

# SOUTHERN WORKER



Issued Weekly by Communist Party of U. S. A.

Volume 2, Number 23

Chattanooga, Tenn., January 30, 1932

2 Cents a Copy

## Ky. Strike Grows In Spite of Terror

PROVE SCOTTSBORO FRAME-UP BEFORE ALA. SUPREME COURT

### JUDGE FURIOUS AT WORLD-WIDE MASS PROTESTS

The facts of the Scottsboro frame-up against nine boys, in the shadow of the electric chair on the perjured testimony of two white prostitutes, are now before the Alabama Supreme Court. Amidst surroundings admitted as unprecedented in the history of court cases in the South, the International Labor Defense attorneys again exposed the details of this case that is now infamous throughout the whole world as a shameful example of the murderous tyranny of the American boss class, especially its Southern section with its lynch rule.

Before the arguments for a new trial began Chief Justice Anderson of the Supreme Court said that he would make a statement that was "unprecedented," but that was brought about by a deluge of letters, telegrams and resolutions of "revolutionary and inflammatory character."

"I serve notice now to defense counsel and everybody else," said Chief Justice Anderson, "that these letters will have no more influence on this court than a drop of water on a duck's back."

#### Fears Mass Protest

Anderson was expressing the hatred and fear of the ruling class that their days of lynch rule are numbered. The rising tide of working class militancy, the rallying of masses throughout the world against the lynch verdict of the Scottsboro court, the flood of letters, resolutions and telegrams of protest, clearly indicate that the time has passed when campaigns of murder against workers even though disguised by capitalist courts, can be carried out without determined resistance to the ruling class itself. The eyes of hundreds of millions throughout the world are upon the Alabama Supreme Court, the highest judicial lackeys of the boss lynchers, and the explosion of Anderson exposed how uncomfortable they feel as they play their part in this criminal conspiracy to murder innocent boys as a part of the terror drive against all workers—Negro and white alike.

Deny it as he may, the fact that Anderson mentioned the mighty movement on behalf of the innocent boys, proves that he and the class he serves dread and fear this pressure of the masses.

#### Two Days' Arguments

For two days attorneys for the International Labor Defense and the staff of the prosecution argued before the Supreme Court of Alabama.

George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga opened the arguments and showed that the first trial was held with practically no defense of the boys. Defense counsel had had no time in

(Continued on Page 3)

### BEDDOW LEADS LYNCH PLOT IN PETERSON CASE

Amidst vicious lynch surroundings Willie Peterson, tubercular shell-shocked World War veteran, on the verge of death from the ravages of disease and the effects of a bullet wound inflicted last October in the Sheriff's office was sentenced to die in the electric chair on the framed-up charge of killing Augusta Williams at Birmingham last August 4th.

This was the second trial of the Negro miner and ex-soldier, the jury having disagreed at the first trial held in December.

#### Beddow Special Prosecutor

Roderick Beddow, the Birmingham lawyer who was engaged by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to try to take the Scottsboro case out of the hands of the International Labor Defense, was the special prosecutor for the lynch gang against Willie Peterson. Beddow is one of the most rabid lynchers of the South, having repeatedly made declarations that lynch mobs were justified in "taking the law into their own hands." It was this qualification that induced the Negro misleaders at the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to try to force him into the Scottsboro case to make a pretense of defending the boys, while in reality helping the Alabama lynch gang railroad them to the electric chair.

#### "Just Another Negro"

So brazen was the frame-up against Willie Peterson that one Horace F. Duggan, who had said he hoped to get on the jury so he could "stick Peterson" as "it would be just another 'nigger' out of our way" was placed on the jury by Beddow and Assistant Solicitor Long and Judge Heflin, brother of the notorious lynch advocate, ex-senator Tom Heflin.

The Williams and Wood families, including the lyncher, Dent Williams, who emptied a revolver into the body of Willie Peterson in the Sheriff's office last October, sat in the court room on the same side as the jury, while the room was full of "friends" of the families of the two slain girls who were killed at a petting party on Shades Mountain near the Leeds highway.

#### Complete Alibi

More than fifty witnesses testified that Willie Peterson was home ill at the time the crime was committed and had at no time within eighteen months been in a physical condition to enable him to commit such a crime.

On Friday the tortured victim of the Alabama lynch court was in a state of physical collapse. But Heflin the lynch judge, and Dr. J. A. Collins, county physician, said that the Negro was just "faking" and that he was able to go on with the trial.

### FLOODS STILL RISE AS MORE SINK TO DEATH

JACKSON, Miss.—Belzoni and Greenwood are the two towns most recently engulfed by the flood torrents as the rotten levees give way. Until the last moment a convict gang of 300 worked frantically to bolster the battered walls eighteen miles above Belzoni, but the waters soon conquered.

#### Victims Number 70,000

These two towns have a combined population of 15,000 and are the largest in the flood district. This brings the number affected by the floods in the delta region up to more than 70,000. Hundreds of families are marooned in the Tippecanoe basin in momentary danger of drowning, as the totally inadequate system of rescue by small boats has broken down.

#### Politicians Playing

The discredited Bilbo is out of office as governor of Mississippi and his successor, Martin Sennett Connor, is in. One of the first gestures of Connor was to designate a delta militia company to relief service as a boat contingent to transport refugees and their supplies. Some motorboat manufacturers are getting rich off the flood disaster, as they are putting through the legislature, with the aid of the new governor, a proposal that the state buy a number of barges to be propelled with fleets of outboard motor boats. While his graft is going on the poor farmers and workers of the delta region perish by the hundreds from drowning and disease.

