

# SOUTHERN WORKER

*Magazine of the Common People of the South*

Vol. V, No. 16

209

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., JULY, 1937

Price 3c



WE'RE GLAD OUR SON WENT  
TO SPAIN (See Page 8)

**TEXTILE UNION DRIVE BLAZES THE TRAIL  
FOR A HAPPIER SOUTHLAND**

(See Page 5)



## Southern Worker

Magazine of the Common People  
of the South

Published Monthly by the Communist  
Party of the U.S.A. in the South  
Address—Box 1182, Chattanooga,  
Tennessee

### EDITORIAL BOARD

R. F. Hall Paul Crouch  
Ted Wellman

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year..... 25c  
Single Copies..... 3c

Bundle orders of 10 or more 1c a copy.  
Please do not send checks. Send  
stamps or money orders payable to  
Jim Mallory, Editor.

## PASS ANTI-LYNCH BILL

**I**N HENRY COUNTY, Alabama, not long ago, Wes Johnson, a Negro, was taken from the county jail and hanged by a mob and his body riddled with bullets. Hundreds of people know who did it. The sheriff gave the grand jury the names of nine of the mob. But there has been no prosecution. And the world now knows that Wes Johnson was an innocent man.

In Winona, Mississippi, not long ago two Negroes were cruelly burned with a blow torch and then murdered. Hundreds of people know who is guilty. But no one has been prosecuted for the crime.

It is evident that the states either cannot or will not stop lynchings. But passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill by Congress will go far toward abolishing this horrible crime. This bill has passed the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate, where it is known as the Wagner-Van Nuys Bill.

The reactionaries are planning to try to kill the anti-lynching bill in the Senate. They must be defeated. Southern people have a right to demand the passage of this bill and accept no excuses. Write or wire immediately to the senators from your state, instructing them to vote for the Wagner-Van Nuys Bill.

## JOIN NOW!

After reading the Southern Worker, I can see that the Communist Party is the best organization which fights for the demands and rights of the common people of the South.

- ☒ I want more information about the Communist Party.  
☐ I want to join the Communist Party.

Name .....  
Address .....  
City..... State.....

(Fill this coupon out and send it to  
the Southern Worker, Box 1182,  
Chattanooga, Tenn.)

# A N A P P E A L !

**T**HE SOUTHERN WORKER has for years been in the front lines of the peoples' struggles against the bosses. Even under the most trying circumstances, it has faithfully told the truth about the desperate measures the big money bags have used to keep the workers under their feet. It has more and more played a leading part in teaching the workers and farmers of the South how they can defend their civil liberties, gain better working conditions and make the South a happy and free land

Last month we published an open letter to all our readers describing the critical financial situation the Southern Worker is in. We appealed for immediate help. Frankly, very little has come in. We stated that \$3,000 is needed to cover the magazine's deficit for the year. The slowness of our readers to respond to our appeal for assistance

has put the very existence of the magazine in immediate peril.

We know that with the cost of living going sky high, and wages being raised only as a result of hard fought struggles that our readers and friends cannot afford to give very much. But you can afford to give something to save the one and only magazine in the South today that militantly fights for South.

If 120 people would mail \$25 in right away or if 300 people would contribute \$10 apiece we'd be on pretty firm ground for a year. But if you can't send \$25 or \$10 or even \$5, rush your dollar bills in immediately. They will go far towards staying off the day when the Southern Worker will have to suspend publication. Rush funds to Jim Mallory, editor, Box 1182, Chattanooga, Tenn. as soon as you read this.

## BUILD THE C.I.O. TO ABOLISH SOUTHERN WAGE DIFFERENTIAL

**A** THIRD of our population, the overwhelming majority of which is in agriculture or industry, is ill-nourished, ill-clad, or ill-housed."

With these words and others deploring the "exponents of the theory of private initiative" as standing in the way of progress, President Roosevelt placed his proposals for a minimum wage and maximum hour legislation before Congress. The bill, now before the Legislature, also provides for the elimination of child labor and unfair labor practices such as the use of labor spies and strike-breakers. The aim of the proposed legislation, President Roosevelt said, is that: "Goods produced under conditions which do not meet rudimentary standards of decency should be regarded as contraband and ought not be allowed to pollute the channels of trade."

Most sections of the bill have the backing of the C.I.O., the Communist Party, and other sections of our progressive population. The American Tories in both the Democratic and Republican Parties are opposed to the bill.

**O**NE weakness of the bill is its "recognition" of differentials in certain "industries and localities." Of this, Roosevelt said: "Backward labor conditions and relatively progressive labor conditions cannot be completely assimilated and made uniform at one fell swoop without creating economic dislocations." The "economic dislocation" of the runaway shop is being created by the wage differential. Also, in the South, textile mill owners make an average of 6 per cent more profits than do owners in textile elsewhere. At the same time the Southern textile worker slaves away at the lowest wage paid in any large industry, and much lower than that paid elsewhere in textile. Significantly, Sidney Hillman, national director of the T.W.O.C., has already announced that the T.W.O.C. stands for the same wage rates, North and South.

Roosevelt's statements should be a challenge to every Southern worker to join and build the C.I.O. Organized labor has long realized that strong unions are one of the best means of making effective legislation such as is now proposed. By successfully carrying through the present organization drives of the C.I.O. in the South, Southern workers can lay the basis for establishing the same wage scale for the same work, North and South.



# 1776 - JULY 4 - 1937

ONE hundred and sixty-one years ago the pamphlets and papers of the British rulers could find no word strong enough to express their hatred—yes, and their fear—of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Patrick Henry.

"Ringleaders of sedition, rioters, traitors to the Crown," said the British rulers. Their chief desire was to see these American patriots hanging at the end of a rope.

For these were the men who were leading the American people in their historic struggle to throw off the yoke of the British kings, the British landowners and the British money men. These were the men who were advancing a doctrine, strange and hateful to the minds of these oppressors, but recognized by the peoples of all lands as doctrines of peace, progress, and democracy.

IT WAS 161 years ago that these doctrines, expressed in a document, the Declaration of Independence, announced to the world that the American people were a free people and were determined to remain so. The document was signed on July 4, 1776. It is the signing of this great statement, sealed with the blood of our forefathers, that we celebrate on the Fourth of July.

The spirit of our forefathers and the ideals for which they were willing to die, are expressed in these lines:

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they

are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government become destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

We Americans are taught from our very cradles that these principles of freedom and liberty are sacred. We believe that these principles, which cost so much to win, must be preserved, no matter how great the cost.

TODAY, 161 years later, we find these principles threatened by the rise of reactionary money kings who would gladly destroy our liberty and our democracy in order that they might continue to reap great profits.

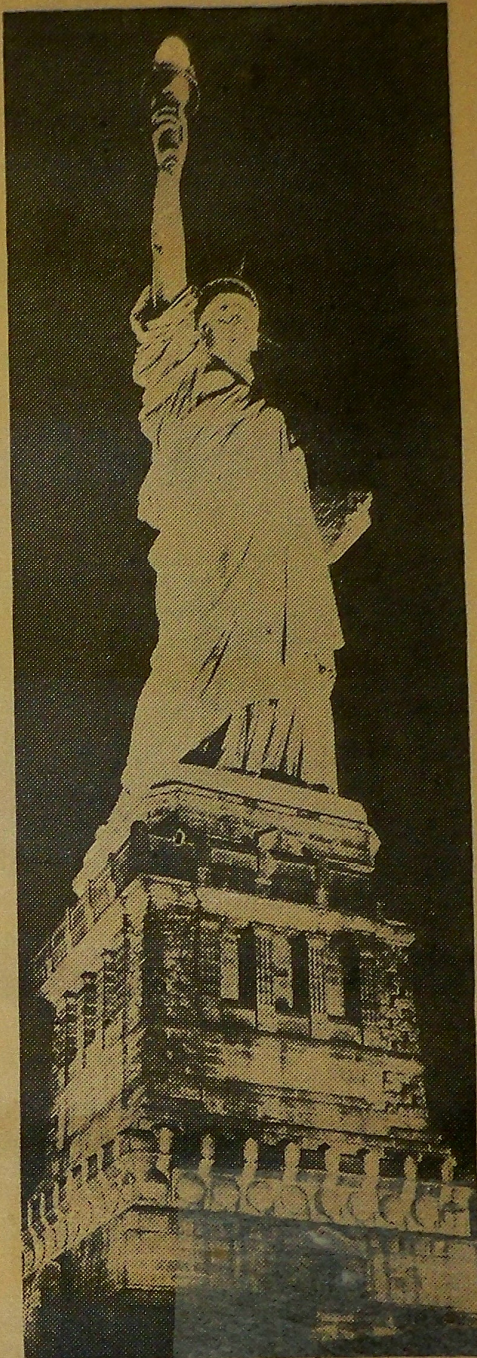
We see their hand in the attempts of the Republic Steel Company and other independent steel companies to throttle the organizations of the steel workers and break their strikes. We see their hand in the Liberty League and their reactionary influence in the fascist gangs of the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion and the White Legion. These ruthless millionaires, together with their dupes and agents in bed sheets, are the enemies of all that is best in America.

