

# SOUTHERN WORKER

The Magazine of the Common People of the South

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Away back in 1848 Fredrick Douglass, great leader of the Negro people, called upon them to fight for their rights — Liberty, Equality, Freedom — with these stirring words:

"It is more than a figure of speech to say that we are as one people — chained together. We are one people — one in general complexion, in common degradation — one in popular ac-

tionation. As one rises, all must rise — As one falls, all must fall. Everyone of us should be ashamed to consider himself free while his brother is a slave. There should be no time too precious, no calling too holy, no place too sacred to make room for this cause. WE SHOULD FEEL IT NOT ONLY THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY, BUT THE CAUSE OF CHRISTIANITY — FIX WORK FOR MEN AND ANGELS."

# Southern Worker

MAGAZINE OF THE COMMON PEOPLE  
OF THE SOUTH

Official organ of the Communist Party of  
the U. S. in the South

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Union Label Applied For

## Textile Gets Into Action

The United Textile Workers Union has just launched a gigantic campaign to organize the textile workers throughout the country and particularly in the South. Immediate plans to form a Textile Workers Organizing Committee similar to the Steel Workers Organizing Committee shows that the leaders of the UTW mean business in a big way.

Roosevelt in his predication promises backed up labor's right to organize, to demand shorter hours and higher wages through collective bargaining. Let's take all the advantage of those promises that we can. The Communist Party in the South is with the drive 100% to organize the hundreds of thousands of unorganized textile workers in the Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama.

## A Christmas Present!

425,000 workers and farmers are to be cut off the federal work relief program. 225,000 of these are draught stricken farmers who will now be left to get along as best they can or starve. 200,000 workers have the same fate in store for them.

It was the common people of the South, the common people of America who re-elected Roosevelt because Roosevelt promised to do his best to better the lot of the common people. Make him do it. Write your congressmen and senators demanding increased relief appropriations. Join the Workers Alliance in its nation-wide drive to stop layoffs.

## They Must Be Stopped!

Taking heart at the refusal of state authorities to bring to justice the hogs of Joseph Gelders, the bosses who paid thugs to kidnap and beat Gelders have just unleashed their hired henchmen on another front rank fighter for the cause of the common people in Alabama. W. I. Williamson, of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee was beaten up on the streets of Gadsden on December 5.

This unbridled terrorization and intimidation must not go unpunished any longer. Get your union, or whatever organization you belong to, to pass a resolution demanding that Governor Graves take action on the Gelders case. If his attackers remain unpunished the beatings of organizers like Williamson will keep on. You can get a printed copy of such a resolution by writing to Joseph Gelders, National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, 1030 Woodward Building, Birmingham, Ala.

## Defend Democracy

General Franco's fascists are stopping

at nothing in their frantic battle against the common people of Spain and democracy. Their warship Espana set fire to and sank the Russian steamer Komsomol with a loss of over 25 members of the crew. A second Soviet ship was destroyed by a mine set by the fascists.

Unable to defeat the Spanish Popular Front the Spanish fascists with the aid of Mussolini and Hitler, are resorting to the reckless wanton acts of a marauder. They are trying to create international incidents which will be used as a pretext for another world war. Help the cause of democracy by rushing aid to the Spanish people who are defending it.

## Prevent A Split In The A F of L

"NO Hell with the A. F. of L.," said a trade union member of our acquaintance. "The CIO ought to build another federation of labor."

In spite of the fact that we understand thoroughly the thought behind this statement, we cannot agree with it. Certainly William Green, Frey, Hutcheson and Matthew Woll, and the rest of the reactionary clique which composes the executive council of the A. F. of L. have done enough to merit the hatred of every honest, progressive trade unionist, whether a member of the CIO or a craft union. But the truth of the matter is that Green and Hutcheson are not the A. F. of L. The American Federation of Labor is still several million honest workers, an important section of the American working class. We cannot hold them responsible for the criminal action of the reactionary officials.

It is certainly impossible to defend these reactionary officials. On their head lies the responsibility for the greatest sin against the working class, that is, their attempt to split the American labor movement. Their actions in suspending the CIO unions was a violation of the constitution of the A. F. of L., and they followed this up by preventing the CIO unions from attending the convention as delegates to defend their policies. With their machine fully geared and running smoothly, Green and Frey then railroaded the suspension vote through the convention, the most reactionary convention ever held by the A. F. of L.

THE executive council has repeatedly failed to carry out the instructions of the membership of the federation to organize the unorganized. They were afraid of the militancy of the mass of American workers. So when John L. Lewis and other progressives formed the CIO to build the A. F. of L. on the basis of industrial unionism and organizing the unorganized, Green, Woll, and Co., began an open war on the progressive forces.

The situation today is that one third of the membership of the A. F. of L., comprising the most progressive elements, have been suspended from the federation. Green and his clique would have jammed through a vote to EXPELL the CIO unions if they had not been afraid of the dynamite that the question carried with it. They knew that the majority of the state federations, the majority of the central bodies and in fact a majority of the MEMBERSHIP of the craft unions are sympathetic to the CIO.

THIS can be done if craft union locals start a campaign to send resolutions to Green demanding the suspensions be condemned and demand the readmission of the CIO unions, not on the basis of a compromise of the CIO's position, but on the basis of ACCEPTING THE CIO'S PROGRAM OF ORGANIZING THE UNORGANIZED ON THE BASIS OF INDUSTRIAL UNIONS IN THE MASS PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES.

This can be done if craft union locals start a campaign to send resolutions to Green demanding the suspensions be condemned and demanding the readmission of the CIO on the above basis.

It should be remembered that the split in the A. F. of L. is at present confined to the top. It is possible to prevent this split from widening and extending down to the lower ranks of the labor movement. How? First by refusing, in every state federation or central body, to suspend or expell CIO unions from these bodies.

All unions, crafts or CIO, should support the organizing drive in steel, textile, auto, rubber, etc.

There should be a referendum in all unions in the A. F. of L. on the question of industrial unionism. It will be found that the membership not only supports industrial unionism but condemns the action of Green and Frey.

We call on all progressive forces in the trade union movement to take the necessary steps to prevent the future splitting of the A. F. of L. and re-establish unity.





## Southern Negro, White Youth Hold Conference in Richmond

By BETH McHENRY

The judge sitting on the bench in the Birmingham court shifted his mouthful of tobacco and leaned forward to look at the two young Negro boys who were standing below. One of them was wearing a sack for a shirt and the other had on shoes that were tied on with a piece of string. The boys were charged with vagrancy because some cop was trying to bring up his quota of arrests to meet the Birmingham standard—which is very high.

The boys had not done anything wrong but Negroes don't have to, to make the jails down South. At any rate, the judge was enjoying himself. He smiled down at the prisoners, in his best "at the circus"

manner, then he asked if they had dice. They didn't have, but someone else in the court produced a pair and the judge let the boys who hadn't done anything roll their own punishment. One of them got five months and the other got eight. The judge was still laughing when they left the court. But the boy with a sack for a shirt looked at his friend whose shoes were tied on with string, and his glance held all the suffering that's in the hearts of those kids, the young of an oppressed race.

This story happened in Birmingham. It may be that the judges in other cities do not indulge in this particular form of amusement, but the humiliation of Negro youth that is in this story isn't peculiar

to Alabama. There are two million Negro youths in America between the ages of 16 and 17 and you'll find them working in the South and in the North—working the longest hours for the least pay, under the worst conditions. 345,000 Negro children—working on plantations and in people's houses, underfed, underclothed, with no chance for education.

The heritage of the Negro kids in all America, especially in the South, is misery and burdens that are too heavy for young bodies and hearts. But there is something new on the horizon now. The Negro youth is taking up the fight for its rights both as the inheritors of the future and the members of a race that has been crushed in the past.

There were 200 youth delegates at the National Negro Congress held last February in Chicago, and the question came up sharply: WHAT ABOUT THE NEGRO YOUTH? A youth committee was formed, and work was begun at once to mobilize the Negro young people, in the South and West, East and North.

The Negro youth of the South are going to have a conference in Richmond, Virginia, February 13-14. The Conference, held on the birthday of Frederick Douglass, will take up the social and economic problems of Negro youth. At least 500 representatives of young Negro and white people from cities and farm communities of the South will be there. In preparation for the conference, organizing committees are being set up in Richmond, Birmingham, Nashville, Baltimore, Washington, Little Rock and Charleston. Money will be raised through the sale of certificates, printed in various denominations from 50 cents to 10 dollars.

This organization of Negro young people must have the solid support of every Southerner who feels the shame that has been done to the Negro people. The Southern Negro Youth Conference can become one of the biggest steps forward in the fight for Negro rights. The trade unions of all the South, the churches for whites, as well as the Negro churches, school and liberal organizations should give every aid towards making the Southern Negro Conference a tremendous event—one worthy of the anniversary of the birth of Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

This conference will place squarely before the administration the particular problems facing the young Negro people; it will make concrete demands for education, jobs, decent working conditions and political rights. It will bring the Negro youth closer to the white youth. Support it with every ounce of your strength!