The Hoover government at Washington, directly responsible for the rotten condition of the levees, has done nothing to relieve the suffering in the region that Hoover claimed, in his campaign of 1928 would not again suffer from floods because, forsooth, he, while secretary of commerce in Coolidge's cabinet had helped New Orleans bankers utilize the 1927 flood to grab everything they wanted.

#### NEEDS TIME FOR FRAME-UP

DANVILLE, Va.—The case of W. G. Binkley, arrested over a month ago on "charges" of possessing Communist literature and later charged with "attempting to overthrow the government" has been postponed until March. The prosecution wants more time to frame-up the Communist organizer.

The testimony was the same as that on which the jury in the first trial, held before Judge McElroy, disagreed. The present jury went out to supper at 5:55 on Saturday evening and returned at 7:30 with a verdict declaring the Negro guilty of murder in the first degree. He was immediately sentenced to die in the electric chair.

### Kidnap, Beat Leaders; Gun Thugs Patrol Roads To Stop Pineville Meet

All efforts to crush the Kentucky-Tennessee strike have failed. The arrests and continued imprisonment of the National Miners' Union strike leaders, relief workers, and labor journalists, failed to stop the growing strike movement. The Kentucky miners are extending the strike. The workers of the rest of the country are rallying increasingly in the drive to rush relief to the brave miners and their families who are today facing the worst terror in the United States.

### SOUTH RALLIES FOR KENTUCKY STRIKE RELIEF

Workers and sympathizers in many places in the South are active in raising money, and collecting clothing and food for the striking Kentucky-Tennessee miners. A number of shipments of clothing and food have already been sent to the Warehouse at 145 Pine St. Pineville Kentucky, and money is being rushed to the Workers' International Relief Headquarters at Room 506, National Building, Corner Market and Union, Knoxville, Tennessee.

ATLANTA, Ga.—The Kentucky-Tennessee Miners' Relief Committee, recently organized here, is busy making collections to help the Kentucky and Tennessee Miners to carry on their fight against the big corporations. House to house collections are being made in some neighborhoods and others are being organized.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Relief organization is being set up and a big campaign is to be waged to gather relief for the Kentucky strikers.

MEMPHIS.—All sympathetic organizations here are being mobilized to aid in getting food, clothing and money for the striking miners and their families in the Kentucky-Tennessee coal fields. A number of meetings are being arranged to try to draw as large a number as possible into this work.

NEW ORLEANS, La.—In spite of the arrests and persecutions being carried out against all militant workers here we are going ahead with plans to set up an active relief agency for the Kentucky-Tennessee strikers who are putting up such a gallant fight against the bosses' starvation and terror drive.

#### Nation-Wide Drive

Workers throughout the whole country are being acquainted with the issues of the great strike struggle in Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee and in practically every important industrial center throughout the North and South united front con-

Leader Fiercely Beaten  
Joe Weber, young strike leader, and Bill Duncan, who were kidnaped in Tennessee a week ago Friday, came into Knoxville Tuesday after a terrible ordeal. The two workers were arrested in Tennessee, taken to Kentucky, beaten unconscious by gun thugs, left lying in the road and finally picked up by a friend and driven to Appalachia, Va., where they were taken care of until they could get out again.

Joe Weber was savagely beaten. His back was black and blue from the neck down to the waist. Jim Duncan was less severely beaten, but he had a scar on one leg.

#### Tennessee Officials Join

The kidnapping was effected by Hugh Ryder, Claiborne county deputy sheriff, and he and Sheriff Frank Reilly, sheriff of the county, turned the men over to the Harlan thugs. The state administration of Governor Horton sent in Adjutant-General Caswell Boyd on the pretext of investigating the affair, but Boyd, who last year ordered the state militia into Elizabethton against strikers, tried to whitewash the Tennessee sheriff and his deputies who have joined hands with the murder gang of Sheriff Blair of Harlan county, Kentucky.

#### Thugs Stop Conference

Pineville, in Bell county, Kentucky, has become a second Harlan, as the gun thugs extend their terror in an attempt to stop the spread of the strike. Sunday, January 24, the date set for the "Spread the Strike Conference" at Pineville, the place presented the appearance of an armed

(Continued on Page 2)

ferences have already been held or are in preparation so that the fighters in the front lines of the industrial struggle in Kentucky and Tennessee will be able to continue the fight until they defeat the terror.

New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Denver, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, and many other places are on the job raising relief for the strikers and their families.



# Relief Is Urgently Needed by The Kentucky Miners

## Kentucky Strike Grows In Spite of New Terror

(Continued from Page 1)

camp and for miles around the murder gang, armed with rifles, shotguns, machine guns, revolvers, patrolled the roads to turn back miners on their way to attend the Pineville meet. All three roads leading into Pineville were heavily patrolled and everyone going in that direction was stopped and searched—even tourists.

Many delegates have reported back to the section committees regarding the manner in which the sheriff's and police forces and 75 newly sworn in thugs broke up the groups going to the meeting and prevented it being held. Instead of intimidating the delegates, they are now busy reporting the facts to the locals and striving to spread the strike still further.

### Successful Relief Conference

One of the things that caused the murder gang to act with such violence against the conference was that the day before, on Saturday, there was held a very enthusiastic and successful relief conference there. No halls being available because the owners were afraid to let them, the conference was held in the warehouse of the relief forces. There were more than 80 credentials from striking miners and more than 100 attended the conference from the various mines on strike.

Bill Garland, chairman, delivered a speech to the delegates on the organization of local relief machinery so it would be more effective. Richard Wolfe, secretary, reported on money received and expended. Arrangements were made to give strike relief cards to all strikers. Every local and section committee in the coal fields is charged with electing a relief sub-committee to handle the relief work in a systematic manner. Many problems came up, mostly dealing with the difficulties of covering such a territory as that affected by the strike. On all Committees for relief women are to be active and in those places where Negro miners are employed both Negro and white women will be on the relief committees.