We American Communists have pledged ourselves to defend American democracy and freedom in the same spirit as our Revolutionary forefathers who established this democracy and freedom.

We American Communists realize that the most effective way to defend American democracy is to build a strong labor movement, and we hail the C.I.O. as the instrument through which this great organization can be built. We know that it is necessary to organize the farmers, the Negro people, all the common people, for this great end.

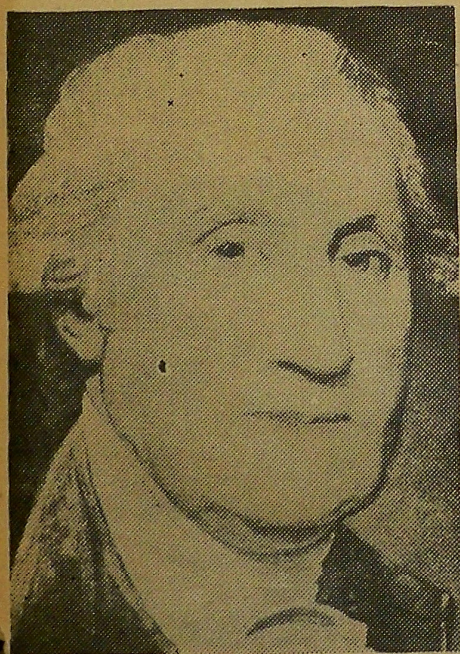
WE COMMUNISTS seek to preserve democracy, but we go further than that. We say that Capitalism seeks to destroy democracy. We wish to preserve democracy and through democracy to reach Socialism, in which hunger, want, and unemployment shall be abolished from the earth.

On this Day, July 4, 1937, we take a new pledge to carry on the fight which our Revo-



**Our forefathers fought for liberty during the Revolutionary days of 1776. Today the Communists pledge to carry on this fight to preserve and extend democracy**

lutionary fathers began, to preserve and extend democracy, to build a Farmer-Labor Party that will prevent the rise of fascism to power, and to work for the final adoption of Socialism in America. It is because we love our country and the people who built it with hand and brain that we consecrate ourselves to this glorious purpose.



**GEORGE WASHINGTON**  
Fought the Tories of 1776



# HE DIED FOR LIBERTY

THE town of Boston was on edge. Long servile to the outrages of an oppressive tyrant who ruled them from 3,000 miles across the ocean, the liberty-loving people of this early American community could no

They formed around the sentinel and leveled their bayonets at the outraged people. Suddenly a number of musket shots peppered the air in rapid succession and six men fell to the ground mortally wounded. The



(From an old print of the Boston Massacre)  
DEATH OF CRISPUS ATTUCKS

longer tolerate the heavy weight of the crown.

The King's redcoats were quartered in two barracks inside the town of Boston in 1770 at the objection of the people. Citizens were pricked with bayonets. A few days before, on March 1, a well-known informer shot into a crowd of school boys, killing one and severely injuring another. Thousands of people lined the streets for the funeral of the little child.

Drunken soldiers, continuing their revelries, offended the women of the town. On the afternoon of March 5, a soldier thrust his head into the window of the rope-walk on the docks and began to curse the workmen there. The workers, who could stand it no longer, knocked him down.

In the midst of all this tension, on the evening of March 5, a barber's apprentice reviled a sentinel for having his hair dressed and leaving without paying the bill. The sentinel knocked the boy down and was promptly pelted with snowballs.

SUDDENLY from around the corner of one of the Boston docks, a group of outraged citizens led by a tall, well-built Negro came up and had some hasty words with the sentinel. The crowd surged forward demanding that he pay the barber. Captain Preston of the 29th Tory Company came up on the run with seven or eight soldiers.

first shot killed Crispus Attucks, the tall Negro, who at that time was standing quietly a little distance away, leaning on a stick. The second killed Samuel Gray, a workman of the rope-walk.

CRISPUS ATTUCKS, whose six feet two inches made him an impressive figure, was the first to die in the revolutionary struggle where the American people won their liberty. He was the first of his race who showed the way for the emancipation of the American people from their oppressors.

Attucks was a working man, a seaman on Captain Folger's whaleship, lying in the Boston harbor at the time. He was a stranger in the city at the time of his murder, but he felt keenly the struggle for liberty and its meaning for him.

Attucks came from a long line of slaves. In 1760, this seeker after freedom who was to become a renowned martyr for all of America to look up to, ran away from his master, William Browne of Framingham.

At the time of his murder, he was embarked for North Carolina and was probably on his way to the Island of Nassau, where he lived.

Veteran who stemmed from a slave existence, Attucks yearned for freedom for himself and members of his race. Attucks probably felt that the fight for liberty for himself, from his oppressive master, could be realized in the fight for liberty of all the down-trodden people of his day against the British Tories.

Revolutionary leaders and the people of his time realized the tremendous part Attucks had played in drawing the tighter the net that finally strangled the hold of the King of England over the American colonies. As he lay in state in Faneuil Hall, the center of Boston, thousands passed his bier to pay him homage, and John Adams, one of the revolutionary leaders of the day, paid the highest tribute to Attucks.

"On that night the foundation of American Independence was laid," Adams said.

## WINNAH AND NEW CHAMP

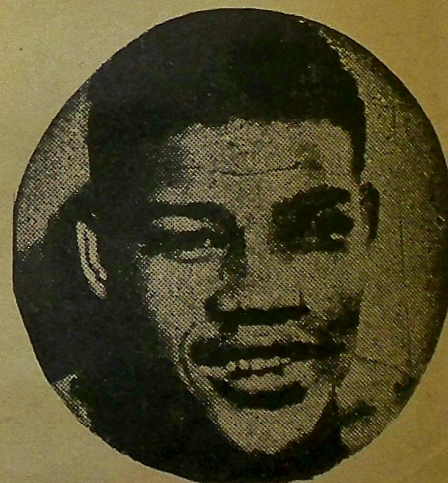
Joe Louis is the new heavyweight champion of the world and that's something for all Southern workers, Negro and white, to feel proud of.

The boy who blasted James Braddock and the sneers of the sports writers with a two-fisted attack was born 23 years ago in a little shack on a cotton field at Lafayette, Alabama.

He was born into the economic slavery of cotton picking and into Jim-Crow prejudice against his race.

Joe Louis crashed through—through discrimination, run-around, temporary setbacks and a determined press coalition against him—to become the second member of the Negro race to hold the world's title.

The Brown Bomber has held aloft the torch. Now it remains for the people of America to abolish completely discrimination against the oppressed Negro people.



JOE LOUIS

SOUTHERN WORKER



# TEXTILE FORGES AHEAD

• By TED WELLMAN

THE great campaign of the CIO to organize the textile masses of the South into the Textile Workers Organizing Committee is moving forward at full speed. Inspired by the success of the CIO in the auto and steel industries, the Southern textile workers are organizing by tens of thousands. New life and new activity is stirring in every textile town of the South as the workers throw their energies into their latest and greatest effort to build their union.

The textile workers, numbering over 300,000, constitute the largest and most exploited group of industrial wage earners in the South. Starvation wages, miserable conditions, and cruel stretchout are the lot of the textile workers. The millowners rule like feudal barons. They dominate the very lives of the textile workers. They own the mill villages with their company houses, company stores, company schools, company preachers and company police. Honeyed words and sawed-off shotguns, stool pigeons and gun thugs, the threat of blacklist—all are means by which the textile workers have been kept in subjection, deprived of their rights as citizens and human being, and made into wage slaves.

Many times before the textile workers of the South have fought to throw off their yoke. Many are the sacrifices they made in the uneven struggles they waged against the exploiters. Gastonia, Elizabethton, the general strike of 1934—these will never die. They serve as stepping stones in the struggle of the textile workers for their right to organize, their right to live.

AND now the iron is hot. Never was there an opportunity like the present. Never was there such solidarity and support as offered by the CIO. Here is a united national drive, backed and financed by millions of organized workers, able to throw hundreds of capable organizers into the field, able to use every method of agitation and organization, whether it be leaflets, pamphlets, sound trucks, or radio.

A major feature of the present TWOC campaign is the frankness with which it faces the crucial question of the abolition of the Southern wage differential. Sidney Hillman stated at a recent press conference, "We are making no provisions in our contracts for differentials in wages between the North and the South. There is no longer a separate picture for the North, and another picture for the South." The Southern textile workers are responding with double enthusiasm to the call of struggle against the hated and despised differential.

The stakes are large and the battle is

hard. The millowners and all their allies are fighting desperately to defeat the drive with every means at their disposal.