Write for information to the Southern Negro Youth Congress at 717 Florida Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Subscribe to the SOUTHERN WORKER.

# A F of L Reactionaries Block Support of Scottsboro Boys

By R. F. HALL

**T**HE International Labor Defense long ago pointed out that the Scottsboro case is a symbol of the persecution of the Negro people. Today we can say that it is much more than that. It is a symbol of the fight of the Southern people, Negro and white, against reaction. It is a symbol of the fight of the whole people for everything that is free, progressive and democratic.

As the real facts of this monstrous frame-up becomes generally known, we find the progressives in every walk of life, whether in churches, trade unions, luncheon clubs or what-not, lining up in defense of these nine Negro boys. And by the same token, we find those who stand for reaction, corruption, and fascism, inevitably taking their places in the ranks of those who demand the death of the innocent boys. The Scottsboro case has thus become a testing ground. If you want to know how a man stands on industrial unionism, democracy or fascism, trade union policies, labor and social legislation, etc., find out how he stands on Scottsboro.

This point was well illustrated at the Tampa convention of the A. F. of L. This convention, as is well known, was the most reactionary ever held by American labor. On almost every issue, it took a reactionary stand and where this was impossible, it attempted to avoid the issue. Its action on the Scottsboro case was typical.

**D**ELEGATE A. Phillip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, an outstanding Negro trade unionist, presented an excellent resolution condemning the persecution of these boys and demanding their unconditional freedom.

The resolution committee, completely dominated by the Green-Hutchison machine, rejected the resolution, declaring that because the case was still before the courts, the convention should not "inject itself upon a due process of law."

Delegate Randolph, who distinguished himself at the convention for his fight for the CIO and for other progressive policies, took the floor in defense of the resolution and pointed out that the A. F. of L. conventions demanded the freedom of Tom Mooney, although the case was still before the courts. It took action on the Wagner Act, although that legislation was constantly before the courts. He exposed completely the flimsy excuses which the resolution committee put forward.

The phony reasoning of the committee was the work of John P. Frey of the metal trades department of the A. F. of L. It was this same Frey who filed charges against John L. Lewis and who has most insistently demanded the expulsion of the CIO. It was not surprising to find him thus fighting the Scottsboro boys.

**T**HE proceedings of the resolution committee are not public. However, it was there that much of the dirty work

against the Scottsboro boys was done. One Mr. Yelverton Cowherd, a Birmingham lawyer, who went to Tampa as the delegate of the Birmingham Trades Council, appeared before the committee and viciously attacked the Scottsboro resolution.


It should be pointed out that Mr. Cowherd who was so active in blocking any aid for the Scottsboro boys was not at all active in the fight to prevent the expulsion of the CIO. On the contrary, when the vote was taken on the question of whether the CIO should be suspended, Mr. Cowherd DID NOT VOTE. He did this despite the fact that the Birmingham Trades Council voted in its own session against the suspension of the CIO. This was in reality a mandate to him, its delegate, to vote against the suspension of the CIO at Tampa. He betrayed this mandate.

But on the floor of the convention, Mr. Cowherd kept silent, preferring to do his work in secret. He did not speak before the convention either on the CIO or on the Scottsboro case. For this he used his stogie Delegate Watkins of the Fire Fighters International Association. Brother Watkins, due to Cowherd's promptings, made a vicious attack on the Scottsboro resolution. One of the main points of his speech was a defense of the courts of Alabama. How a trade unionist can defend the courts that sent hundreds of trade unionists to long terms in jail and which even new holic Homer Welch, a UTW organizer, on a charge of manslaughter, is beyond our understanding. To defend democracy is one thing, but to say that the courts of our state can do no wrong is to make a fool of one's self.

Watkins was supported, however, by none other than John P. Frey himself. The main enemy of the CIO showed himself also as the main enemy of the Scottsboro boys.

**I**N spite of the increasing sympathy for the Scottsboro boys among Alabama labor men, however, there is still some die-hard reactionaries who will continue the fight against these boys. One of these is Van Jones, member of the executive board of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. At the convention of this organization at Denver, Colorado last August, Van Jones was there as the lone representative of District 5. When a resolution on the Scottsboro boys was presented before the resolution committee, Jones took it on himself to block this resolution, attacking the defense of the boys in bitter, prejudiced language. Well, Van Jones' brothers told him plenty. They told him the progressive trade unionists did not approve of Negro baiting and that if he was going to give leadership to the Negro and white miners of Alabama, he had better learn a few lessons in solidarity.

It must be realized that the fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys is a part of a fight for progressive trade unionism, for freedom and for democracy.



The nine innocent Scottsboro boys have just spent their sixth Christmas in jail. Haywood Patterson was condemned to 75 years in prison. The other eight still await trial.



# A F of L. to Help Organize Agricultural Workers



Delegates from the Agricultural Workers Union and Cannery Workers Union at the 56th convention of the A. F. of L. in Tampa. Left to right they are: C. A. Ryan, A.W.U. No. 20251, Stockton, Calif.; Donald Henderson, A. W. U. No. 20318, Freehold, N. J.; Walker Martin, Alabama A.W.U., Lyon, Ala.; George Wolfe, Alaska Cannery Workers Union, No. 20195, San Francisco, Calif.; Vincent Virgil, A. W. U. No. 20160, Ft. Collins, Colo.; George B. Jackson, Federal Labor Union, No.

18989, Orlando, Fla.; John Donovan, A.W.U. No. 20172, Ft. Lupton Colo.; Marcella Ryan, Cannery Workers Union, No. 20008, Oakland, Calif.; Roy Hawthorne, Cannery Workers Union, No. 20224, Camden, N. J.; Paul Arnes, President, Colorado Federation of Agricultural Workers Union; V. J. Dahl, A.W.U. No. 19896, Bridgeton, N. J.; Henry Garvin, A.W.U. No. 20168, Ft. Morgan, Colo.; Warren Brown, A.W.U. No. 20281, Stockton, Calif.

By **ETHAN ALLEN**

**T**HE Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is 17 old men who now have power to act as legislators for all labor policies, who now have the power to act as prosecutors and policemen if they feel their policies have been violated, who now have the power to act as judges and jury in trying internationals, central bodies and local unions, and who now mete out sentences and penalties.

And for what purpose? To defend the vested interests of the craft unions who control the Council; to smash the growing movement for organization of the unorganized whenever and wherever it threatens the power and jurisdictional rights of these craft leaders.

Were any steps are taken at Tampa to defend their interests by putting on an aggressive organizing campaign? No. Every request for organizers, every request for aid in such work was shelved. The slogan was "Defend our rights and our power."

Faced with the determined action of John L. Lewis and the CIO unions to

carry out organizing campaigns in the basic mass production industries in spite of this sabotage and the do-nothing policy adopted last year at Atlantic City, the craft internationals and the Executive Council built defenses at Tampa against the growing support for this organizational work and in support of their craft interests and jurisdictional rights.

**T**HE interests of all Workers in the South demand that this split in the American Federation of Labor be healed. A unified A. F. of L. pledged to aggressive organizing campaigns in steel, textile, tobacco and cotton would have accomplished much during the coming year.

The main problem in the South is that of organizing the unorganized in those basic groups. With one exception the 56th A. F. of L. Convention refused to do anything about this problem. That one exception is agriculture.

The presence of a large number of agricultural and cannery delegates at the Convention succeeded in securing some real attention to this much neglected group. Resolutions were passed to give more adequate

protection to agricultural workers and share-croppers in federal and state legislation were passed.

The past policy of neglect, exclusion and discrimination against agricultural workers and share-croppers in federal legislation, in the N.R.A., in the A.A.A., in the Social Security Act, in the Wagner-Labor Disputes Act must end. The Tampa Convention instructed its State and National legislative committees to work toward ending this discrimination.

Equally important, the delegation of agricultural representatives carried on one of the most outstanding fights on the floor of the Convention for the establishment of a nationwide union for all agricultural and cannery workers. The establishment of such a union is essential if trained organizers and finances are to be available for work among the millions of agricultural workers in cotton throughout the South.

As a result, a special session of the Executive Council was held to take steps to work out plans for establishing this national union. While no final decision was possible at the Convention, the Executive

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Council has asked for a financial plan to be submitted by the delegates for the establishment of this union.

Backed by the Arkansas Federation of Labor, a resolution was also introduced giving moral support to the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

**W**HAT are the immediate steps which the Southern workers must take? The opportunities for organizing throughout the South are great during the coming year. First and foremost, the CIO campaign in steel and in textiles must be pushed by every honest rank and file union man and by their leaders. The local unions now being formed among the agricultural workers and share-croppers must be strengthened; the more progress we make now in building these unions locally and on a state scale, the greater success will there be in building a powerful national union capable of giving financial and organizational aid in the near future.