More than 200 miners, their wives and children have been selected to raise relief around the strike area and in Southern cities.

The conference greeted the prisoners still held in the Pineville jail and denied bond by the gunmen and courts.

### Increase Evictions

Evictions of miners and their families are increasing. Every day hundreds of notices are served and the attacks upon the miners are steadily becoming more violent in this respect also.

The weather in the Kentucky hills is now terribly cold. Many families have neither warm clothing nor fuel, and hundreds are faced with the prospect of not even the flimsiest roof over their heads.

Special appeals must be made everywhere for tents, for clothing, food and money for medical aid and for the building of shacks to shelter the strikers who have been thrown out of the miserable places they have paid for many times over in rent.

It is up to the workers of the rest of the country to come to the aid of the striking miners and their families by rushing food, clothing and money into the strike zone.

Help with all the relief that can be raised these fighting miners who defy the gun thugs, who conduct mass violations of federal injunctions

## LYNCH VERDICT IN FRAME-UP AGAINST JONES

Orphan Jones, aged Negro farmhand, framed up on a murder charge, has been found "guilty" by the lynch court at Towsan, Maryland. The jury, hand-picked from friends of the lynch sheriff, was out but 34 minutes, which fact alone proves they did not even discuss the case and that they were selected to help in a job of legal lynching and they did it. Since there was no recommendation for "mercy" the death sentence is mandatory.

### Bar Negroes From Jury

Over the protests of attorneys for the International Labor Defense, Negroes were barred from jury service in the case. The lynch judge ruled out the motion for Negro jurors.

The defense proved a frame-up against the aged Negro victim and showed the probable guilt of a white farmer who lives near the murdered Davis family.

### Protect Bootleggers

A number of white well-to-do farmers in the vicinity of where the Davis family was murdered are engaged in moonshining and bootlegging. Davis was in the same business and there is a strong probability that another moonshiner committed the murders. Since the police, sheriff's force and the courts and prosecuting attorneys are engaged in the business of making and selling illicit booze they had a special interest in protecting their friends. Hence the frame-up against Orphan Jones served two purposes—it was a part of the increased campaign of terror against Negro and white workers and served to cover up the bootlegging business in which the moonshiners and whiskey peddlers.

### Organize Mass Defense

This lynch verdict against Orphan Jones, occurring at the same time the Scottsboro case appeal is heard amidst lynch surroundings before a lynch supreme court at Montgomery, Ala., at the same time Willie Peterson again endures the torture of a trial in Birmingham, must spur every class-conscious worker to increased activity against the whole lynch system. Everywhere there must be mobilized masses of workers and farmers to smash the lynch terror.

White and Negro workers must fight and defend with their lives if necessary the victims of lynch tyranny.

Death to the lynchers!

### DANVILLE SHOP PAPER

Members of the National Textile Workers Union at Danville, Va., employed in the Riverside and Dan River cotton mills are issuing a fighting shop paper that exposes the rotten conditions in that mill. It also exposes the United Textile Workers fakers who sold out the strikers at Danville Va., a year ago.

### FORCE RENT REDUCTION

Employed and unemployed workers in the Bronx section of New York City organized and forced a rent reduction.

against picketing. Spread the news of the terror in Kentucky among the workers everywhere. Organize mass protests against the terror. Demand the release of the strike leaders, the relief workers and the writers in jail at Pineville. Help smash the terror and starvation program of the mine owners. Send relief and help the miners spread the strike throughout the south.

## Child Appeals for Help For Kentucky Miners' Families

MIDDLESBORO, Ky.

Dear Comrades—I am writing in regard to food and clothing for miners and their families in Kentucky.

People down here are going hungry and are starving. They are doing all they can to win. We wish you would send us more food and clothes for the people so they do more. They are willing to do, but have not got things to do it with.

They have nine of our leaders in

Pineville jail, trying to stop our food and clothes so we will fail in this fight.

But this gives everybody more determination to fight harder. All we need is more clothing and food.

It's impossible for me to go out in cities and work. All I can do is write so anything as much as can be given us will be appreciated. My father's been blacklisted since last February.

There are children, so many of them, out of school because they can't get clothes and books. I couldn't have went myself. My daddy couldn't get my books and our principal of our school got them for me.

Christein Wilson,

Middlesboro, Ky. Rt. 1, Box 110B.

## "Just a Little Something To Eat While We Fight"

By E. ROYCE

The Workers' International Relief made working class history on January 1st, 1932, in Pineville, Ky. Simultaneously with the calling of the Kentucky miners' strike by the National Miners' Union, food was being delivered to the most destitute families throughout the entire strike area.

On December 31st at the strike committee meeting in Pineville, where the organizers of the various mines that were to strike the next day, January 1st, were discussing the possibilities of pulling the various mines 100 per cent, the question of relief was one of the paramount factors discussed.

The organizers for the Colmer, Commodore and Kettle Island mines, together with 30 or 40 other organizers of the mine sections, stressed the militant desire of the miners to lay down their tools and fight for their demands and against starvation and terror. However the question of the need for immediate relief because of the long period of starvation was sharply emphasized. "Just a little something to eat while we picket and fight," is the way they put it. Some said that "they can't strike unless they feel sure that something to eat will come soon," because actual starvation stares the women and children in the face.

The miners were facing stark starvation while working in the mines and the women and children were slowly dying of hunger. Many of them died of that dreadful disease, flux.

None realized more than the W.I.R. representatives who participated in the meeting the need of relief. They assured the miners that every effort was being made by the Workers' International Relief to support the strike. The W.I.R. told them that they could go back and assure the miners in their respective sections that food would go out the day of the strike to the most needy families and that within a few days more food would be shipped from all sections of the United States to aid the strikers.