ANTI-LABOR ordinances prohibiting meetings and the distribution of leaflets are invoked. Organizers are beaten and arrested. Active union members are victimized in the mills. The stock arguments are brought forth: "We are losing money." "We will move the mills," etc. The hoary shibboleths against reds, agitators, and outsiders are resurrected. Newspapers are issued in all the larger textile centers. "Textile Bul-



*The latest in spreading the message of unionism—T.W.O.C. sound truck which daily makes the rounds of mills in the Chattanooga, Tenn., area. Here it is shown in front of the Coosa Mill of the Standard-Coosa-Thatcher chain. Enthusiastic workers are listening at the window.*

letin" is published on a national scale, "The Weekly Worker" in Chattanooga, and the "Industrial Worker" in Nashville. These yellow dog sheets purport to be published by and for workers and are distributed free at the mill gates. They even hold up merchants in the towns for advertisements in addition to their regular subsidies by the millowners. Prominently featured in these sheets are the red-baiting disruptive statements of William Green and the Executive Council of the A F of L against the CIO.

One of the new and important weapons of the millowners is the dual unionist, red-baiting, splitting actions of the A F of L leadership. In February they engineered a split of several UTW locals in South Caro-

lina and formed the South Carolina Federation of Textile Workers—which has since joined the CIO. They gave an A F of L charter to the loom fixers in Huntsville, Ala. where 90 per cent of the textile workers are in the TWOC. Petitions were circulated in Nashville mills asking textile workers to designate the A F of L as their bargaining agent. Throughout the South George Gooze, chief splitter and Green's man Friday, is offering federal charters to textile locals. They are preparing to offer the A F of L to the textile millionaires as a wholesale union smashing, strike breaking, stool pigeon agency.

Against all these obstacles, the TWOC is conducting an aggressive and well planned campaign. Members are recruited in the pledge card system. A majority pledged in a mill or chain of mills is the signal for the opening of negotiations. The Wagner Act is being extensively popularized and all cases of discrimination immediately taken up. Many reinstatements of fired workers with full back pay for time lost have been won. Extensive use is being made of volunteer organizers from the mills, and mill committees of rank and file workers assist the organizers.

THE campaign in the South is well past the 100,000 mark, and gaining momentum. Some contacts have already been signed in the South, in every case providing for better wages and conditions. The drive is now entering the stage of large scale negotiations with the Carolinas, Georgia, and the Chattanooga area blazing the trail.

As the textile drive marches forward it is fulfilling its historic mission. A powerful broad progressive organization of hundreds of thousands of workers is being consolidated on the principles of democracy. Its impetus is helping to organize other industries and broaden the labor front in the South. The TWOC is uniting all the progressive forces in the South, the rank and file of the craft unions, poor farmers, liberals, and the lower middle classes, and thus laying the foundations for the broadest kind of a Peoples Movement.

The success of the textile drive means the bringing of democracy to the mill workers, means the breaking down of the mill village life and the releasing of the textile masses from the domination of the mill in the South, a higher standard of education, owners. It means a higher standard of living in the South, a higher standard of education, it means the participation of the mill workers in the political life of the South. It means the realizing of democracy in the South—the building of a freer and happier South.



# BIRMINGHAM'S TOM MOONEY

• By WILLIAM O'NEALE

*"That man that's union through and through,*

*John Catchings is his name,*

*He leads the men on the picket line*

*And he's the one we've got to frame."*

THIS is one of the stanzas of the "Ballad of John Catchings," a song they are singing in and around Birmingham these days. It is supposed to be the advice that the Superintendent of Thomas furnace gave Tom Girdler, Republic Steel president, during the strike in 1934. The ballad goes on to tell how Will Cotton was forced to "swear what the lawyer says" in order to convict Catchings and put him "underneath the sheriff's Big Rock County Jail."

"Birmingham's Tom Mooney," John Catchings, lived in a little company village in Birmingham that they call "Thomas Quarters." All the land and all the houses in Thomas Quarters belong to the Republic Steel Corporation. All the men who live in the Quarters work in the Thomas furnace and that also belongs to Republic Steel Corporation. So does the "commissary" at which the men and their families buy their supplies.

FOR the first two generations after Thomas furnace was built the people of the Quarters also belonged to the Republic Steel Corporation. And the company did everything possible to see that they remained strictly company property. But in the early part of 1934 the men revolted and declared their independence. They built themselves a union, Local 137 of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. An election was ordered by the old NRA Labor Board. In the election Republic's company union got eight votes and Local 137 got all the rest. Immediately Republic discharged 25 men for union activity and, when a complaint was filed with the Labor Board, threatened to fire 50 more. Then the men came out on strike.

That year John Catchings was working in the Thomas furnace and he and his wife and



*This is Helen Louise Catchings, John Catchings' daughter.*

six children lived in the Quarters. When the men struck John Catchings came out with them. Every day he was on the picket line. Every night he was at the union hall. The men came to look to John Catchings as a leader, to draw on him for courage and inspiration.

Republic Steel was out to get John Catchings. The police came and took Catchings off the picket line and put him in the patrol wagon. But 100 pickets crowded in and around the patrol wagon and insisted on going with him. So the police changed their minds and let John Catchings go. Then Republic guards tried to pin a shooting on Catchings, but they didn't succeed.

One night a dynamite bomb exploded in the back yard of a house in the Quarters in which Dave Stewart, a strikebreaker, was living. In September, 1934, John Catchings was arrested and charged with the dynamiting. The trial was postponed from time to time and in 1936 Catchings was convicted and sentenced to 526 days at hard labor. He started serving his sentence on March 3, 1937.

CATCHINGS was convicted on the testimony of Will Cotton, a Negro who had formerly been a member of the union.

Cotton's story was that Catchings had driven him to the scene of the dynamiting in his car, that Catchings had lit the fuse of the bomb and then asked Cotton to place it, that Cotton had refused and went away, that when he was already a considerable distance from the scene he heard the explosion. Cotton's testimony was the only evidence of any kind to connect Catchings with the crime. Catchings denied the whole story and produced seven witnesses who swore that he was at the union hall about a mile and a half away when the bombing occurred. Nevertheless he was convicted.

It is a matter of record that Cotton told a very different story at the trial than he had earlier at the police investigation.

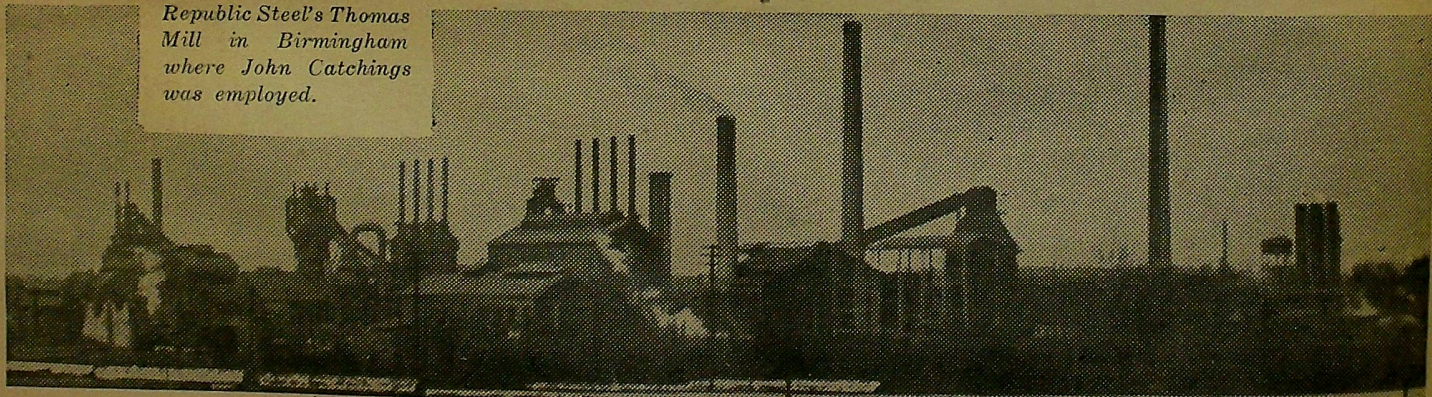
RECENTLY a Committee to Free John Catchings has been set up with Rev. Jack Edgar of the East Thomas Methodist Church as chairman, Joseph S. Gelders of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners as secretary, and Mrs. John Catchings as treasurer.

A fact-finding subcommittee has been appointed which has made a thorough investigation of the case and gathered evidence which shows clearly that the prosecution and conviction of Catchings was an outright frameup for the purpose of demoralizing the strike and destroying the union. The committee is preparing for a legal fight in the courts to set the Catchings' conviction aside.

The Committee to Free John Catchings realizes that it is fighting for much more than just the freedom of Birmingham's Tom Mooney, "that man that's union through and through" in the words of the ballad. It is fighting for the right of workers to organize, for civil rights for the people, for democracy in the South.

The committee means to leave no stone unturned until John Catchings is a free man—free to return to the ranks of the thousands of steel workers who are organizing under the banner of the CIO to wipe out miserable working conditions and protect their constitutional right to organize.