Secondly, every union in the South, every central labor body, and every state federation of labor must fight against the do-nothing policy of the Executive Council. Especially in the craft unions must there be protests against the reactionary role which their leaders played at Tampa; especially here in these unions must the rank and file demand a healing of the split and a unified effort to organize the unorganized.

Thirdly, guard against any attempt on the part of the Executive Council to split the central labor bodies and state Federation of labor bodies. We must stop this split from spreading deeper in our ranks.

Fourthly, the decisive influence in re-electing Roosevelt was the support of labor, organized and unorganized. In his Madison Square Garden speech in New York City, President Roosevelt promised to do three things:

1) To reduce hours overlong; 2) To increase wages that spell starvation; and 3) To wipe out sweatshops.

Make President Roosevelt cash in on these promises! The workers throughout the South are faced with these problems more than any other section of our population. Southern agriculture starves, sweats and works its labor from sunup to sundown. Southern textile labor has been advertised throughout the country as cheap and docile.

Let us put an end to this! Remove the differential between Southern and Northern wages! Get rid of child labor in the fields and in the shops! Force legislation and action which will guarantee us our constitutional rights to build our unions, to picket peaceably, and to raise our living standards!

Put pressure on President Roosevelt and Congress to make good on their promises!

**DEMAND VOTING MACHINES**



ANGELO HERNDON

## Herndon Defense Wins a Victory

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Another victory for American civil liberties was won when the United States Supreme Court announced that it would review the case of Angelo Herndon, sentenced under a Georgia insurrection law dating from before the Civil War to 15 to 20 years on the chain gang because he had an unemployed demonstration in Atlanta.

Twice before the Supreme Court had refused to even consider the case. But a nation-wide campaign, dating from the time Herndon was convicted in 1932, by the International Labor Defense to have the Georgia statute declared unconstitutional has borne fruit in the reversal of the court's stand.

Herndon, only 23 years old, still stands in the shadow of death on the chain gang unless the U. S. Supreme Court declares that the law under which he was convicted is unconstitutional. The court's hearings, though scheduled for December, 1936, have not been held yet as the Southern Worker goes to press.

## STFU Demands Aid for Farmers

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — In an open letter to President Roosevelt, leaders of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union called upon the government to adopt measures to alleviate the misery of the millions of tenant farmers in the South.

Demanding "strong federal support of our constitutional right to organize and conduct our educational program free from interference or molestation by any group," so that in the future, "all farm laborers, organized and unorganized, will be protected against a renewal of that violence by which a few of the enemies of democracy have sought to deny our fundamental rights as American citizens," the

## 1,500 Atlanta Auto Workers Strike

By LOUISE RESEE

ATLANTA, Ga.—1,500 workers in the Chevrolet and Fisher Body plants here have come out on strike simultaneously, protesting the firing of workers who wore union buttons on the job.

The workers are peacefully picketing the plant in groups of about 1,000. Though they first struck because of the firing of the workers who wore union buttons, they are now presenting demands for restoration of a recent 25% cut in wages; for a decrease in speed-up; for the right of workers to wear their buttons on the job; for shorter hours and for seniority rule.

The pickets are giving the plants' paid police and benchmen no cause for trouble, but if trouble should begin, the workers are prepared for it. The police realize this and go around with a sheepish look while looking for cause for complaint. They find though the pickets lined up in a smooth straight line on the edge of the sidewalk. They are careful not to block traffic. Neither will they allow a member to be pulled in on the charges of drunkenness, and disorderly conduct. The strike committee has forbidden strikers to drink even beer, and to be unnecessarily loud while on picket duty.

The company and the county police have tried to test the firmness of the pickets by attempting to bring cars in and out of the plants; but they were firmly and quietly turned back, unless they got a pass from the strike committee. The company attempted to remove three new trucks from the Chevrolet plant for delivery and when the men from both Fisher Bodies and Chevrolet repulsed this attempt one county policeman hit a worker over the back with a billy. For his pains he is forbidden to come even within the vicinity of the plants until after the strike is over.

Some of the salesmen of the Chevrolet company have pledged their support, and pledge not to sell a single new Chevrolet until the strike is settled.

letter goes on to urge:

1. Farm legislation for interest rates not exceeding those permitted by state law, and outlawing contracts between federal agencies and land owners forcing a share-cropper to buy his supplies from the plantation owner's store.

2. Federal assistance to abolish commissary stores and to see that government loans are made directly to share-croppers and tenants at low interest rates and that contracts between landlords and share-croppers be made in writing, with disputes referred to an arbitration board representing both parties.

3. Development of cooperative farms.



# Sales Tax Passed In Alabama

MONTGOMERY — A 1½% gross receipts (sales) tax on all retail sales and amusements was written into the law books of the state of Alabama over the protest of the common people of the state who will have to bear the brunt of it, by a special session of the state legislature.

In spite of his pre-election promise, Governor Bibb Graves signed the bill as soon as it was placed before him, declaring "This is indeed a happy moment."

Using the need of money for the schools in the state as a pretext upon which to pass the sales tax, the legislature defeated a number of bills which proposed to raise finances for the schools through a bond issue or a reallocation of the state's funds.

John Whitson, O. P. Pruett and M. W. Martin, a committee from the Jasper Central Labor Union, were the only labor and farmer representatives to oppose the passage of the sales tax.

The labor delegation branded the bill as class legislation directed against those least able to bear it. They declared that the tax was a government wage cut.

# Labor Backs Fight For Voting Machines

BIRMINGHAM — The presidential elections of November 4, has brought to the front sharply the question of the secret ballot and voting machines. The election laws of Alabama call for the numbering of all ballots with the numbers placed beside the voters name on the voting list. This system allows the election officials to know how anyone has voted.

Already a campaign for the secret ballot in Alabama has resulted in the introduction of a bill in the state legislature amending this section of the election laws.

The best method of voting and one which makes sure that secrecy will not be violated is by means of the voting machines which is already in use in many states of the country. Besides the insurance of secrecy, the voting machine can be operated in a very few minutes in contrast to the paper ballot. This feature allows for quick counting of election totals.

When the secret ballot is secured for the citizens of Alabama and the poll tax is abolished the state will be well on its way to an election system in which the people can really express their desires without fear of reprisals because they voted Communist, Socialist, or even Republican.

This bill and voting machine have the support of the Executive Council of the Alabama Federation of Labor and of the Tri-Cities Labor Council.

**ABOLISH THE POLL TAX**

# Sea Strike Spreads

## BIRMINGHAM NEWS

WANTED SEAMEN

American citizens to man American flag steamers in coastwise and foreign trades. Ex-navy men and others who can qualify as able seamen

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- GOOD FOOD
- GOOD LODGINGS
- UNION CONDITIONS

Apply by Wire to

**LYKES BROS. STEAMSHIP COMPANY, INC.**

Whitney Bldg., New Orleans

has quite of an gram which tax 17

IN THE

With the strike of the Gulf Seamen in support of their West Coast brethren and for the same wages and same working conditions of the West Coast growing ever stronger, the shipowners and the police continue to use all means at their disposal, legal and not legal, to crush the strike (that has tied up a majority of the shipping in all American ports.

Under an order by Judge G. O'Brien to arrest every striking seaman whether he is picketing or not 407 maritime workers were jailed in Fort Arthur, Texas December 14.

In New Orleans, strikers won a victory with the release of the chairman of their Strike Strategy Committee, Robert Moore from prison where he had been held on frameup charges of assault and robbery.

From Mobile comes the good news that G. P. Chase, a leading member of the Strike Strategy Committee there, has been acquitted on another framed charge of vagrancy. But the police have not let up by any means and as soon as Chase was acquitted, they arrested three other active strikers.

It sure looks like the Gulf Coast seamen have gone to town in this marine strike of theirs. When Lykes Brothers, one of the biggest shipping companies in the Gulf has to advertise in the BIRMINGHAM AGE-HERALD for seamen to man its struck ships that sure is something. They certainly must be pretty badly tied up when they ask seabe to WIRE TO THEM for JOBS.

Their ad even goes so far as to advertise union conditions. Their union conditions are the scilout union conditions that the national officers of the International Seamen's Union agreed to; a contract which the majority of the membership of the union has openly repudiated in votes taken in every port on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.



# Organize Textile! Hosiery Drive Starts in South

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Serving warning on the mill owners that the United Textile Workers Union intends to push its campaign for organization of textile workers to the limit, all officers of the union and officials of affiliated federations met in Washington this month to organize a Textile Workers Organizing Committee similar to the Steel Workers Organizing Committee.

John P. Brophy, executive director of the Committee for Industrial Organization who was present at the meeting pledged the full support of the CIO for the drive to organize the textile workers throughout the country.