This created considerable enthusiasm among the organizers, and, one after another they got up and stated that if this were done, the strike would be 100 per cent.

The organizers were instructed to have their relief committees with trucks and wagons at the W.I.R. warehouse, 145 Pine street, Pineville, Ky., at 6:30 a.m., January 1st—the day of the strike. On that morning dozens of trucks and wagons gathered at the W.I.R. warehouse with the respective relief committees from mines as far as 100 miles from Pineville. From there we drove down to the various wholesalers where negotiations had already been made to

deliver food to the mine committees.

It was a stirring sight to see hundreds of miners in chain formation passing sacks of flour, coffee, beans, potatoes and long strips of bacon onto the trucks for distribution among 2,000 starving miners' families.

The entire town of Pineville saw this demonstration of solidarity as the trucks had our W.I.R. signs on them. The W.I.R. was put on the map as a real relief organization participating in the struggles from the moment strikes start.

The Kentucky miners for the first time realized that in this strike there was real rank and file organization with solidarity behind it in the form of W.I.R. organization. "The National Miners' Union and the W.I.R. would be fought for to the last inch," is the gist of what many of the miners and the women were heard to say.

Support for the striking miners must be made the most important issue everywhere. Never before has there been such an opportunity to build a powerful revolutionary miners' union among Americans. A victory in the most terror stricken section of America, feudal Kentucky, with its machine guns and gun thug patrols, would be a tremendous stimulus for an offensive of the entire American working class against wage cuts, speed-ups, unemployment and for unemployment insurance.

Every worker, every sympathizer, small business-man or professional, must be mobilized at once for an intensive campaign for relief. Every worker must popularize the strike in his shop, factory, or mine. Every worker must gather a group around him and bring this group to the International Workers' Relief. The W.I.R. will equip them with collection lists and instructions as to how to collect funds and to organize those who donate into the Kentucky-Tennessee Striking Miners' Relief Campaign of the W.I.R.

Working class organizations must arrange Kentucky-Tennessee strike relief affairs. Every worker coming to these affairs must be drawn into the campaign. In every working class neighborhood parades, street corner meetings, house-to-house collections must be held.

The strike can and must be won! To do this means great amounts of strike relief must be raised IMMEDIATELY. Collect, organize! Rush funds to the Kentucky-Tennessee Striking Miners' Relief Campaign of the Workers' International Relief, Room 506 National Bldg., corner Market and Union, Knoxville, Tenn. Food and clothing must be sent to the W.I.R., Warehouse, 145 Pine street, Pineville Kentucky. All food and clothing should be sent shipping charges prepaid.

## DANVILLE COPS HELP BOSSES' PAY CUT DRIVE

(By a Worker Correspondent)

DANVILLE, Va.—This morning Comrade Ed Witt was told by a police officer that there is a warrant out for him and that if he will leave town that the charges will be dropped. What the hell do you think of that kind of a frame-up? Comrade Witt is a native of the Old Dominion and he said that his answer to this frame-up is: "Hell, no!"

He will rot in the capitalist jail before he will leave his native state by being forced, that the only way that he will leave is to go to Russia where the workers are the rulers and that he would be proud to be a citizen of Red Russia.

This is one of the most brazen frame-ups that a man ever got. This is not the only man the Danville police are framing. They are framing Comrade Binkley as well. When Comrade Binkley was arrested Comrade Witt immediately got him out on bail and took an active part in the court room while Binkley was being tried, so the bosses thought they had better get Witt out of the way so that he and Binkley could not do anything to help the workers resist the wage cut in the mills here on the 25th of this month.

But the bosses and their tools, the police, have another thought coming, for Witt and Binkley are going to stay with them until hell freezes over.

Comrade Witt is charged with having union leaflets in his possession, and he does not deny having them. Witt said he thinks as all other workers that he had a perfect right to have these leaflets.

The cops sure are afraid of the reds here, and are now starting to try to run them out. But they stand no more chance of running them out than a snow ball in hell, capitalist hell.

—Danville Mill Worker.

## Pollard Demands Special Police to Deal With Strike

(By a Worker Correspondent)

DANVILLE, Va.—A Richmond dispatch today commenting on the message of Governor Pollard to the State Legislature, said:

"Calling attention to the strike in the Riverside and Dan River cotton mills at Danville last winter and the calling out of the national guard to preserve order, the governor asked for consideration of a bill authorizing the governor to mobilize temporarily, under single control, parts of the police forces of the cities, towns and counties and to swear in special police if necessary. This he said might enable authorities to cope with conditions in their incipient stages and avoid military action."

It is clear that this is part of the offensive against the growing militancy of the workers and an attempt to outlaw the Communist party and the Revolutionary unions in Virginia.

### WOULD AUCTION SELF

William Schlasburg of Marion, O., home town of the late President Harding, offers to sell himself at auction to the highest bidder as he can find no job. He has a wife and three children.



# Judge Fears World - Wide Scottsboro Protest

## Mass Fight to Save Boys Is Their Only Salvation

(Continued from Page 1)

which to prepare their case. He also argued that the presiding judge, A. E. Hawkins, ought to have granted a change of venue from Scottsboro because of the presence of a lynch mob spirit that was manifested by demonstrations and parades with brass bands against the Negroes on trial.

Joseph Brodsky, of New York, chief counsel for the International Labor Defense, based his argument on three points (1) that mob terrorism prevented a fair trial; (2) that the defendants were denied due process of law because Negroes were not included on the jury, and (3) that Eugene Williams, one of the defendants, was under 15 years of age.

Brodsky described the mob scenes at Scottsboro, the activity of the militia, the presence of mounted machine guns.