*Republic Steel's Thomas Mill in Birmingham where John Catchings was employed.*





# BOOK BURNERS DEFEATED

• By JULIUS REISS

*"The right of the people to be secure in their person, house papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated. . . ."*

*—Constitution of the United States*

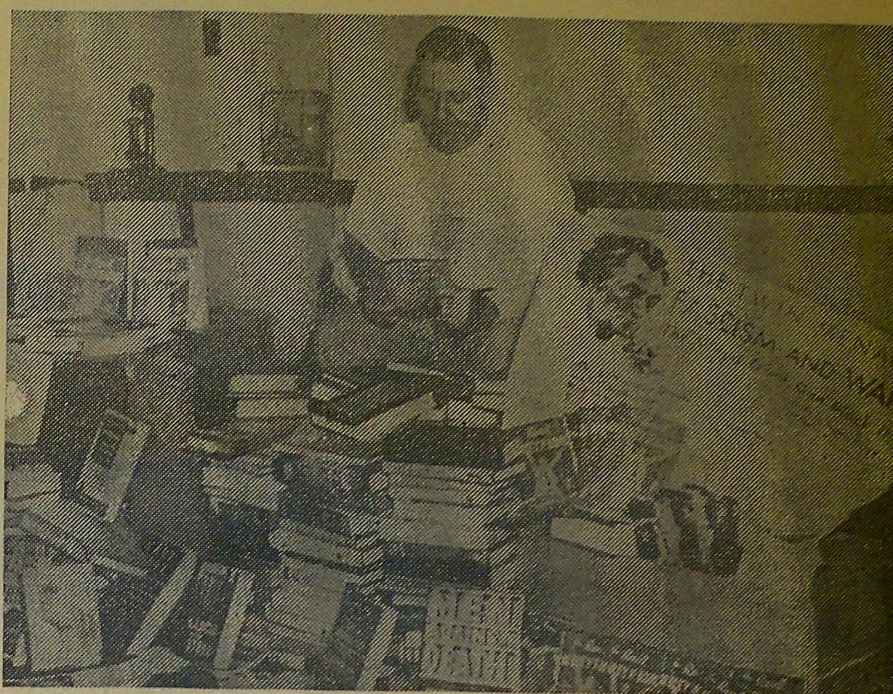
NEW ORLEANS is known throughout the South as a glamorous and romantic city. From far and wide people come to wander through its French Quarter, and to learn the famous legends associated with this famous city.

One of the most famous and romantic of these legends is that the ghost of the notorious pirate Jean LaFitte may still be seen. That is only legend, but fact is that real pirates are still loose in this most corrupt and vice-ridden of cities. And this is the story of a raid these pirates made recently. . . . What they were trying to force off the gang-plank was not a man—but ideas, the right to think, freedom of speech, civil rights—all that the American people hold dear.

On May 26, six detectives led by Captain Harry O. Gregson, walked into the People's Book Store at 130 Chartres Street in New Orleans. Without producing any warrant, they proceeded to empty the entire stock of the bookstore into two patrol wagons. At the same time they arrest the writer, Julius Reiss, state secretary of the Communist Party of Louisiana, who was in the store at the time. I was released on bond, but on May 31 I was rearrested.

THE raid was originally supposed to have been made on the complaint of unnamed individuals, of whom Captain Gregson said, "I don't think they want their names made known." The complaints were supposed to be that literature was sold at the store to students at schools and colleges "which impaired their morals." The original charge against me was that I was "a dangerous and suspicious character with no visible means of support." The second arrest was made under a state act which lists such offenses as "using vulgar and obscene language, exposing the person," down to brandishing a pistol, and also includes as liable to punishment a person who "shall do any other act in a manner calculated to disturb and alarm" other persons. The particular charge in this case was that I disturbed the peace in that I "did have in his (my) possession and offer for sale literature which did alarm the people present in said vicinity."

The real issues involved, and the "people behind the scene" did not become known until pressure began to be applied. Detective Parker, according to the New Orleans



*Deputy Clerk John J. Haggerty at Criminal District Court, New Orleans, reading one of the 5,000 books and pamphlets seized by police in the raid on the People's Bookstore.*

Tribune, stated that "the police department campaign against so-called communistic and indecent literature is being inspired by local units of national civic organizations that are committed to a program of establish their own particular variety of 100 per cent Americanism in the United States." These then are the real pirates.

What was the real motives? I will let Superintendent of Police Reyer speak. "We have received numerous complaints about books boosting equality of races sold at this store. . . . I understand that the district attorney is relying on this type of literature to make his case clear: I don't believe the sale of such literature is permitted in other Southern states."

For what is the People's Book Store? It is a legal business, with a city license. It is one of 70 similar stores throughout the country, carrying literature dealing with the problems that all progressive America is thinking about. It sold books by such world-famous writers as Upton Sinclair, Charles Beard, Barbusse, De Kruif, Dos Passos, by such well-known Southern writers as Elma Godchaux and Pat O'Donnell. It sold literature dealing with such problems as fascism, trade unionism, war, child labor, the Supreme Court, unemployment insurance, the Soviet Union, Communism.

But what irritated the "superpatriots"

most was the fact that the bookstore sold openly literature dealing with the problems of all Southern workers, and especially with the problems confronting the most sorely oppressed of all Americans, the Negro people.

But the forces of progress in throughout the South struck a smashing blow at the would-be Hitlers of America. Soon after hundreds of liberals, progressives, trade unionists, noted authors and others who joined this fight, rained a hail of protest on Mayor Maestri and Governor Leche, the Mayor announced that the books would be returned and all charges against me had been dropped.

This victory is vital to the entire South. It means that bookstores selling literature which tell the truth can be opened in other cities throughout the South for the People's Bookstore in New Orleans was the first of its kind in the deep South. The dropping of charges against me is significant because the fascist elements in this country have once again been defeated in their attempt to outlaw the Communist Party. Once more the American people have risen in defense of "The right of the people to be secure in their person, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures . . ." and their constitutional rights of free speech, free press and free assembly.



# MARY AND I ARE GLAD OUR SON WENT TO SPAIN

• By PAT BARR

## *Southern Father and Mother Tell How the Spanish Peo- ple's Fight for Democracy Belongs to Them*

IT was a happy group that gathered at the railroad station to see Fred Williams off. Fred, only 21, was one of the first Southern boys who volunteered to join the loyal Abraham Lincoln brigade fighting the German, Italian, and Spanish fascists in Spain. Fred's mother and dad were there too. We had thought that they wouldn't come, and when they did, we were a little afraid to see how they would act. I know I felt a lump as big as an apple come up in my throat when I saw all three of them come. I thought of how I would feel if I were sending my only son off to war.

But when we saw the three Williams, mother, father and son, walking down the platform of the station, laughing and joking, we knew that they were proud of Fred, as proud as any two workers can be to see that their son was carrying on the fight they had fought their lives, what their great grandparents had fought for for generations past.

SOON the train whistled and came to a quick stop. We all made a grab for Fred's hand, wished him the best of luck and made him promise to write back to us often. His father slapped him on the shoulder and said, "Well, son, I haven't got as long as you to live. I sure wish that they would take us old fellows." "Aw, Dad, what would you do with your flat feet in the trenches," smiled Fred. His mother kissed him. "Fred," she said, "I know now that I have brought you up to fight for what is right. I'm not a bit sorry to see you go. You just remember that we're doing our part here. And when you come back we hope we'll have a lot to show."

Back at the Williams house when we were having supper, I told them how proud we were of them as well as Fred. There aren't many parents that could do that with your spirit, I told them.

"I don't think that's so," Mr. Williams said. "If the millions of workers and farmers of this country really understood what is going on in Spain today, they couldn't help but want to give their all to the cause. There are thousands like Mary and me.

OUR fathers, her's and mine, have been fighters as far back as they go. One of my great great grandfathers fought in Washington's Army in New York during the Revolutionary War. Some of his sons fought in the Civil War. I know I've fought all my life, and my father before me. We've fought for all the things especially dear to Americans, the things that the Constitution

is supposed to guarantee us. My great great grandfather was an artisan who came over from Ireland. And in the war for independence he gave his life not only to break the chains that held us under the tyranny of the English Empire, but to set up in this beautiful country of ours a government and a set of laws that would let every man say what he pleased, come together and discuss what he wanted to, and print it for others to read also."

Mr. Williams' father was a lumberjack, a farmer, and then a coal miner and iron worker. I asked whether he was in the labor movement of his time because I knew Dick Williams had held a union card ever since he was old enough to.

"Early in my father's life," Mr. Williams replied, "he found that he did not actually have the things for which our ancestors had fought. A ruling class had grown up in America which owned everything. There were no strong workers' organizations in the 60's. The bosses then as today paid the lowest wages they could get away with. The banks robbed him of his land when he tried to farm. Towards the end of the century, my father realized that the only way that he and people like him were ever going to have any real security and freedom would be for all the people who were stepped on and exploited to build a new world—a so-

cialist world, where there wouldn't be any ruling class.