"With the resources and the prestige of the CIO behind us, the United Textile Workers can enroll hundreds of thousands of new members," declared Thomas McMahon, president of the union, at the meeting.

"It is joint help and cooperation between the unions affiliated with the CIO together with our militant organization policy that brings workers into our unions," he continued.

"We serve warning on the textile manufacturers that we are ready to push both our campaign for legislation and our campaign for organization to the limit."

ANNISTON, Ala.—The intensive organizational campaign started last month by the American Federation of Hosiery workers in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama has already resulted in the revival of Branch 60 of the union here.

With the cooperation of the Central Labor Union and especially the powerful Moulder's Union, the hosiery workers are reforming their lines for a renewed fight for better wages and working conditions.

Weekly meetings of the union are held every Saturday night in the Brickmason's Hall over the Dixie Cafe on Noble Street.

The principal mill in Anniston on which the union is concentrating is the Lengil Fencil Plant, affiliated with the Meigs Hosiery Company of Reading, Pennsylvania. W. J. Frazier, Federation representative, is in charge of the local drive.

## Samoset Mill Claims Second Labor Victim

TALLEDEGA, Ala.—The second labor victim of the Samoset Mill's far flung fight to keep its textile workers from joining the United Textile Workers Union was "convicted" of the second degree murder of Joe Hayes, Talladega cafe owner in the battle of Battle Street, here last summer.

Eugene (Red) Thornton, a member of the union who was on the picket line when sheriff's deputies rushed strikers in an attempt to arrest Homer Welch, union organizer, was handed a sentence of 20 years in prison by the circuit court jury. Only a few weeks before Homer Welch was sentenced to 10 years in prison on the same charge.

The hand-picked anti-labor jury that convicted Thornton did so in spite of the state's evidence that Hayes was killed by a bullet from a .45 calibre pistol when Thornton's pistol, a witness testified, was a .38.

Nine others who were on the picket line when Hayes and Deputy Bryant were killed still await trial. They have been released pending trial on the outrageously high bail of \$5,000 a piece.

Since the convictions, the union has redoubled its fight against the union crushing policy of the Samoset mills and for the freedom of Welch, Thornton and the nine other strikers.

An appeal for Thornton and Welch has

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# Steel Workers Soon To "Talk Turkey"

By PAT BARR

BIRMINGHAM—When T.C.I. tried to put one over on its steel workers by tacking up a so-called agreement on the plant bulletin boards saying that employees had agreed to accept frozen living standards in exchange for a temporary meagre wage increase of 10% (and not that in all cases), the steel workers laughed up their sleeves at the "agreement" and took the wage increase in the bargain.

But it was no laughing matter to the steel barons. So they tried to make the "agreement" a serious thing and called all their company union representatives down to a conclave in the Brown-Mars Building.

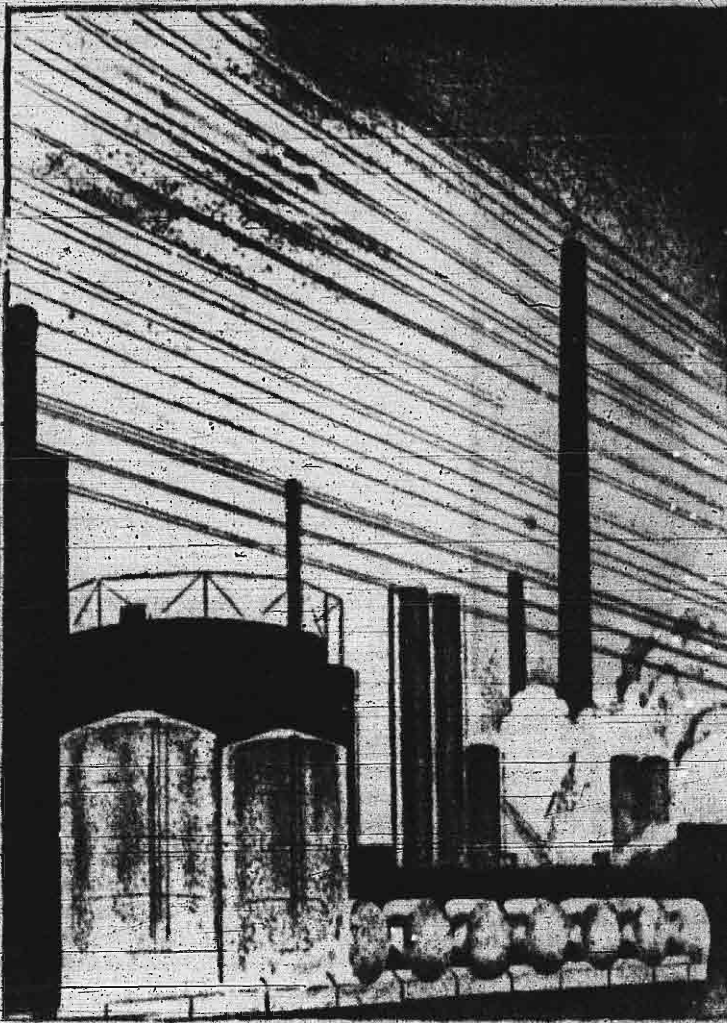
No one in the company unions even voted on those "agreements." As William Mitchell, head of the miners and leader of the CIO and president of the Alabama State Federation of Labor, pointed out, "The few men who may have signed the agreement are not true representatives of the men in the mills."

Yes, the steel barons are in good earnest these days, more than they have been for a long time. And they have to be because 6,000 steel workers in Alabama have already taken out cards in the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers. That's nearly 25% of the steel workers in the South . . . and now union members are signing up at the rate of 300 a day according to EWOC headquarters in Birmingham.

Sure, the steel workers know what they're up against when they join the union. Haven't they had their mail censored when it comes to their company owned houses by the steel barons' bookman in open and direct violation of the law. Haven't they been fired from the job as soon as some stool pigeon found out they had taken out a card in the union. Yes, they have.

Haven't the EWOC's organizers been beaten in broad daylight by company thugs. They surely have. They lost even to that W. L. Williams, EWOC organizer, who was expelled on the grounds of Gadsden. And then the courts they had fined the thug who beat him up instead of calling the steel company to account which really did the job.

But in spite of these things, the union is going over in steel in the South and it won't be long now before Alabama's 25,000 steel workers will talk turkey to the bosses. And they've got plenty to talk turkey about. A man can't support his family on \$10 to \$12 a week.



Continued From Page 8

already been made by the defense attorney in the case.

Though assurances were made by the mill owners that union members would not be discriminated against if they returned to work, charges that they have not been reemployed by the mill because they belonged to the union were placed by workers before a hearing conducted by the National Labor Relations Board at Anniston beginning December 11.

The first two union members to testify were Robert Simms and Mrs. Lucille Patterson. Simms was employed by the mill for 13 years. After company officials saw him on the picket line during the strike last summer, they refused to take him back, he told Walter Wilbur of the Labor Board at the hearing.

As conclusive proof of the Samoset Mill's refusal to deal collectively with the UTW which represents the majority of the workers, Mrs. Patterson told of a speech that John Chapman, manager of the mill, made to the workers.

"I've spent \$1,000 to keep the union out, and I'll spend that much more," he said according to Mrs. Patterson.

## Ore Miners Describe Discrimination By TCI

BIRMINGHAM — Evidence of flagrant discrimination against members of the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Union by the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Steel Company was put before hearings of the Committee appointed by Governor Bibb Graves to mediate the strike of the red ore miners last May against the stretchout system which T.C.I. is trying to introduce.

The committee, which is also to study the wage-increase plan (read stretchout) which T.C.I. is attempting to jam down the throats of the miners at Wenonah, Muscoda and Leeksoda mines, heard dozens of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Union members on the witness stand describe how they were not taken back to work after the strike because they did not join the Brotherhood of Captive Mine Workers, the company union.

Testimony was given on the witness stand by Pete Dulancy of Bessemer, a section foreman at the Muscoda Mine from 1923 until he was fired last summer, told of the wholesale discrimination of the company against the bona fide union members.

JOIN YOUR TRADE UNION

ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED



# Negroes Forge Ahead In Sports

By MIKE KANTOR

It is in the sports world where the Negro, faced with obvious discrimination, has come to lead the way for the rest of their colored brothers toward equal recognition with the whites.

Just take a glance at the sports arena of the country today. In boxing the name of Joe Lewis, generally considered the greatest heavyweight since Jack Demsey, like Abou Ben Adam leads all the rest. Metcalfe, Owens, Peacock, Johnson, are synonymous with the greatest in the realm of track and field. But the most indicative sign of the growing strength that the Negro is commanding is seen in the tin-god of college athletics: King Football.

Football, the sport from which major colleges receive their greatest revenue, football, the sport which has been protected and nursed with the same care accorded all vested interests in things that line the pocketbook — football, which because of its national scope and reactionary control, has been the toughest sport for the Negro to make his place in, has finally been forced to accept and recognize the exceptional ability of the Negro football player.