When Brodsky raised the question of the boys' being "deprived of due process of law" because there were no Negroes on the jury, the lynch judge, Anderson, had more than he could stand for one day, so he hastily adjourned the court until the following day.

### Demonstration Plot Failed

The demand for Negroes to serve on juries so infuriated the whole lynch gang that frantic efforts were made to prepare a hostile demonstration in the court room when arguments were resumed next day. This failed in spite of the fact that Negro workers were not admitted to the court room. At no time was it possible to induce the white audience that filled the court room to make a demonstration against such a demand.

Although barred from the court room large numbers of Negro workers pressed around the doors and windows, listening eagerly to every word of defense counsel.

### See Dawn of New Day

When the defense attorneys went out onto the streets they were followed by groups of Negroes who could hardly get over their amazement that finally, after long, weary bloody years of tyranny in the South, white people were taking up the defense of elementary rights for them. They seemed to see in the International Labor Defense attorneys the heralds of the dawn of a new day for the Negro masses in the darkest South.

A number of Negroes spoke to the I. L. D. lawyers and said they would collect every penny they could get and send it to the I. L. D. for the Scottsboro case. Also a new departure from all previous experiences was the fact that numbers of white workers seemed equally enthusiastic about unity of action between the black and white oppressed masses against the boss despotism.

### Reveal Girls' Character

Irving Schwab, of New York, attacked the testimony of the two white prostitutes, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price, who were "bumming" their way on a freight train, when they claimed they were attacked by Negroes. From a mass of affidavits Schwab revealed the now well-known and many times proven facts, that the two witnesses upon whose testimony eight of the boys were sentenced to the electric chair, were prostitutes, notorious for their catering to Negro patronage.

The prosecution was unable to offer anything that disproved the arguments of the defense. And the question of the age of Eugene Williams was not even replied to by Thomas E. Knight. The lynch gang prosecutor, who has continually boasted in the capitalist press that he hoped to see the boys burned to death in the electric chair, indulged in the usual twaddle about Southerners "protecting their women," never seeming to realize that the two products of a rotten capitalist system, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price, when paraded as typical Southern women, were hardly flattering to the majority of women.

### Decision In a Month?

The Supreme Court has taken the case under advisement and will hand down its decision in a month, according to announcements in the capitalist press.

The lynch gang hopes that during the interval the world wide interest in the case will not be so strong as now and that they may be able to reaffirm the verdict of the original court without any serious consequences to the ruling class.

Now, more than ever, it is imperative that the fight to defeat the murder conspiracy against the boys be carried forward to newer and higher stages. Thus far the boys have been saved by the mass protests of the workers. Only a still more determined struggle will save the lives of the boys and release them from the bosses' prisons in which they are now being tortured.

Demand the immediate and unconditional freedom of the Scottsboro boys!

Down with the lynch terror!  
Death to lynchers!

### STRIKE THREAT STOPS CUT

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—When the National Miners' Union mobilized workers at the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal company to strike against a wage cut the bosses were forced to withdraw it. Wage cuts can be stopped by united action.

### MISSOURI MINERS STRIKE

Five Missouri mines struck against wage cuts from \$5 a day to \$3.50.

## SCOTTSBORO IS BROUGHT UP AT TAMPA TRIALS

TAMPA, Fla.—As the trial to railroad 16 workers for their activity against the bosses entered its second week the witnesses for the defense were on the stand before the labor hating Judge Pettaway.

The first witness was Defendant McDonald, who was on the stand about four hours. He is a railroad worker who was in the delegation to the mayor's office on November 7th in regard to the parade that was to be held. He spent two years as technical worker in the Soviet Union. The prosecutor, of course, slandered the Soviet Union.

### Reviles Scottsboro

The most savage outburst from the prosecutor, appropriately named Skinner, came when McDonald stated before the jury that the Communist Party was leading the fight against oppression of Negro and foreign-born workers, of whom there were many in Tampa. The prosecutor raved and asked the provocative question:

"Isn't it true that the International Labor Defense is defending nine Negroes who assaulted two white women?"

McDonald answered clearly, explaining the Scottsboro frame-up and the meaning of the slogan "Black and white workers unite."

### Workers Jury Reports

Besides the regular court jury there is a Workers' Jury that sits in on the case during the day and every night makes public reports at mass meetings held at the Labor Temple. Funds for the defense are raised this way and are increasing with the progress of the trial and the exposure of the fraud of capitalist democracy as seen in the action of its courts.

Last week the testimony of the witnesses for the prosecution, all of whom were police or grafting city officials, like the mayor, was torn to pieces by the Workers' Jury and these people were thoroughly exposed to thousands of workers.

Neither Byrd, the cop who was shot, nor Officer Wilson, who was hit by a brick-bat, could identify the defendants. The doctor who treated Byrd introduced the bullet, which was lead nosed and not the type that is used in the gun the police claim the worker, Lezema, had in his possession.

After a number of policemen had testified that the shot that hit Byrd came from an upstairs window, another policeman, McWilliams, testified that he saw a flash from a window downstairs, "about two feet above a man's head."

Much other contradictory testimony was introduced by the cops and other defense witnesses—enough to convince anyone but a bribed jury that the whole case is a frame-up to try to railroad innocent workers to prison in the hope of smashing the tobacco workers organization in Tampa.

### WAGE CUT FOR EXPRESS WORKERS

In connection with the general wage cut drive in the railway industry more than 50,000 workers of the Railway Express agency have received notices of 15 per cent pay cuts.

Social workers of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, allot 27 cents a week to feed an unemployed starving worker. There are 19,000 unemployed in that county.