SO HE joined the Socialist Party and became the secretary of the Socialist Party in Clarksburg, West Virginia. Mary's father was a Socialist too. He came from Germany in the 80's when they already had a strong Socialist tradition in that country.

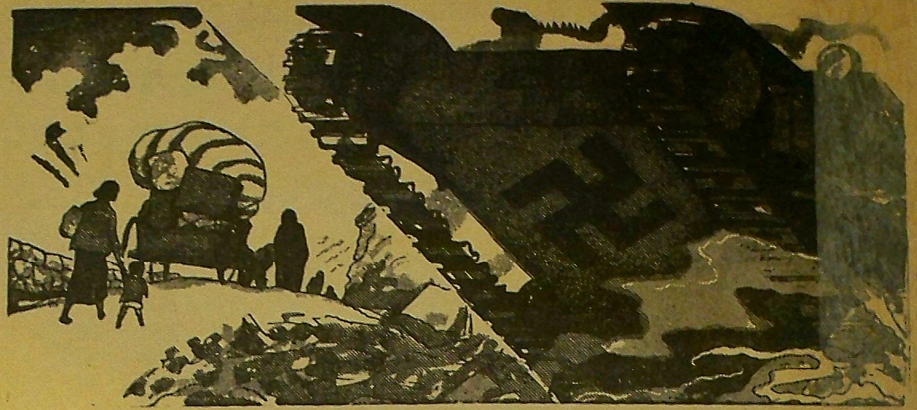
"I got my own spirit of fight up early, when I was just a kid. I remember the time when a famous Socialist of that time came to Clarksburg to speak. Father had gone down to the station to meet him. My mother said I could go down too. So I went down towards the station. Half way down, I saw them walking back on the other side of the street. Suddenly the speaker, who was walking beside my father, dropped down to the sidewalk like a stone. I rushed across the street. No one heard a sound. But there he was lying dead from a bullet wound, blood covering his clothes and dripping onto the street. An investigation later brought out that two thugs in the employ of the Consolidated Coal and Iron Company had hidden in the bank building and shot him. They used a Maxim silencer, and got away. They were never caught."

MR. WILLIAMS himself went to work in 1899 as a steel worker. He was only 14 then, so he started learning early. He worked in the steel mills all over the country, from West Virginia to Alabama, Indiana, Ohio, Pittsburgh and then back South again. He was in first strike in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1911.

"During the great steel strike in 1919," he went on, "I was in Pittsburgh. I remember meeting Bill Foster and Pat Cuth there. We used to come in from the company towns to find out what was going on and get instructions. Those were the days when







the Communist Party was just getting started. I was a Socialist and many were the hot and heavy discussions we had about whether the Communist Party had the right program to really make the farmers and workers happy, or whether the Socialist Party could. A lot of us even thought that the I.W.W. could do the job.

"Most of us are Communists now—the fellows I fought with in those days and our sons. Bill Foster is one of the greatest leaders of the American workers today. Pat's in our ranks, and I sure know where I am—in the Communist Party.

"Well, those are the things that we brought our only son Fred up to know. The things that he'll be fighting for with the other fellows in the Abraham Lincoln battalion are the things, in one way, that I've fought for all my life—in a word, democracy, peace, security, freedom—the things they fought for in 1776. The ruling class in Germany and Italy have organized into super organizations to fight the workers, to crush their trade unions, make them slave for hardly enough to keep them alive while the profits of the fascists grow fatter all the time."

**E**VER since the people of Spain elected their own democratic government in general elections during February, 1935, the Spanish fascists have been trying to do the same thing as the fascists did in Italy and Germany. The people had voted to defend their own rights, their standard of living. But the fascists refused to accept the mandate of the people. So on July 17, 1936, the fascists tried to crush the duly elected People's Government by force. The fight dragged on for months. The rebel fascists tried everything in their power to destroy the democratic government of Spain. So few of the Spanish people were with them that they had to hire Moors and other mercenaries, who destroyed town after town of people who weren't fighting, churches, beautiful old Spanish buildings. They had no regard for women and children or the sick and wounded, and even made a point of bombing hospitals and schools. When the

fascists of Italy and Germany saw that their cohorts, the Spanish fascists, were losing ground, they immediately sent their own hordes of mercenaries to help them, like the English hired the Hessians to try and beat us in 1776.

"I'm glad my son has volunteered to join the anti-fascist fighters, because I feel that the fight of the Spanish people is our fight, it's the fight of people like myself all over the world. We've got to defeat them in Spain because if Hitler and Mussolini win in Spain they will be in a much stronger military position in Europe. A victory for them will give them courage to think that they can beat every other democratic country in the world. It would be a signal for them to go ahead full speed with their war-making plans.

**A**ND not only would a defeat of the loyal anti-fascists encourage Hitler and Mussolini, but it would also encourage guys like Morgan, the duPonts, William Randolph Hearst and the rest of the moneybags in America to think that they could put over the same thing here.

"I'm only sorry that I cannot go myself. But Mary and I can at least do our part here. We're going to join the Friends of the Lincoln Battalion. The least we can do is help collect nickels and dimes from all our friends to buy cigarettes and chocolates for our Fred and the rest of the boys over there.

"Heck, Mary," he turned around to his wife and said, just before I left them, "I sure wish my dad could have been alive and here to see Fred leave."

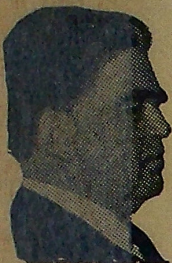
(Editor's Note: We wish to add our appeal to all of our readers to help make the life of our boys fighting for democracy over in Spain a little more comfortable by contributing whatever you can to buy smokes, candy and magazines for them. Send your contribution to the Friends of the Lincoln Battalion, 125 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y., or to the Southern Worker, Box 1182, Chattanooga, Tenn., marked for the Friends of the Lincoln Battalion.)



# The American Scene

## PRESIDENT ASKS WAGES-HOURS LAW

President Roosevelt in a special message to Congress asked passage of a law fixing minimum wages and maximum hours in industry and outlawing child labor. A bill embodying the President's program was immediately introduced in Congress by Senator Black and the late Representative Connery. Progressives in Congress prepared to fight for inclusion of the 30-hour week in the program.



J. L. Lewis

Testifying in the preliminary hearings on the bill, John L. Lewis stated that the C.I.O. supports the bill. He urged, however, that Congress should fix merely a minimum wage and not attempt to fix the amount of wages in any industry and pointed out that the bill should be made an aid to collective bargaining, not a substitute for it.

The President's message to Congress failed to point out the necessity for eliminating wage discrimination against the South.

## S.W.O.C. WINS 5-2 IN J. AND L. ELECTION

The Steel Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO won a smashing victory in its first big election held by the National Labor Relations Board in the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company. The SWOC won by a vote of 17,000 to 7,000. Jones and Laughlin signed a contract making SWOC sole bargaining agent for its employers. Victory in Jones and Laughlin the union drive marching forward in other steel companies.

Stubbornly refusing to recognize the Wagner Act, three big independent steel companies, Republic, Inland and Youngstown Sheet and Tube, stood put on their decision not to sign a union contract under any circumstances and forced 80,000 of their employees in 34 plants to strike to enforce their right of collective bargaining.

Police opened fire on a crowd of pickets and strike sympathizers near the Republic steel plant in Chicago, killing ten and wounding nearly 100.

## GREEN & CO. MAP WAR AGAINST C.I.O.

At a special conference of heads of international unions held in Cincinnati the reactionary leaders of the A. F. of L. laid plans to conduct an even more intensive drive of splitting, disruption and strike-breaking against the magnificent organizing drive of the C.I.O. A. F. of L. leaders announced a four-point program: (1) Doubling the one cent a month per member dues

which member unions pay to the A. F. of L. in order to raise a special war chest with which to fight the CIO; (2) Lowering craft lines to permit A. F. of L. to make raiding expeditions into fields where CIO unions have jurisdiction; (3) Compelling all A. F. of L. locals to join city central bodies and state federations to present "united front" against the CIO; (4) expulsion of CIO locals from central bodies and state federations.

While A. F. of L. 'dignitaries' joined with the bosses in the cry of "Stop the CIO!" the swing to CIO among both organized and unorganized workers continued faster than ever. The Newspaper Guild and the Furriers Union national conventions voted to affiliate with CIO as well as the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, already co-operating with John L. Lewis' committee. Over 15,000 members of the International Association of Machinists also bolted. The office workers formed a new international union and affiliated with CIO in addition to

the hundreds of thousands of unorganized workers which the CIO is bringing into unions for the first time.

## SUPREME COURT TORY RETIRES

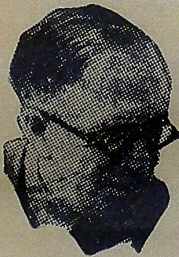
Supreme Court Justice Willis Van Devanter made what some called "the best decision of his long career on the bench" when he decided to retire at the end of the Supreme Court term. Van Devanter, a corporation lawyer, is one of the die-hard reactionary bloc on the court.