When Iowa University elected Homer Harris, Negro star end, for the past two years, as captain of the 1937 football team, it did something which has never been done by any major college in American gridiron history. It was here that Oze Simmons, the Negro All-American back, had gone out on a one-day strike this year, against what was generally believed to be discrimination by both coaches and players. The coaching staff had held back his mail, and outwardly tried to demoralize the great gridiron ace. They failed because Oze was an outstanding star and set out to prove that no form of race discrimination was going to stop him.

But Harris is only one example. At Northwestern, champion of the Big Ten football conference, Bernard Jefferson, regular backfield man, was a bulwark of



OZE SIMMONS, NEGRO GRID ACE

power. N.Y.U. like its Ed Williams, Cornell, the lilly-white school, has taken speedy Jerome Holland, stellar football end, to its bosom; Bell and Reed of Minnesota — there are more.

It is interesting and significant to note that the University of North Carolina came up to play N.Y.U. and the authorities of the local school made no mention of withdrawing their Negro star from the line-up in deference to Southern prejudice and chauvinism.

It was just about five years ago, that the scheduled game between Georgia University and N.Y.U. was almost cancelled because of the presence in the line-up of the aforementioned Myers. N.Y.U. finally succumbed to the Georgia team's demands and removed Myers from the line-up.

The fact that such a disgraceful event could take place only five years ago, and

the same thing would not be attempted today is the best indication of the effectiveness of the constant fight for Negro equality.

In Basketball the perennial world champions, the Renaissance, continue to dominate the court teams — and wherever they play, enthusiastic and arena-packing crowds turn out to see them. In New York City, the cradle of classic basketball teams, the Negro has got to fail to prove his right on All City pickings.

The one major sport which viciously refuses to accept the Negro is baseball. The Major Leagues shy away from every question, every reference to signing Negroes.

The baseball magnates continue to ignore such diamond stars as Satchel Paige, the Negro Huddle of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, Danny Taylor, the pitcher with the magic curve, who packs them in for the Cubans; Josh Gibson, catcher par excellence, also of the Cubans, and Thomas whose exploits at first base has made many call him a "better Gehrig."

Thousands of fans are demanding that the money interests who control the existence of big-time baseball grab up the colored diamond aces. When questioned by a Southern Worker reporter on the subject recently, Ford Frick, president of the National League said, "when it comes to hiring Negro ball stars, the entire case rests in the hands of the respective sport owners." Well, we say it's got to be taken out of their hands!

The fans support the game and the fans want Negro ball players. The way the majors are declining in the quality of play, it won't be long before the magnates recognize the fact that Negroes will give the game the lift and drawing power that these colored fingers can bring to the game.

Together with the white athletes, the Negroes will show the way. They're tops when given the chance. Their growing unity in the economic and political field is having its effect.

## Jasper Central Body Backs Painters

JASPER, Ala.—The Jasper Central Labor Union unqualifiedly endorsed the fight of the union painters of Bankhead Farms, near Jasper, to hold their jobs against imported scabs from Jefferson County. The works management of this government project was charged with unfair labor practices by the painters in a special plea to the central labor body. Brazen attempts to break the painters' union are apparent in the hiring by the works management of the scabs from Jefferson County.

## Chattanooga Labor Leaders Acquitted

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—A large scale attempt by the labor hating forces of Chattanooga to frame and discredit militant labor was smashed by the verdict of acquittal in the case of Joe Dobbs, Central Labor Union President, Curtis Simms, Bakery and Confectionary Workers Union leader, R. D. Dorsey, candy striker, and Murrell Lingerfelt, strike sympathizer. In the alleged "slugging" of Sanford Bennett, open shop employer whose factory was the scene of a bitter three month strike last summer.

Attempts were quickly made to fasten the guilt on the militant leaders of the strike, Murrell Lingerfelt, a coal miner, was accused of having slugged Bennett, and Dobbs, Sims, and R. D. Dorsey, to

gether with Mrs. Dorsey and Anna LaFite, both strikers.

Dobbs, in his hour and a half on the stand, clearly showed the reasons for the strike, exposed the scab-herding of Bennett and strike-breaking by the police, and showed that the strike was the direct result of the lowering of wages, lengthening of hours, and refusal to recognize the union. He showed that Bennett and the police were responsible for the violence on the picket lines. He denied any knowledge of the alleged "slugging", and exposed all the attempts of the prosecution to link up his regular activities as a strike leader with the Bennett attack.

JOIN YOUR TRADE UNION



# Here's What Soviet Workers Have

**L**AST month, while the fascist countries of the world were joining hands to push toward a new world war, the Soviet Union struck another mighty, historic blow for peace and democracy. The Eighth Special All-Union Congress of Soviets adopted a new constitution for the U.S.S.R.—a constitution which stands as a smashing rebuke to fascism and a beacon of hope and guidance to the common peoples of the capitalist world.

Joseph Stalin, great leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in his speech at the Congress explained that the new constitution is neither a program for the future nor a collection of promises but "a recorded and legislative enactment of what has already been achieved and won by the people of the Soviet Union." The essential difference between this constitution and those of bourgeois democratic countries, Stalin said, is that the class antagonisms which make bourgeois republics democracies only for the wealthy and powerful few have been liquidated in the Soviet Union by the achievement of socialism.

Among the important provisions of the new constitution are: election of members of legislative bodies by secret ballot with universal, equal and direct suffrage; freedom of speech, press and assembly; freedom of worship; the right to unite in public organizations; inviolability of person; inviolability of the home; and secrecy of correspondence.

All of these things are familiar and traditional as a part of the ideals, if not the practice, of every republic. But the new Soviet constitution has, in addition to these, a series of far-reaching new rights and guarantees of a type which have never before appeared in the constitution of any government—because they



Stalin, leader of Soviet Workers

have never before been possible: "Citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to work—the right to guaranteed employ-

## What Social Security Act Really Means

By PHILLIP SAWYER

During December several Southern states held special sessions of their state legislatures to bring their state laws in line with requirements for participation in the new Social Security Act.

Already, however, workers are beginning to realize that the Roosevelt social security program does not offer them real security and to demand something better. The old-age pensions offered under the present act are inadequate. They are based on wages and run in some cases as low as \$10 a month. And they will not begin to be paid until January 1, 1942.

No pensions are provided for persons who are already 65 or who will be 65 before 1942. To be eligible a person must have earned at least \$2,000 during that time. Thus the very neediest cases will be among those who will not get pensions. No pensions are provided for agricultural workers, domestic servants, casual laborers, marine workers, government employees (including federal, state, county and city employees,) and employees of charitable, educational and other non-profit organizations. Finally the act provides that the pensions are to be paid out of a reserve fund built up with contributions from employers and employees in equal amounts. But, since it does not provide

ment and payment for their work in accordance with its quality and quantity . . .

"Citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to rest and leisure . . .

"Citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to maintenance in old age and also care in case of sickness or loss of capacity to work . . .

"Citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to education . . .

"Women in the U.S.S.R. are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social, and political life . . .

And these are not promises, not planks in a platform, but accomplished facts!

There is one article in the new constitution which will make an especially deep and lasting impression here in the South, where race persecution has played such a large role in retarding progress and keeping all oppressed people from joining together to win their liberation. It reads as follows:

"The equality of the rights of citizens of the Soviet Union regardless of nationality or race in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life is an inalienable law."

Stalin expressed the essence of the new Soviet constitution in a few words in his summing up before the All-Union Congress:

"They talk about democracy. But what is democracy? Democracy in capitalist countries where there are antagonistic classes is, in the last analysis, democracy for the strong, democracy for the privileged minority. Democracy in the U.S.S.R., on the contrary, is democracy for all. . . . That is why I think that the constitution of the U.S.S.R. is the only thoroughly democratic constitution in the world."

any safeguards to keep the employer from adding his share to the price of his product, the result will be that the worker pays half the expense as a worker and the other half as a consumer. The rich who are best able to bear this burden will pay none of it.

The Social Security Act does not provide any national system of unemployment insurance; it merely encourages the states to establish systems of their own, inevitably the chief result of having 48 systems of unemployment insurance operating at once will be confusion.

The workers will not permit the reactionary enemies of all social security to kill the social security program. But neither will they be satisfied for long with the unsound and inadequate Roosevelt Social Security Bill. Organized in a party of their own, a Farmer-Labor party, the workers and working farmers can gain a social security program of their own—a program that will mean real security for the masses.

### LUCKY FELLOW?

"One of our fellow workers is receiving congratulations for his good fortune under the new social security act. This is his case; He will attain the age of 65 on January 2, 1937. He will not work on January 1. On January 2 he will earn \$8, on which he will pay 8 cents tax, the company also paying the same amount. When the employee "retires" he will be entitled to a lump sum settlement at the rate of 3 1/4 per cent of the total wages earned from January 1 to his 65th birthday, or \$8, which will give him a lump settlement of 28 cents. The fortunate man can hardly wait for the day to come to cash in."—Christopher Billopp, in The Baltimore Evening Sun. Reprinted from the Birmingham Age-Herald.