## Boy Gets One Year Sentence for Help To Tampa Strikers

TAMPA, Fla.—Judge Weise, one of the most vicious enemies of the working class, sentenced 14-year-old Vesper Romero, son of a Mexican tobacco worker to one year in the state detention home on the charge of being "incorrigible," because he had helped the tobacco strikers in their fight against the trust.

The bosses' judge denounced the entire working class population living in Ybor City, claiming that it was a "dangerous environment where sinister influences were at work to make children incite insurrection." The boy was further charged with "associating with Communists."

### Leader of School Strike

The boy was one of the leaders of the school children who went on strike when their fathers were out last month. The children broke through the teachers' lines and marched from school to school singing "The Red Flag," and other songs. It was because of this school strike that the boy was arrested.

This sentence is part of the campaign to try to smash the youth movement in Tampa. But the revolutionary youth only becomes stronger and more determined as the judges, the police and the authorities generally unmask themselves as tools of the cigar manufacturers.

## Hunger Prevents Study at School

(By a Student Correspondent)

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—At this Jim Crow school in Biddle of Charlotte, we are treated like dogs. We go to school at 8:30 and stay until 4:30, and have no recess. I don't have anything to eat at breakfast but a little oat meal.

I am so hungry that I can't study but if I am one minute late they will send me back home. I haven't got any shoes and I went up to the Charities and asked them for something to eat but they ran me away. At school they give some children a slice of bread so thin you can see through it and they say this will have to do all day. Then they tell to study hard because they gave us a good dinner of one measly slice of bread.

Now comrades and fellow workers, we have to stop all this and fight for our rights and get what we need.

—A Y.C.L. Negro Comrade.

## Long Hours Work For \$4.50 Week

(By a Worker Correspondent)

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—I have been working for a family for two years and I was getting seven dollars a week and now they cut me to \$4.50. I have to go on at 7:30 a.m. and get off at 8 and 8:30 p.m. I have all kinds of dirty work to do, such as scrubbing floors, waxing and polishing furniture and washing, all for just \$4.50 a week.

I am not able to buy any clothes. After I pay rent of \$3.50 a week and \$2 furniture bill, I have nothing left to get groceries and clothes. So it's time for everybody to organize for better conditions.

—A Young Worker.

## WORKERS WILL FIGHT AGAINST VA. WAGE CUT

(By a Worker Correspondent)

DANVILLE, Va.—The Dan River and Riverside cotton mills have posted a notice of a wage-cut of 10 per cent for "workers" and 10 to 20 per cent for "salaried men," to take effect on January 25. The excuse the company gave for the wage-cut was that a curtailment in overhead expenses would give the mills a larger opportunity to sell goods and thus increase opportunities of employment.

The company admits in the announcement of the cut that it will mean a saving to the company of \$300,000 per annum and will enable them to pay preferred dividends more quickly.

Altho this is the first direct wage-cut since the sell-out strike of the U.T.W., the workers have had several indirect cuts, such as speeding up the machinery, "stretching" the measure of the cloth for piece workers, etc.

The announcement of the new cut comes directly on the heels of the arrest of the National Textile Workers Union organizer and bears out the statement of the Communist Party that the organizer was arrested, purposely, so that the company could more easily put over a cut.

The N.T.W.U. is on the job, organizing workers to resist the cut.

Any struggle that will take place here will be under the leadership of the N.T.W.U. for the U.T.W. is completely discredited in Danville since the sell-out last winter.

The N.T.W.U. has great influence among the textile workers and the bosses are scared of our organization.

## Slave In Bosses' House For \$4 Wk.

(By a Worker Correspondent)

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—I have been working in service over a year, and I used to make six dollars a week. My hours are from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and they cut my wages to five dollars a week, and with the same hours. I work very hard. I am so tired when I get home that I don't know what to do. If I am 2 minutes late, the lady will say you are very late this morning. She doesn't say anything about when I am late getting off. I have to pay street car fare to and from work out of the five dollars and this leaves me only \$4 to pay my bills with. I can hardly buy a pair of stockings.

Comrades and fellow workers, I think it is a shame for us poor workers to live on such conditions as these. And fellow workers, I think we should all unite together and not stand for such.

—A Young Negro Worker.

### COURT FREES MURDERER

A company gunman in Kanawha, W. Va., has just been cleared of a charge of murdering a Negro. The gunman shot the Negro five times because he called him "Doc" instead of Mr. Pack. The same Pack shot an elderly woman, wife of a miner, last July and was never even brought to trial on that charge.

### STRIKE ACTION WINS

A strike of 300 workers of the Geller Shoe Factory in Brooklyn forced the boss to reinstate two workers he had fired.

## SUBSCRIBE TO SOUTHERN WORKER

\$1.00 A YEAR; 50c FOR 6 MONTHS  
USE THIS BLANK

SOUTHERN WORKER,  
Box 1653, Chattanooga, Tenn.,

Enclosed is (50c) \$1.00 for (6 mo.) 1 year's subscription to THE SOUTHERN WORKER.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



# The Southern Worker

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U. S. A.

Jim Allen, Managing Editor

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Box 1653

Subscription Rates: \$1.00 A Year; 50 cents a Half Year

## All Readers of the Southern Worker Must Rally to Save Paper.

Because of lack of funds the paper was almost a week late last issue. We do not know from one week to the next whether we will be able to get the paper out. We face the danger of seeing the Southern Worker die. This threat does not come from the camp of the capitalist class. It is not the enemy that has put us in a position where we may not be able to carry on. If it were the enemy we would consider it no disgrace. It is no disgrace to go down fighting, face to face with our class enemy. No revolutionist fears that sort of thing.