Justice Owen Roberts, the one-man balance of power voted with the more liberal bloc again to produce a 5 to 4 decision upholding the unemployment insurance provisions of the Social Security Act. The old-age pension provisions of the same act, however, got a 7 to 2 favorable vote.

Reactionaries raised a more insistent cry that the retirement of Van Devanter and the decision of social security justified dropping the President's court reform proposal. Progressives, however, pointed out that all of the victories already won can be easily turned into defeat by shift of one or two Supreme Court justices and continued to press for immediate adoption of the reform plan.

# The International Scene

AT dawn on a Monday morning last month, five Nazi warships stood seven miles off the Spanish loyal seaport of Almeria and rained 300 shells on the defenseless city, killing and crippling hundreds of men, women and children. Like the massacre at Guernica, this savage cold-blooded



A. Del Vayo

attack has shocked the world. The Nazis said that this was in retaliation for the bombing of a Nazi warship by Spanish Loyalists' airplanes without provocation. The truth of the matter as revealed by Spanish Representative Del Vayo to the League of Nations was that the Nazi Admiral Von Feschal had told the Spanish Loyalists that if they so much as flew over Nazi ships "adequate measures would be taken."

While fascist General Franco rushed 14,000 new Italian and Moroccan troops across the Straits of Gibraltar for an assault on the loyalist port of Santander, British Tories hatched a scheme to make the intervention of Mussolini and Hitler in Spain even easier. The three-point plan proposed by the British Cabinet agrees to give the fascists immunity and justification beforehand for their future murders of the Spanish people.

In the face of this ever more alarming danger of fascist intervention, the Spanish

people have appealed to the workers and farmers all over the world for united action to halt such a disastrous step. The Communist International immediately responded and appealed to the Second (Socialist) International to join in a world front in defence of Spain.

The Communist International named a committee of five to arrange a meeting with the Labor and Socialist International at which united international aid for Spain will be discussed. The action was taken after Louis de Brouckere, chairman of the Labor and Socialist International, agreed to such a meeting, as proposed by George Dimitroff, general secretary of the Communist International.

On the drifting ice floe which once marked the location of the North Pole there now lives a party of Soviet scientists. No romantic adventurers are they, nor are they seeking fame or quick fortune. They are the pioneers of a long-time plan to wrest from the Far North its great natural wealth—and they are the pioneers of a study of oceanography and meteorology that will eventually advance the well being of mankind all over the world.

Hitler's anti-Christian drive carried to the Protestant Church this month when the Gestapo (Nazi secret police) arrested 11 pastors of the Protestant Evangelical Synod. Several more Catholics were imprisoned after "immorality" trials.



# NEWS OF THE MONTH in the SOUTH

## Steel

### Republic Steel Picket Buried in Ala. With Honors

Three thousand trade unionists, farmers and friends of Albert Causey, one of the five steel workers who was killed on the picket line before the South Chicago plant of Republic Steel, gathered inside and outside of the little Red Hill Church near Attalla, Ala. to pay tribute to him and the cause for which this courageous Southern worker died.

"He died for what is right," Gladys Causey, his widow, said at the small country graveyard near his home where he was buried. I know if he had it to do over again, he'd do it the same way."

Gladys Causey hardly shed a tear during the services. None of his lifelong friends and fellow workers cried or carried on. But there was a grim determination stamped on their faces to make sure that Albert Causey had not died in vain, that the steel workers union would be built just as strongly in Republic's Southern mills in Gadsden, where Causey once worked, and Birmingham, as it is in the North.

Mass delegations from locals of the carpenters union, painters, moulders, typographical union, rubber workers, textile workers and steel workers forgot all differences in a powerful expression of solidarity that the South has not often seen before.

### Cleveland Foundries Closed by Strike

Two thousand iron workers walked out in Cleveland, Tenn. shutting down the town's largest industry. As we went to press operations were completely suspended in the plants of the Hardwick Stove Company, the



Gladys Causey, widow of Albert Causey, one of the five steel workers murdered on the picket line before Republic Steel's plant in Chicago. Thousands of trade unionists from Gadsden, Ala., where Causey once worked in Gulf States Steel, attended his funeral at Attalla, Ala.

Dixie Foundry and the Cleveland-Tennessee Enamel Company, the three largest of the town's four plants. The Brown Stove Works was also affected by the strike but attempted to continue operations with a small force. The strikers demanded union recognition and collective bargaining rights, closed shop, and a minimum wage of 32 to 35 cents an hour, an increase of about 25 per cent over present wage rates.

The Cleveland foundry and stove industry, which less than three months ago was completely unorganized, is now between 90 and 100 per cent organized in the Steel Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO. The strike was called when negotiations carried on by committees of the workers in each plant failed to bring any concessions from the management.

### "Hell No" Was Steel Workers' Answer to Company Union

"Hell No" was written on the ballots by many CIO members at Chicago Bridge and Iron Co. in Birmingham, when stool pigeons and company thugs called a meeting last month to organize a company union. Two uniformed policemen stood at the door of Woodlawn Auditorium while timekeepers checked over the workers to make sure that no CIO organizers got in the meeting. A police car was parked across the street in an unsuccessful effort to intimidate CIO sympathizers.

About 70 per cent of the workers in Chicago Bridge are already in the CIO.

Stumps, stockholder in the company and highest paid welder, was chairman of the meeting. A slick-tongued lawyer, the only outsider to get in, was introduced to read the constitution and by-laws of the so-called "independent organization." When workers asked who arranged the meeting they were told it was a "committee" and the company had nothing to do with it. Workers asked how they got the names and address of all the workers and the money to send out notices. This, the chairman told them was done by the Employees Club, the company union that flopped.

When the ballot was taken about half of the 125 workers present refused to vote. Many CIO members wrote "Hell No" on the slips.

### Chattanooga Firm Signs With SWOC

Chattanooga steel workers, led by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO, won union recognition, wage increases and seniority rights in another factory as the Chattanooga Stamping and Enameling Company signed a union contract covering its 250 employees. The contract also established an agreed-upon hour schedule. The wage increases won under the contract were in addition to a previous 10 per cent wage increase last March.



Aluminum workers on the picket line in front of the gigantic Aluminum Co. of America plant at Alcoa, Tenn. They demand the same pay for the same work in the South as in the North.

## Mines

### G-men Investigate Harlan Coal Operators

Investigators for the Department of Justice were ordered into Harlan County, Ky. last month to determine whether any violations of federal law were being committed by the Harlan County coal operators in their reign of terror against unions and union organizers as a direct result of the exposures of the LaFollette Committee.

Free at last of most of the terror tactics which have been used against them for so long, Harlan miners' mass meetings are drawing the largest crowds in the history of the county. One held between Cumberland and Benham was attended by 10,000 people. Organizers for the UMW estimate that between 6,000 and 10,000 of the county's 16,000 miners have already joined the union.

### Against Southern Differential Aluminum Workers Strike

More than 2,000 workers in the aluminum plant at Alcoa, Tenn. struck demanding that wage discriminations against them based on the Southern differential be discontinued.

The basic hourly rate in the Alcoa plant according to Fred Wetmore, local president of the Aluminum Workers Union, is 45 cents against 63 cents in the plant operated by the same company in New Kensington, Penn. The strike was called when the company refused to meet the demand of the local union that Alcoa wages be raised to equal those in New Kensington.



## Union Miners Attacked In Fentress Co., Tenn.

Taking the law into their own hands, company paid thugs fired eight shots into a country store in Jamestown, Fentress County, Tenn. where members of the UMWA who struck the Zenith Coal Mine near there last December, usually buy provisions. This was the UMWA who have kept the mines shut the latest attempt to murder members of down until a few weeks ago when the Interstate Commerce Commission ordered the company to resume operations.

Although no one was hurt at this time, 10 sticks of dynamite were recently found near the home of Harvey Smith, president of the UMWA local and the home of G. J. Goad, local justice of the peace. The miners are striking for recognition of the UMWA.

---

## Textile

---

### TWOC Signs Elizabethton Rayon Mills

The TWOC won one of its most important victories to date in the South when the American Bemberg Corporation and the North American Rayon Corporation, the two large rayon plants of Elizabethton, Tenn. recognized the union and signed contracts. The new contracts, covering about 3,700 workers, recognize the union as bargaining agent for its members, provide for a 10 per cent wage increase and for a 40-hour week with time and a half for overtime.

These mills have been considered two of the toughest anti-union plants in the South since the militant textile strike in Elizabethton in 1929 was violently crushed with the assistance of the National Guard, with hundreds jailed and 1,000 blacklisted.

### Hosiery Workers Hold "On to Victory" Conference

Hundreds of hosiery workers from Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee streamed into Chattanooga, June 19 in caravans of cars, by bus and train to attend the Tri-State "On to Victory" Conference in Memorial Auditorium called by the Tri-State District Council of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers Organizing Committee.