## The American Scene

WASHINGTON — The monthly Survey of Business for November, 1936, published by the American Federation of Labor revealed that the average hourly wages of American workers compared with the increased cost of keeping a family going have actually been lowered. The report bluntly states that the widely advertised increases of 1, 5, and 10% in wages are not enough. At the same time the United States Bureau of Statistics declared that wholesale prices in general throughout the country had gone up. Food prices for the last week in November were 3% higher than the preceding month.

NEW YORK — Striking seamen from the Atlantic Coast and the Gulf virtually took over the leadership of the International Seamen's Union when they voted to set up a Board of Trustees composed of two members from each of the union's divisions to handle their affairs. The Strike Strategy Committee called upon all I.S.U. members to pay dues to an emergency fund which will be supervised by the newly elected Board of Trustees. The step was taken to safeguard the union from the mob herding and union wrecking activities of the present officers.

WASHINGTON — 1,200 business men and labor representatives met with Federal Industrial Coordinator Berry to suggest what course new industrial legislation should take. President Wm. Green of the American Federation of Labor, one of the first speakers, put forward a four-point program which called for shortening of the work day to six hours, setting wage and hour standards and guaranteeing collective bargaining.

DETROIT — A week's strike at the Midland Steel Co. here in the heart of the auto industry, won the first strike of the United Automobile Workers of America. Singing "Solidarity" with banners aloft, the 1,200 workers who had stayed in the plant for a week, marched to Slovak Hall

where together with the night shift they unanimously voted to accept the agreement which gave them a wage increase, union recognition and dismissal of all labor spies in the plant.

PITTSBURGH — 250 steel company union representatives meeting here unanimously resolved to free themselves from the shackles of the Steel Trust and to become union men affiliated with the CIO. The representatives came from plants employing approximately 290,000 workers. Phillip Murray, head of the S.W.O.C., speaking to the enthusiastic conference, declared that 124,000 steel workers had already been organized throughout the country.

WASHINGTON — Private industry and municipalities bought \$451,938 worth of tear gas and sickening gas between January, 1933 and September, 1936 to combat strikes, the Seeking Civil Liberties Committee headed by Senator Robert La. Follette, disclosed. The committee also revealed the advance preparations of munitions firms for the West Coast maritime strike and for possible strikes in steel.

PITTSBURGH — The steel workers Organizing Committee filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board that U. S. Steel and its subsidiary, Carnegie-Illinois Steel and its subsidiary, Carnegie-Illinois by compelling workers to belong to a company union.

WASHINGTON — The soft coal industry notified the United Mine Workers Tuesday night that they would be asked to increase their work week from 30 to 40 hours after next March 31, with no increase in wages.

Strike talk started immediately in coal circles here. The miners expected to ask either a thirty-hour week or a pay raise—or both—in the wage agreement to replace the present contract that expires March 31.

## White Farmer Hangs For Murder Of Negro

WATER VALLEY, Miss. — William Clark Mitchell, 53, a white farmer, was hanged at the Yalobusha County Courthouse December 11, for the "torch murder" of Lewis Bryant, a Negro farmer, last year.

This one of the very few cases, said the Birmingham Age-Herald, where a white person has been brought to justice for the murder of a Negro since Reconstruction days in Mississippi.

## Ky. Alliance To Demonstrate

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Approaching winter, coupled with steady dismissals and the threat of wholesale lay-offs during the coming months, brought thousands of unemployed and their families here face to face with mass starvation. Rising prices of food and fuel place these things in many cases beyond the reach of even those who have jobs. One family here went more than 48 hours without fire and anything to eat.

To meet this situation, the Lexington Workers Alliance called mass demonstrations of unemployed, WPA, and part-time workers to demand relief and additional WPA projects. A special demonstration committee, under the leadership of William Haines, militant working class leader from Winchester, and member of the state executive board of the Kentucky Workers Alliance, was set up and charged with the task of planning and arranging the demonstration.

In a fighting address delivered before the Workers Alliance here recently, Don West, organizational secretary, told of starvation and want in Lexington and all Kentucky, and urged immediate action by the workers to force acceptance of the demands of the Alliance. "We have written letters, adopted numerous resolutions, and sent committees to present our demands—but these have not been effective. Now the workers must show by their actions that we did not mean those demands for a joke—that they must be met." A large crowd listened to West's speech and shouted with enthusiasm when he urged a demonstration.

## Convict Planter Of Slavery

JONESBORO, Ark. — Caught red-handed in holding seven Negroes in slavery, City Marshal Paul D. Peacher of Earle, Ark., was found guilty and sentenced to two years in prison, though he will not have to serve his time if he pays a fine of \$2,500.

"This is the way it has been worked in most counties of Arkansas. Landlords point out a Negro they want to work for ten and have him arrested on a charge of one sort or another. Then they obtain a permit from the county to have him transferred to their private slave farm.

The eight Negroes who were arrested during the strike were all sentenced simply on the "word" of Peacher. Mayor T. S. Mitchell of Earle testified at Peacher's trial.

## Girls To Be Sent To CCC Camp

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Not content with forcing the young men of America into the CCC camps on pain of cutting their families off relief, the Administration has now decided to include girls in its program of regimented labor camps.

5,000 girls in Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri, South Dakota and Rhode Island will be taken away from their families and put to work in camps in those states at wages of \$5 a month.

## Girls To Be Sent To CCC Camp



# 425,000 To Be Cut Off W P A

WASHINGTON — With his election promises far far behind him, President Roosevelt's kind Christmas present to 425,000 WPA workers and drought relief farmers was an announcement by the Administration that these people would be cut off from the work relief program.

In Alabama alone, 2,000 workers were fired by the first of the year.

In Louisiana, a 30% cut in the WPA administrative staff, abolition of two regional offices indicate the cut that WPA officials are trying to put over there. The large scaled slashes in relief are partly designed to furnish cheap labor for the sugar plantation owners who need 2,600 harvest hands.

From every state in the union, the story is the same.

Even before the cuts came, a WPA worker in Birmingham told us that WPA workers began to feel the effects of the slash. Making an average of \$26 a month on WPA, the worker owed his corner storekeeper \$15. When he cashed his December check at the store, the proprietor took out the \$15 that was owed him and told the workers that with the layoffs coming he couldn't give him any more credit.

Not satisfied with cutting 425,000 workers and farmers off relief, the government has also made public its intention to cut federal relief 40% further after January 20, 1937.

The government wants to see how much starvation the workers and farmers can swallow. Well, the workers are going to show that they aren't going to swallow any.

In protest against the cuts, thousands will march on Congress in Washington to present their demands for more relief and stay there until Congress gives them these demands.

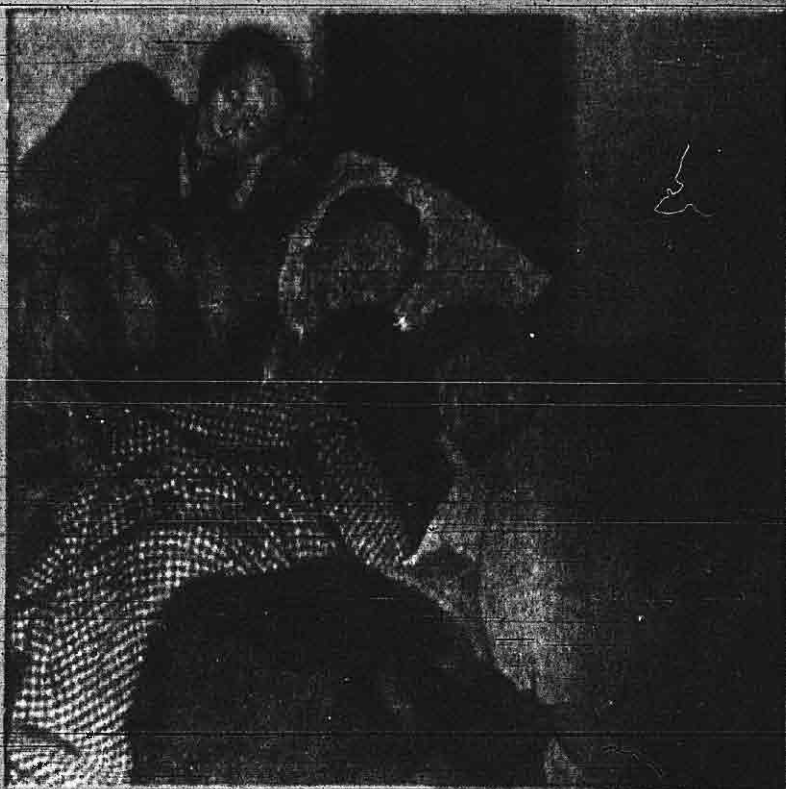
The Workers Alliance, with branches in every part of the country has already announced plans for a mass "Pink Slip Pilgrimage" to Washington on January 15.