But it is disgraceful to have to go down because the class conscious workers and sympathizers, and ABOVE ALL, responsible Party members, will not exert themselves to obtain money to enable us to carry on. In this emergency we need donations; that is we will gladly accept donations. BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT WE ARE INSISTING UPON NOW. ALL WE HAVE ASKED NOW IS THAT THOSE COMRADES AND THOSE ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE BEEN GETTING BUNDLE ORDERS PAY FOR THEM. There are a large number of bundle orders that go out every week and the comrades who get them do not even exert themselves to PAY POSTAGE on them, to say nothing of paying for the paper. We must, in this case, say plainly to the responsible Party functionaries: THIS HAS GOT TO STOP! We can't continue to jeopardize the Southern Worker because our own Party members do not meet their obligations.

With the attack against the working class becoming more vicious, with mass hunger becoming worse every day, with thousands of miners facing sudden death at the hands of hordes of gun thugs or slow starvation, with the lynch fury striking out madly against Orphan Jones, Willie Peterson, the Scottsboro boys, with the war clouds growing darker every moment and threatening war against the Soviet Union, with the bandit drive against the Chinese revolution intensifying, we need now more than ever such a paper as the Southern Worker carrying its weekly message to the oppressed of the backward South.

Especially is this paper needed when, as a reply to the increasing terror, the intensified lynch drive, we have in answer thereto a rapid rise of working class militancy, an increased determination to fight on the part of the workers and farmers. The masses want just such a paper as the Southern Worker. Many readers of our paper would be astonished to know that, in face of such favorable conditions for Communist work and growth, we face suspension, not because the bosses are attacking us as they are, but because those who owe us money will not pay their debts.

We do not want to be driven to the point where we will have to publish openly in our columns the list of those who have, through refusal to pay for bundle orders, placed us in this position, but if this paper is forced to suspend on account of such a thing, we will regard it as our revolutionary duty to place the blame precisely where it belongs, if we have to do it in the last issue we print.

The situation is so serious that we ask those who have accumulated bills owing us to rush funds at once by wire or special delivery.

### FACTORY PENETRATION AND FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR

Comrade O. Piatnitsky, speaking on the fluctuation of membership in the Communist Parties, and the necessity for a decisive turn toward the factories, before the Eleventh Plenum of the Communist International, said:

"The absence of a great change in the matter of transferring the centre of activity of Party and trade union work to the factories does not really make it possible for the Communist Parties, the Red Trade Unions and the Trade Union Opposition to fight against the influence of the Social-Democrats and the reformists in the factories, to enlarge their membership by an inflow of workers from the factories, to know the feelings of the workers, to organize the struggle against the attacks of the capitalists. When the active elements of the Communist Parties, the Red Trade Unions and the Trade Union Opposition are removed by the bourgeoisie during the time of war the only possibility for successful work in the industrial centers, in the factories will be on condition that there are well-functioning nuclei."

This bears with special force upon the main weakness of our Communist Party, especially in the Southern districts, where we have scarcely any organization in the industries. The terrible suffering of the mass of industrial workers, the widespread radicalization, manifested in increas-

ed willingness to fight, furnishes our Party with splendid opportunities to attract these workers to us. Many workers in the South have been under our leadership in industrial struggles, many are under our political influence. We must be able to consolidate this influence organizationally by bringing hundreds of the most advanced into our Party during the present recruiting campaign.

### ORGANIZATION IN THE FACTORIES ESSENTIAL

"What can the proletariat put up in opposition to the power of finance capital with its trusts, its cartels and its fighting fascist gangs? Only organization in the factories. The struggle for the factories will be the most dramatic page in the history of the struggle between Communism on the one hand and the bourgeois dictatorship with its parties of fascism and social democracy on the other."—Dr. Manuisky's report to the Eleventh Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International.

### KOO KOO CHIEF STAYS IN JAIL

D. C. Stephenson, former grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, failed to get a new trial and so he stays in jail in Indiana. He was sent up when he was convicted of raping and murdering a young woman on a train between Indianapolis and Hammond, Ind. Stephenson was for years the Republican political boss of Indiana.

## January "Communist" Splendid Number for Guide to Action

The January "Communist" is worthy of special mention inasmuch as it more clearly than for quite some time justifies its sub-head "A Magazine of the Theory and Practice of Marxism-Leninism."

The article by Comrade S. Willner on "Some Lessons of the Last Miners' Strike," is an excellent piece of careful analysis of the achievements and the shortcomings of the miners' strike in Pennsylvania. Of great importance is the part dealing with the unity of the employed and unemployed workers; a fact that ensured the stability of the struggle for a long time. The author of the article deals quite comprehensively with the political and organizational mistakes and shortcomings in the preparation and carrying on of the strike. Comrades of the Party and those generally who are engaged in the day to day work of fighting against wage cuts, unemployment, etc., should obtain the January number of the "Communist" if only to study carefully that article on the experience of the Pennsylvania mine strike.

The six-weeks' textile strike in Lawrence, Mass., brought out clearly many of the weaknesses of our Party and trade union work, especially in relation to the practical attempts to build an effective united front. Comrade William Weinstone contributes an article on "The United Front Tactics in the Lawrence Strike" which brings out clearly the fact that it is wrong to merely set up a narrow strike organ of the union and call it a "united front" instead of building a united front that is actually the weapon of the workers themselves. In all the practical work of putting into effect the policy of independent leadership of strike struggles we will meet with conditions similar to those that existed in Lawrence, where the A. F. of L. fakers will use every kind of demagoguery to behead the movement. A careful study of Comrade Weinstone's article will clear up many foggy notions of how to build a united front.

A number of other articles in the January number of the "Communist" also emphasize the fact that our writers are effectively combining theory and practice in the light of our everyday problems.