Among the outstanding speakers were Emil Rieve, president of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers and National representative of the TWOC from Philadelphia, Pa.; A. Steve Nance, Southern Regional Director of the TWOC and president of the Georgia State Federation of Labor; and Joe G. Dobbs, Chattanooga District Director of the TWOC, former president of the Chattanooga Central Labor Union, who acted as chairman of the conference.

### Homer Welch Elected President of Alabama Federation

In the same courtroom where but a few months ago he heard a hand picked jury of mill owners and straw bosses condemn him to 10 years in prison on a trumped up charge, Homer L. Welch, textile organizer, was elected president of the Alabama Fed-

eration of Textile Workers. Welch is free on bond pending an appeal in his case.

The conference, held at Talladega, at which new officers were elected, also adopted a resolution roundly condemning Gadsden city officials and police for refusing to make arrests "following the beatings of many union organizers on many occasions."

### Textile Organizers Beaten By Company Thugs

Fifteen armed company thugs, led by deputies, attacked and beat up Mervin Todd, TWOC organizer and William Remington, volunteer organizer when they attempted to distribute union handbills at the gate of the Washington Manufacturing Company's plant at Cookeville, Tenn. Both men were beaten with blackjacks and were severely cut and bruised. A few weeks previously TWOC or- and fined for "distributing handbills with- ganizers were arrested at the same place out a city permit."



*This strange looking steel structure standing near the gate of the Bemis Textile Mill in Talladega, Ala., is being held in readiness by the mill-owners to murder their workers should they exercise their right to organize. Thugs can sit in safety inside its steel walls and poke their machine guns through the triangular openings in its sides.*

### Atlanta Worsted Mill Signs With TWOC

The ninth Southern textile mill to recognize the TWOC signed a contract last month which makes the TWOC the sole bargaining agency for the 500 workers in the Atlanta Worsted Mills.

A 40-hour week, preferential shop, and wage increases were among the provisions included in the contract negotiated by A. Steven Nance, Southern regional director of the TWOC. More than 6,000 textile workers in the Atlanta region have already obtained union contracts in their mills. Over 100,000 textile workers have already joined the TWOC in the South, Nance announced.

---

## Farm

---

### Sheriff Threatens Forced Labor for Georgia Unemployed

In a vicious attack on the living standards

of Georgia farm laborers Sheriff James R. Hicks Jr. of Bibb County threatened to "sweep the county and arrest any person who refuses to accept employment" on farms. The persons arrested would be charged with "vagrancy" and sentenced to 12 months on the chain gang.

The first man arrested in the drive was Clifford Jackson, a Negro, who was arrested on complaint of farm operator J. A. Young. Young declared that Jackson had accepted work on his farm but had refused to report for work on the third day.

### Children Forced To Slave In Berry Patches of Rhea Co.

Two thirds of the workers in the strawberry patches of Rhea County, Tenn. are children of grammar school age, an article in the Chattanooga News by Ralph Tolliver announced. These children who are paid one to one and a half cents a quart average about \$1 a day.

---

## Labor Unity

---

### Southern Typo Unions Assail A. F. of L. Splitting Policy

Condemning William Green for instructing his representatives to invade the North Carolina State Federation and use dictatorial methods to remove regularly elected officers of that body, the sixteenth Virginia-Carolinas Typographical Conference which met in Durham, N. C. contributed a substantial sum of money to the CIO for its Southern organizational campaign.

Ray Lawrence, president of the North Carolina State Federation, speaking at the conference charged George L. Googe, Green's Southern representative with venomous re baiting.

### Huntsville Central Labor Body Joins CIO

The Trades and Labor Council of Huntsville, center of Alabama's textile industry, disgusted and driven to desperation by the splitting and strike-breaking activities of the A F of L Executive Council, surrendered its A F of L charter and applied for a charter under the CIO. Simultaneously with this action the Trades and Labor Council decided to launch an intensive CIO organization drive in the Huntsville area.

The reactionary A F of L leadership is trying to make Huntsville a center of its splitting campaign against the CIO organizing drive in textile. Addressing an anti-CIO "mass meeting" in Huntsville, attended by about 150 persons, George Googe, William Green's Southern representative, denounced the CIO as a "communistic organization with fascist tendencies." Ignoring the frantic opposition of Googe and the employers, 5,000 textile workers in the Huntsville area have already joined the Textile Workers Organizing Committee.

### Green's Henchmen Get Busy in Knoxville

"We of the A F of L in the South are not going to pull any punches in the fight



against the CIO led by the Dubinskys, all the other 'skys' and the Jewboys and John L. Lewis." With this ball Jew-baiting statement, Albert Gossert, president of the Atlanta Building Trades Council, launched a campaign in Knoxville, Tenn. to disrupt the vast organizing drive of the CIO.

## Civil Liberties

### Gadsden Workers Speed Organization Despite Attacks

The fourth beating of a union worker within twice as many days last month brought Gadsden's tense labor situation to a fever heat. The worker, brutally slugged by company deputies employed by Goodyear tire and rubber company, was B. E. Cleveland, a member of the United Rubber Workers of America.

The recent attacks on union members by thugs in Gadsden undoubtedly mirrors the desperation of Republic Steel Corp. and Goodyear in the face of a drive to organize Southern steel and rubber workers. First victim was Gertrude Yackow, rubber worker, who was attacked by two women thugs. Her beating was followed two days later by the brutal beating of Bob Thomas, unemployed steel worker and union man who had gone to the Republic steel plant for work. The third victim was Ollie Walls, moulder, whose crime consisted of standing in a group of orderly men outside the central labor union hall when the county's union-busting sheriff drove by.

Meanwhile, each new outburst of thug violence sent organization forward at a record pace. Already Republic's workers have better than a 70 per cent strength. Goodyear stands comfortably ahead of a majority.

### McCleny Turpentine Operators Charged With Peonage

So damning was the evidence against four McCleny, Fla. turpentine operators on trial for holding two Negro workers in peonage that Federal Judge Robert T. Ervin denied a motion made by the operator's lawyers to return a directed verdict.

"There are too many Negroes leaving my camp and I'm going to put a stop to it," Arthur Smith, one of the Negro workers reported William Knabb, head of one of the turpentine camps, as saying. Smith said he, his brother Alfred and Edward Baker, another Negro worker started to South Florida to find other jobs and were offered more money by William Boyd, operator at a camp at Coleman, Fla.

Though the Negro workers' new employer attempted to pay off their debt at the Knabb commissary, the Knabbs refused to accept it and sent a truck to Coleman to get them. While they were waiting for the truck at Coleman, they told the jury, Edward Hall, an employee of Knabb drove up and said Knabb had "sent him to get us." Hall used a pistol to force them back to the Knabb camp at McCleny.

### S.T.F.U. Appeals to LaFollette to Investigate Ark.

Immediately after two organizers of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union were held by police in Forest City, Ark. for "interfering with labor," the union appealed to the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee to investigate the hundreds of denials of civil liberties in eastern Arkansas during the past few years.

At Blythville, Ark. Police swiftly acted on complaints of plantation owners who admitted that cotton field workers were striking for \$1.50 a day for cotton chopping.



WILLIE SUE BLAGDEN

### Negro Union Leader Describes Beating

Frank Weems, Negro member of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, from a safe distance in Chicago described the beating he received at the hands of an armed mob of planters and their gun thugs in Eastern Arkansas last year.

Weems, who was a leader of the Union at Earle, Ark. was attacked by five carloads of men who questioned him and told him they were going to kill him. Then they beat him with gun butts and clubs until he lost consciousness. He hid in the woods for a week and then escaped from Arkansas and went north.

Claude Williams, a minister, and Willie Sue Blagden were seized and flogged by a group of planters' deputies when they went into Arkansas to investigate for the union a report that Weems had been killed.

Weems' affidavit describing his torture and naming five of his attackers has been filed with the LaFollette civil liberties committee.

## Negro Rights

### "Scottsboro Boys" To Be Tried Again

It wasn't news six years ago when the Montgomery Advertiser, mouthpiece of the Black Belt lynchers, wrote long editorials demanding that the Scottsboro Boys burn. But it was news when the same paper on June 12, published an editorial admitting, "there is ground for reasonable doubt of the

positive guilt of all the men now in jail."

This same yellow sheet which openly called for the election of the late Thomas Knight as Governor of Alabama on the basis of his vicious record as prosecutor of the Scottsboro Boys "as a rebuke to the outer world" for the world-wide protest against the injustice done these nine boys, now turns about face and calls upon the state to "compromise" in retrying the cases of eight of the boys in order to get rid of the case.

Trials for eight of the nine Scottsboro defendants, who have now been in Jefferson County, Ala. jail for six years on framed charges of rape, are scheduled to be held at Decatur, Ala., on July 6.