As workers are fired from their WPA jobs they are staging stay-in strikes, refusing to stop work and sitting down on their jobs in protest against the layoffs.

## Women on W P A Forced to Dig Ditches

By A WPA WORKER

We women of Alabama are doing manual labor on the government's projects. The projects have been in action about two years which was not so bad because there were sewing rooms, toy rooms, renovating plants, and mop making departments. They grew from bad to worse all last winter. The women were forced to work in very cold and damp buildings without fire in many cases. In some few



WPA Workers "Stay In" City Hall at Pleasantville, N. J. in protest against layoffs.

cases they had fire but they were forced to pay a certain amount for the fuel that was used. This was not enough robbery to suit the bosses so in March they cut half of our wage which is fifteen dollars every two weeks to seven dollars and a half every two weeks not mentioning the other docks such as being late five minutes. They were docked for one hour, going in the toilets and staying over three or five minutes.

Now all this was bad enough, but it was like being in a rose garden in the summer smelling the sweet scents of roses to what it is in the winter. This winter they have thrown us out of the buildings into the parks. We are ditching, cutting bushes, loading and rolling wheel barrows with dirt. Rainy days we don't get paid, and we are forced to wear men's overalls. The majority of the project has dismissed some of the women for not wearing these overalls.

Now we feel that it is time for women to really be women and stand up and fight for themselves, and the only way we can fight for ourselves is to organize and struggle against all plans of the bosses that will absolutely ruin our health, standards of living and cause our homes to be neglected. So we must ask every woman and man to cooperate with us in fighting against this rotten plan. This is not only directed against the women but it is also directed against the men. For example

there is over 200 men been cut off WPA the last week and left without anything. So every man and woman must join in the fight for meat and bread, by organizing in the unions.

## Women's Place In CIO Drive

The place of women in the organization drive in the South is important and one of the chief concerns of the leaders of the CIO campaign to bring the unorganized workers into the unions.

First, there are the women working in industries themselves. The textile workers, whose working conditions are worse and their salaries lower in Alabama than anywhere else. In the mills of Birmingham, Huntsville, Talledega, Anniston and Gadsden, the women workers should be brought into the UMW.

Finally the wives, mothers and sisters of union men should be brought into the auxiliaries of their husband's locals. The women are known to be not only strong fighters, but they are in addition a strong influence at home. They can keep the spirits of their husbands strong and militant. The women should also join the Union Label League to fight for only union made material to be bought by workers.

# Tide of Battle Turns in Spain



One of thousands of innocent children killed by the Spanish fascists' air raids on Madrid.

By TED WELLMAN

The tide of battle is turning in Spain. Day by day the People's Front is proving that superior arms and equipment supplied and financed by Hitler and Mussolini can not prevail over a people inspired by the will never to be enslaved by a fascist dictatorship.

The peak of the Civil War in Spain was reached when the fascist hordes of Franco advanced upon Madrid, taking town after town on their way. Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany gave official recognition to Franco as the government of Spain, helping and counting on a quick capture of Madrid. Franco boasted and bragged of the fall of Madrid in three days.

But they all reckoned very quickly. The people of Madrid, united as never before, organized their defenses speedily and efficiently. They were prepared to defend Madrid at all costs. "They Shall Not Pass" was the answer to Franco, and to his backers, Hitler and Mussolini. And they did not pass. Franco's dream of a triumphal entry into Madrid as "Dictator of Spain" was turned into a nightmare of

crushing setbacks.

The people of the Soviet Union continue as the main bulwark in defense of the common people of Spain, sending food, clothing, medical supplies, and money in huge quantities, as well as constantly exposing the sham Hitler and Mussolini arm making of the "Neutrality Pact" by their barefaced arming of the fascist rebels.

In the United States there is increased activity in behalf of the Spanish people. A delegation representing the Spanish People's Front Government met in city after city, overflowing audiences. Tens of thousands of dollars are being donated to the Spanish fighters for freedom. Another delegation of Spanish youth has arrived and is also touring the country to inform America of the true situation in Spain.

Anti-fascists all over the world are helping Spain, the boldest, by enlisting in the ranks of the loyalists. The German and Italian hirelings and the criminal dregs of the Foreign Legion are matched by U. S. well drilled International Column, headed by Emil Kleber, a Canadian. The Moors are matched by a column of Moroccan fighters against fascism, recruited by the Spanish-Moroccan Society. Bert Acosta, American round the world flyer, and two Texan air aces who shot a total of 22 German planes down during the World War, have enlisted with the Spanish Peoples Front. The premier air ace of Mexico has enlisted with the Spanish air forces, the Madrid corps of which is commanded in person by Andre Malraux, world famous French writer.

Do your bit to help the Spanish people in their fight to preserve democracy by sending your contribution of money, food, or clothes to the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, 149 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

## She Never Lost A Passenger

By ELIZABETH LAWSON

THE was known in her lifetime as the "Moses of her people." William H. Seward, Secretary of State in Lincoln's cabinet, said: "The cause of freedom owes her much." And John Brown described her as "one of the bravest persons on this entire continent."

Her name was Harriet Tubman. She was born in slavery in Maryland, escaped to the North, returned 19 times to the hall from which she had fled, and piloted no less than 300 slaves to freedom.

Harriet was perhaps 16 years old when she determined to make her escape. "I had reasoned this out in my mind," she said years later, "that there was one of two things I had a right to—liberty or death. If I couldn't have one, I'd have the other."

She started out with her two brothers



HARRIET TUBMAN

but they became afraid and went back to the plantation, for they had neither money nor provisions for the trip, nor a knowledge of the road which they must take, nor the intimation of a single person who would help them on their way. Harriet went on alone, with only the North Star for a guide, traveling on foot at night, and by day hiding in forests and swamps.

Once on free soil, she worked as a cook and began putting by money until she had a sum sufficient to take her back into the South to bring away a party of slaves. From that time until the Civil War — a period of about 15 years — she regularly disappeared from New York State and reappeared after weeks or months with a party of fugitives.

THE news of Harriet Tubman spread by grapevine telegraph through the slave quarters of the South. "Moses," the Negroes called her, for she was leading them out of the land of bondage. She would suddenly appear on a plantation, and the word would be whispered among the slaves, and men and women would make a tiny bundle of their possessions and start out with her. The slaveowners posted rewards for her capture, alive or dead. At one time a total of \$40,000 was offered for the body of Harriet Tubman. She was never arrested, nor a single slave whom she brought away recaptured.

In her Canadian home, which she established as part of her "Underground Railroad" system, Harriet Tubman sheltered John Brown and aided him in getting money and recruits. On one occasion Brown took her to the home of a friend, and introduced her by saying: "I bring you one of the best and bravest persons in this entire continent — General Tubman, as we call her."

In Auburn, N. Y., where Harriet Tubman died in 1913, a bronze tablet was erected to her memory. On the tablet are inscribed her own proud words:

"On my Underground Railroad I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger."



# The Baptists Have Fighting Traditions

By RICHARD FRANK

Each year thousands of Southern Baptist churches hold "revivals". We should like to see a real revival of the spirit and tradition of the first Baptists.

The first Baptists were poor farmers who fought for land and freedom. The Baptists of today are still poor people, many of them Negroes, but few modern Baptists remember their heritage of militant fighting for workers rights.

In early American history the Baptists fought for religious freedom with separation of church and state. Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson struggled against the persecution of the rich merchants and traders to gain free religious thought for their followers.

In England the Baptists fought for freedom of speech, press and assembly. Both Milton the poet and John Bunyan wrote in favor of democratic rights for the poor.

In the middle ages the early Baptists fought against the dictatorship of the rich church leaders. In the "Peasant Wars" they demanded land and freedom. Frequently they raised a red flag as their emblem. Many of them were Communists. They believed that all wealth should belong to those who worked to produce it. In Germany a group of these early Communist Baptists seized a city.

The first Baptists were zealous believers in peace and refused to serve in the armies of their governments. They would fight only in their own interests.

Today big capitalists like Rockefeller have obtained power in the Baptist church and hide the early Baptist traditions from the poor church members. We should revive the fight of the Baptist church. Most of the thousands of Baptist preachers are poor men. They work or have worked with their hands. We should be fighting like the early Baptists for land to till, for freedom of speech, press and assembly. The Communist Party welcomes the voice raised in the last Southern Baptist Convention for peace and against the oppression of the share-croppers.

We Communists hope that the millions of poor Baptists, Negro and white, will revive the fighting traditions of the Baptist church.

## Four Taken For Ride

ATLANTA, Ga.—The truth has at last come out about the arrest of four citizens, three whites and one Negro, on charges of disorderly conduct. Leah Young, Ellis Hawks, S. Burger, and L. Brown were going home from town when they noticed that their car was being followed.