Bill Dunne, in an article on "Unemployment and the Communist Way Out of the Crisis," explodes some of the capitalist theories, showing the effect of the crisis upon the working class generally and correctly urges the use of more Marxist-

## Mine Explosion Kills Six Miners

PARROTT, Va.—Six workers were killed in an explosion deep in the Pulaski anthracite mine here. The explosion was due to accumulation of gases as a result of the neglect of the company to supply proper ventilation facilities. The state mining inspectors are trying to cover up the cause so that the company will not have to pay death claims to the families of the six men.

The dead are: Frank Seffered, Dewey Seffered, Harvey Seffered, none of them brothers, but more distant relatives; Ernest Stead and Foster and Archie Boyd, brothers. The condition of the bodies indicated that all of them had died instantly.

There should be organized big mass meetings and protests against such criminal neglect on the part of the mine owners who always place profits above human life. It is cheaper for the mine owners to bribe state "inspectors" than to provide safety devices.

Leninist classics in popular literature of the Party.

There are informative articles by Comrades Bittleman and Steuben, besides a reprint of Lenin's article on the Irish rebellion of 1916 (Easter Rebellion); a translation of an article by K. A. Wittfogel on the Hundredth Anniversary of the Death of Hegel; a long article on the theoretical foundations of Marxism-Leninism by V. Adoransky and the resolution of the Eleventh Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International on the War Danger.

There is also published the now world-famous article of Comrade Stalin on "Some Questions Relating to the History of Bolshevism," which was the signal for all Communist Parties to more seriously consider questions of theory in all our work.

Every Communist, every worker, who wants to be equipped to more effectively fight against capitalist despotism should read and study the January number of "The Communist." The address is Box 148, Station D., New York City.

## Bosses' Wife Cheats Girl Who Worked at One Place Six Years

(By a Worker Correspondent) — CHARLOTTE, N. C.—I am a young girl worker. I have worked in the same place for six years and I only get six dollars a week. After I had worked for my boss lady so long, when time came for me to have my afternoon off she would ask me to stay on. She always promises me extra pay but when Saturday comes she gives me six dollars. When ask for the extra change she says everybody is cutting wages and she can get a girl for three dollars a week.

Comrades, I think it is time for us to wake up and fight and organize against these rotten conditions.

—A Y.C.L. Member.

## Maryland Slavery At Point of Gun

BALTIMORE, Md. — Extremely bad economic conditions among the Negro oyster boatmen and other Negro and white workers of this state, have been revealed by worker-investigators. It is this economic oppression that the bosses want to maintain by means of their lynchings and frame-ups.

The Negro oyster boatmen ship under agreement to receive \$1.00 a day in wages. They are compelled instead to accept part pay. At the end of their trips they are driven off the boats with shot-guns. Protests against deductions in pay have actually brought about the shooting of workers by the captain. Boatmen who are injured are often compelled to carry on their work at the point of a pistol. They are not allowed to get a doctor or go ashore.

### KENTUCKY SCHOOLS MAY CLOSE

The diminished number of Kentucky schools are likely to close at any time for lack of money, according to Governor Lafoon. The state and the Mellon, Morgan, Ford, Rockefeller, Insull exploiters of labor have plenty of money for gun thugs, bought and paid for judges, bribed juries, professional perjurers, etc., but nothing for schools.

## NANKING GOVT. TROOPS FLOCK TO RED ARMY

The mighty upsurge of the revolutionary movement in China is rapidly disintegrating and destroying the armed forces of the Kuomintang regime at Nanking. In carrying out the policy of the Chinese capitalists and the wishes of the imperialist powers the Nanking government is engaged in a "Communist suppression campaign." The campaign is failing because tens of thousands of the government troops are deserting the nationalist-imperialist forces with guns and munitions and going over to the Red army, which is the shield of the Soviet districts of China.

### Capture Many Cities

Twenty thousand Nanking troops which were sent out on the campaign to crush Communism revolted and joined the Red Army. This tremendously strengthened the Red forces and immediately thereafter Tingchow and several other cities in the Fukien province were captured.

The Red Army is now besieging Nanchang, capital of the Kiangsi province and the last stronghold in that province of the Nanking government. Hankow, in the Hupeh province also faces momentary danger of falling before the Red Armies. Nanking troops protecting many cities have revolted and opened the way for the Red forces.

### Imperialists Speed Plots

It is the tremendous rise of the revolutionary wave that is impelling the imperialist powers toward armed invasion of China. All the bandit governments of the world, engaged in ravaging the colonial and semi-colonial countries—United States, France, England, Japan and others—are striving to find means of crushing the great Chinese revolution because they know that the victory of the Red Army means a Soviet China and the existence of a Soviet China will tremendously influence the development of the revolutionary movement in India, Egypt, Africa, Indo-China, New Guinea, the Philippines, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and in fact every colonial country on earth.

### See War Against U. S. S. R.

Japan's seizure of Manchuria with the approval of the League of Nations and the United States Government, was calculated to establish a base from which to attack the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. Capitalist journalists openly state that as soon as spring comes a war will be waged against the Soviet Union by Japan. William Philip Sims, foreign editor for the Scripps-Howard chain of papers writing in the Knoxville News-Sentinel, predicts the clash in the spring and says that "it is not because Russia wants it, but because the Japanese want it." He says it may set off an explosion that will rock the world.

More and more openly and brazenly do the capitalists admit their plots against the Soviet Union as well as reveal by their warfare their designs against the Chinese masses.

The workers of the world are face to face with a war situation. The outcome of such a war is in the hands of the workers. We must fight to cripple the war machine of our "own" country NOW. Workers in war industries must be organized; that means all basic industries. Unemployed must demand that all war funds be used for unemployed relief. We must fight the war mongers in every way and defeat their plans.

### MELLON MINE CLOSES

Mellon's Pittsburgh Coal company has shut down Westmoreland Mine, No. 2, which normally employs 1,500 workers.