

No grass grows under our feet. And EXPERIENCE has taught us how to proceed so as to be successful in our efforts.

We have taken the first step in the liberation of Debs and we ask you to keep step with us.

Understand first of all that in this campaign our ultimate demand is the LIBERATION OF DEBS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. We shall never lose sight of this ultimate aim. And we shall not rest until ALL political prisoners are freed.

However, together with organizing for liberation for all, we must protest and act every time prison authorities, in their ruthlessness, terrorize our comrades in jail or make life in prison a shambles.

We protest the bludgeoning of I. W. W.'s in Leavenworth. We protest turning the hose upon conscientious objectors in the same penitentiary. We protest the removal of political prisoners to Alcatraz, into the dungeons under the sea. We protest hanging prisoners by the wrists until they faint.

WE NOT ONLY PROTEST, BUT WE SHALL WORK TOWARD THE END THAT THESE BRUTALITIES SHALL CEASE.

And so we also PROTEST and ACT now that we have been legally informed that the removal of Debs from Moundsville to the scorching Atlanta penitentiary was ILLEGAL.

Yes—we know that LAW IS INTERPRETED. We know that it is interpreted in favor of those who are on top.

Yet we shall leave no stone unturned to agitate for Debs' release, even if it does mean a trip into court.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO ONCE MORE TEST THE LAW.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO LIBERATE DEBS FROM THE ATLANTA PENITENTIARY BY HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS BASED UPON HIS ILLEGAL REMOVAL FROM MOUNDSVILLE STATE'S PRISON.

We have engaged Jos. W. Sharts, one of the attorneys in the case when Debs was tried at Cleveland. Samuel M. Castleton, attorney at Atlanta is co-operating with Sharts. Both these attorneys are Socialists. They will perform their duty conscientiously.

AND WE ENGAGE YOU to get to work AT ONCE to secure the funds necessary for court clerk's fees, printing bills, railroad fare etc.

UNDERSTAND PLEASE—that in the habeas corpus proceedings we intend bringing against those government officials who removed Debs to Atlanta there lies GREAT POSSIBILITIES.

IT MAY EVEN MEAN SEVERAL MONTHS FREEDOM ON BONDS.

For Debs it will mean a respite, a rest from iron bars and bolts; stone walls and darkness; prison rules and atmosphere. **THIS IS WORTH WORKING FOR!**

This is our first step, and we ask you to keep step with us. **LET'S GET DEBS OUT OF THE SCORCHING ATLANTA PENITENTIARY.** It will mean a NEW LEASE OF LIFE TO HIM.

There's no need to build a fire under you, is there?
No grass grows under your feet!

THEN AT IT AT ONCE!
Gather the dollars for the LIBERATION FUND.

Attorney Sharts "Goes Ahead"

DRAFTS NECESSARY PAPERS—WILL REPORT FURTHER PROGRESS.

DAYTON, OHIO, August 18, 1919.

A. Wagenknecht,
State Secretary Socialist Party of Ohio,
3207 Clark Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Comrade:
I have received your instructions to go ahead and institute habeas corpus proceedings on behalf of Comrade Gene Debs. This I am already beginning; am drafting the necessary papers; and shall presently be able to report further progress.

Let me say I realize fully the importance of what you have asked me to attempt—the release of Eugene V. Debs in spite of the mountain of prejudice and hatred which exists for him in high quarters. I am not concerned about the law, but the judges. The law is clear; he was sentenced to Moundsville—not to Atlanta. The Attorney General has authority to order a transfer on only three grounds: (1) his health—at his own request; (2) cruel treatment—at his own request for removal; and (3) because of the insecurity of the former place of confinement. None of these three grounds existed in Gene Debs' case. On the contrary Governor Cornwell of West Virginia has supplied me with copies of the correspondence which preceded the order from Washington to transfer the prisoner from his pleasant and humane confinement at Moundsville to the dungeons of Atlanta; and we know now that it was not on account of any of the three reasons allowed by law.

It is not the law, I have said, but the judges that give me concern. In bringing habeas corpus proceedings I must make the case so clear that no quibble or excuse will remain for refusing to do what the law enjoins upon the judges in such a case—order his release. For that reason it may be another week or so before I shall be ready for the application to be made. And it is going to cost us heavily.

I think you know me well enough from past experience to know that where the Socialist Party of Ohio is paying the bill I do not spend money without being compelled to. I shall economize in every possible way in bringing these proceedings. But I mean to go straight to the Supreme Court of the

(Continued on page 4.)