The strange car drew up beside them and forced them to the curb. Three men got out. Two of them were Klansmen, El-

# Eyes On The World

THE "MUTINY" OF THE CHINESE TROOPS IN SHENSI against Japanese invasion and the seizure of General Chiang Kai-shek, head of the Nationalist Chinese Army proclaimed to the world that China is on the march. Raising a rallying cry of a united China opposed to Japanese invasion, Chang, leader of the troops which captured General Chiang Kai-shek demanded that 1. All armies and factions in China relax joint in war on Japan; 2. The Nanking Government shall be replaced by a National Defense Government; 3. Freedom of speech and press are to be restored throughout China; 4. The civil war against the Chinese Red Army is to be halted at once; 5. A united front shall be formed with the Chinese Communists to recover territories lost to Japan including Manchuria and Jehol and that Communists are to be admitted to the Kuomintang. But it has been pointed out that intensified civil war in China will serve only the Japanese invaders at this time because the Chinese people will be split further within their own ranks and thus less able to repel the advances of the Japanese.

WHEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE SAW that the Peoples Front Government of Spain was successfully defending Madrid against the fascist General Franco's rebel army, they immediately jumped to help Franco by proposing that the people of Spain vote on whether Franco, financed by Hitler and Mussolini, or the Peoples Front Government, elected by an overwhelming majority of the people last February, should govern Spain.

From their trenches, where they are fighting to preserve democracy, the common people of Spain gave their answer. "We are Spain! Who do you think we voted for last February? That was our plebiscite."

Hitler, fearing the defeat of Franco, rushed 5,000 uniformed German soldiers to Spain to join the fight against the Spanish working people.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA, UNTIL RECENTLY AN ILLEGAL party there, scored a smashing victory in the province of Ontario's local elections as seven Communist candidates were chosen as municipal officers.

WHEN THE PAN-AMERICAN PEACE CONFERENCE at Buenos Aires finally got down to business, U. S. Secretary of State Hull proposed a "neutrality" pact that would coordinate all the peace measures passed at various times by different governments in the two Americas during the last five years. Not one of these "peace" pacts had been ratified by all the American governments. But that's not all there is to the pact Hull proposed. The treaty tends to emphasize isolation of the American republics from the affairs of the world. Hull also seems to have adopted the French Prime Minister Blum's attitude towards "neutrality" since the pact provides that both the aggressor nation and the victim of the aggression shall be refused arms and money in war. Despite many defects in the pact the United States has taken a great step forward for the cause of peace.

THE REAL CRISIS IN ENGLAND this past month was not the fanfare in the press and English Tories made about the king's romance with an American woman. William Gallacher, Communist member of Parliament stated the case in no uncertain terms when he said, "Is it not the case that this crisis expresses a deeper crisis in the economic system?" The economic crisis now shaking Britain is so great that her rulers had to resort to such ridiculous extremes as forcing King Edward to abdicate from the throne to divert attention from England's millions of hungry unemployed.

PREMIER LEON BLUM OF FRANCE PERSISTED in his British-made isolationist policy of "non-intervention" in Spain though the Communist Party of France pleaded with him to allow the Spanish loyalists to buy much needed arms. When it came to a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies, the Communists abstained from voting in order to prevent a split in the French Peoples Front Government of France.

lie Hawks said, and the other was a uniformed policeman. The strangers immediately started cursing the Negro, and told him that they were going to kill him. Also they were going to take the whole bunch for a ride but they got scared and decided to take the people to the police station and charge them with disorderly conduct. There was no charge that they

could place against them, except that they were suspected of being Communists. The policeman had no proof of this, however, and disorderly conduct is the favored charge of the Georgia police, when they have nothing they can prove against people whom they want to arrest. The four people were kept in jail three days, fined \$27.50 each, and cost



# Letters From People of The South

## WE SUIT HIS CALIBRE

Blackwell, Ark.

Editor, Southern Worker:

I am an Arkansas hoosier. I went to a friend's house, stayed all night. He gave me one of your papers, which I looked over when I got home. It just suits my calibre. I think it is the truest statement given out to the people of the South.

For this is the experience I've had for the past 10 years or so. I was at one time of life in very good shape. But high taxes, high cost of living, low prices for what I raised, has brought me down to the days when I lost my home on the mountains. I tried for the past six years to get on some work. I was forced to start on the road hitch hiking and hobnobing. I had an awful hard time.

So I tried to get on the relief. Finally I got on. I would only get one can of beef, one 24 pound sack of flour, one pound of peaches or one pound of peaches on the 5th of every month.

I wanted to vote the Communist Party

ticket, but the Republicans and Democrats won't let me vote, because I had no poll tax receipts. But I was told by both Democrats and Republicans, if I would vote for them, they would write me a receipt for my poll tax. But I told both parties that I was a true born American citizen, and I wasn't going to sell my birthright to no party. Yet I am not really free. Under this system I am a bonded white slave.

— R. E.

## TOO OLD FOR RELIEF?

Camp Hill, Ala.

Editor, Southern Worker:

We are poor farmers that signed up on dry relief. They said that they was going to let us work for it. But now they isn't giving any relief to the poor colored farmers. They tell me I am too old to get any relief. They isn't giving us anything on the dry relief and we are in the dry country.

Please send us more papers. Enclosed is 12 cents for the paper next month.

— V. T.

## T. C. I.'s "AGREEMENTS"

Bessemer, Ala.

Editor, Southern Worker,

I want to explain a few of many things that is happening in T. C. I. steel mills.

The company claimed that we workers signed an agreement for one year. There is not a single one of us who signed this agreement. In the sheet mill where 1,000 white and Negroes work P. Summers who is the general superintendent of that mill caused out all of us workers because we refused to sign the agreement. Then he forced the representative of the company union to sign the agreement.

After this was done reports came out in the Birmingham papers stating that we all signed up to this agreement for one year which is nothing but an open lie.

I want to tell you that there is a growing desire for the real steel workers union, the Amalgamated, among us.

I am writing this to you because I know that you tell the truth.

— A Steel Worker of T. C. I.

# 1937 - A New Year - A New Southern Worker

The common people of the South are forming ranks for a great march towards progress. From the mines and mills the workers are swiftly pouring into their trade unions, certain in the knowledge that only through their organized strength can they win a better life, for themselves and their families. Farmers are building their unions into a powerful force to end a system of farm tenancy which keeps them in lifelong bondage at a subsistence standard of living. The unemployed are battling for the right to live, for the continuance of their WPA jobs.

In steel, over 5,000 workers have already joined the union despite wholesale terrorism by the steel barons and their thugs. In textile, the United Textile Workers Union has launched an intensive drive to organize the South.

In maritime, Gulf seamen and longshoremen, despite mass arrests, have held out in one of the most momentous solidarity strikes ever called in the South in support of their West Coast brothers and for better working conditions.

On the farms a greater unity is being achieved with the amalgamation of the Share-Croppers Union and the Farmers Union.

The common people of the South are awakening as never before to the need for unity and powerful organization in the fight for **BETTER WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS, EQUAL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS FOR NEGROES AND WHITES, THE RIGHT TO VOTE, ABOLITION OF THE POLL TAX, AGAINST THE GROWING DANGER OF WAR,**

**AGAINST FASCISM FOR PEACE, FREEDOM AND PROGRESS — FOR A FARMER-LABOR PARTY WHICH CAN GAIN THESE THINGS FOR THE COMMON PEOPLE.**

1937 will see a tremendous surge of the people of the South towards achieving those demands.

1937 sees a new and larger SOUTHERN WORKER, the magazine of the common people of the South—to describe these struggles, to help educate workers and farmers, to teach the common people of the South the way to win a happy life.

The SOUTHERN WORKER is the only magazine in the South which each month brings to its readers the truth about the struggles of the working class and the oppression of the bosses, the maneuvers of the fascists for another world war, and the fight of the common people everywhere against the fascists and war.

The SOUTHERN WORKER belongs in the homes of every worker and farmer from Louisiana to Virginia.

Readers, take this issue of the SOUTHERN WORKER to your friends in the mill where you work, on the picket line, to the farmer down the road from you. They will want to subscribe once they see it. Have them fill out the blank below and return it to box 572, Birmingham Ala. with 25 cents which will bring them the next 12 issues of the magazine.

Help build the SOUTHERN WORKER into a real mass magazine of the common people of the South. Get your friends to subscribe to it. Increase your bundle orders.

## Fill This Subscription Blank - Now!

I want to subscribe to the SOUTHERN WORKER, the only magazine in the South that will truthfully tell me about the conditions of the common people of the South, their oppression by the bosses and their fight for a better life.

1 year — 25 cents. 2 years — 50 cents. (Check the one you want)

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Cut this out and mail to Box 572, Birmingham, Ala.