### Alabama Court Frees Sheriff Who Let Mob Take Negro

Alabama "justice" once more placed its OK on the lynchers' rope when the Alabama Supreme Court voted four-to-two against the impeachment of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County for "negligence and cowardice." Three months ago Sheriff Corbitt openly permitted a mob to take Wes Johnson, Negro accused of attacking a white woman, from the county jail and hang him to a tree, afterwards riddling his body with bullets.

### Florida Women Organize To Prevent Lynching

The Florida Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching held an open meeting at the First Methodist Church of Jacksonville, Fla. Between 100 and 200 white attended the meeting and saw a one-act play presented by 10 members of the Edward Waters Negro College dramatic department.

### Georgia Answers Congress With Another Lynching

The lynching of Willie Reid in Bainbridge, Ga. last month was the answer of Georgia reactionaries to the Congressional House of Representatives passage of the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill.

When the mob got to jail, it found that Willie Reid had already been lynched by the police who had shot the 22-year old boy down when he "was attempting to escape." So the mob lynched Willie Reid again burning his bullet riddled body in a local ball park.

## Religion

### Religion and Labor Group To Study South

Members of the traveling economic seminar conducting the Labor and Religion Foundation will have a chance to see the horribly backward economic and social conditions of the South at first hand during July.

The group will leave for Washington, July 6, and then start on a tour that will cover Knoxville and Norris, Tenn. where they will speak to TVA experts on the achievements of that project.



# A PAGE FOR SOUTHERN WOMEN

CONDUCTED BY MARY CRAIK SPEED

Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Mrs. Speed:

I am a wash-woman in Montgomery and I thought you all would be interested in hearing how we wash-women make out.

We pay 25 cents a bushel for charcoal and most of the time it takes the whole bushel to do a \$1.50 bundle of clothes. Sometimes the bundle is too big to carry and we have to pay 25 cents to have it hauled and most of the time we have to buy soap and starch which is 10 cents and it takes two days to do this bundle. In many cases we wash-women have to tote our water two blocks, and we get only 90 cents to show for all this work.

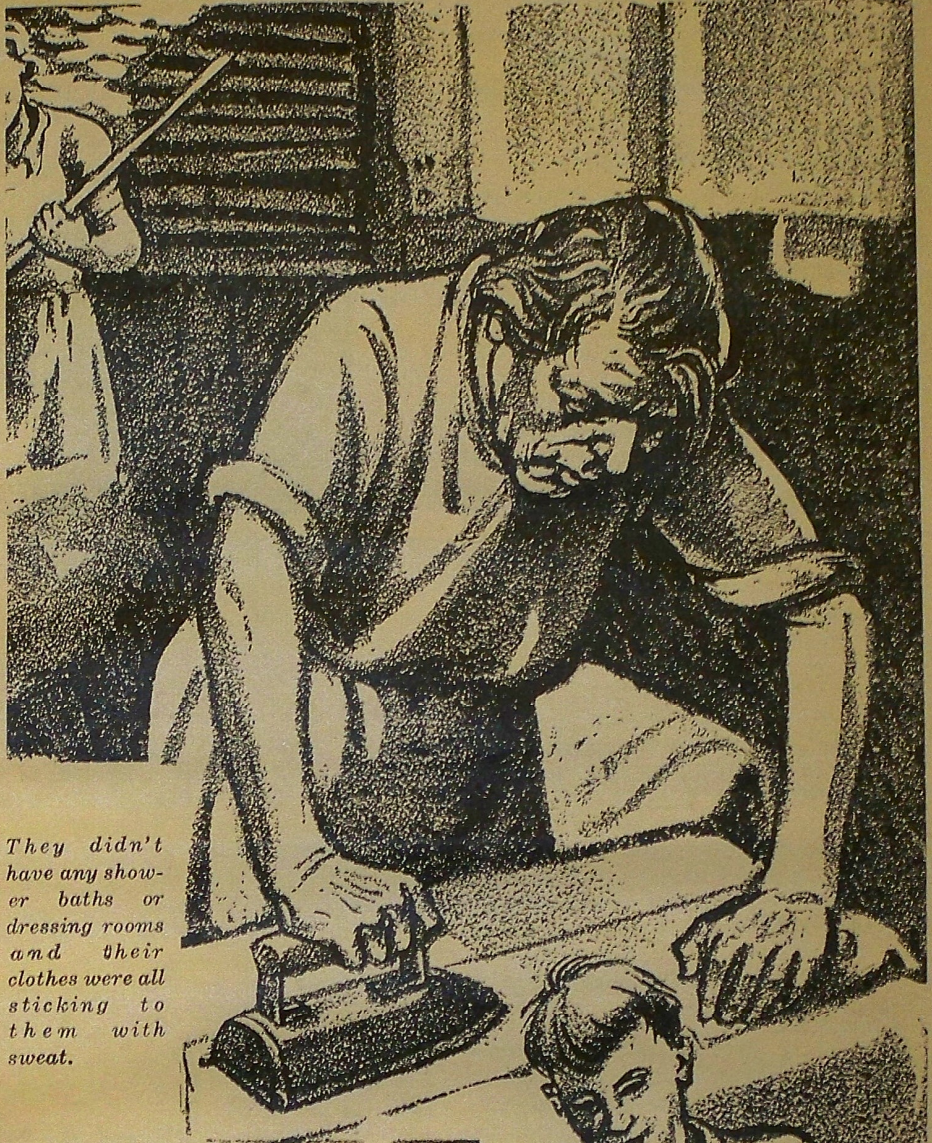
I used to think to myself the workers in the steam laundries must have an easy time of it with all the big machinery to do the hard work and electric irons to do the ironing with, it sounded mighty fine, so when I was in Birmingham last week I was glad when a friend of mine who works in a laundry there said she would show me around and maybe I would not be so envious of women in the steam laundry.

**T**HERE was great big washing machinery reaching up two stories and it was worked mostly by men who wore rubber boots because the floor was all wet. Then there was some kind of drying machines and big rollers where sheets and towels went through and got ironed—but they did not get ironed by themselves. Women were standing up in front of these machines guiding and folding and feeding into other machines rollers. Hundreds of women standing up in this hot wet air ten and twelve hours a day. One of the women told me that last Saturday 826 shirts came in at half past twelve as a special order besides the regular laundry, to be got out by half past four that same day.

They did not have much time to talk to me as they were working so fast and looked so tired and their clothes all sticking to them with sweat. The lady who was showing me around said they work forty hours and get \$7.00 a week. They don't have any shower baths and dressing rooms and the toilet is at the other end of the building so a woman has to walk a whole block to get to it and while she is away her work piles up and she has to work harder than ever to catch up.

I saw one woman operate four heavy pressing machines, each one had a peddle and is supposed to work if you put your foot on it, but Mary Pickett, the woman who runs them, is little and thin and wiry, not weighing over 100 pounds, so she has to jump with all her body from one peddle to the other just as fast as a person can move.

**W**HILE I was watching something went wrong with the washing machine and it



*They didn't have any shower baths or dressing rooms and their clothes were all sticking to them with sweat.*

made a loud screeching noise. I noticed all the women look up from their work and their faces were pained and I felt that if that noise kept up another minute we would all scream louder than the machine.

I was glad to get out but I knew that my wash tubs and charcoal fire-pot was not the right way to work either. The lady who was showing me around said, "You see what the big machines do to us under capitalism. When we own as well as operate the machines we won't be driven like slaves, but they will work for us and make life happier for us." And I know she is right but in the meantime if we could build up a big union and all of us join it we could make things better for us right now.

Yours truly, Jane Johnson.

I hope other friends will write to us of their experiences and problems, in their homes and at work. —M. C. Speed





# LETTERS FROM PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH

## STOOL PIGEONS EXPOSED

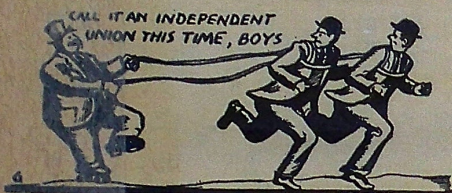
Birmingham, Ala.

Editor, the Southern Worker:

The U. S. Supreme Court said the Wagner Labor Relations Act was constitutional and so the Labor Relations Board could continue its work. The bosses of Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. then had to pull out of their company union and say that they weren't going to give them any money any they could do as they pleased.

But that was only a bluff because now they are going ahead and organizing a company union anyhow, even though they call it an independent union, when the S.W.O.C. has all the mills signed up already. I think the Southern Worker should print the names of their stool pigeons who are doing this dirty job. They are:

Joe Edward ..... Ensley Steel Works  
James Davis ..... Sheet Mill Works  
Ezekel Arnold ..... Sheet Mill Works  
Robert Evins ..... Sheet Mill Works  
Robert Jones ..... Sheet Mill Works  
Mat Neal ..... Wire Mill Works



Basewell ..... T.C.I. By-Products  
Joseph Watkins.. T.C.I. Fairfield Works  
Patton's Funeral Home

1807 18th St., Ensley  
Ollise Davis ..... T.C.I. Fairfield Work  
O. P. Ward..... Ensley Steel Works  
Thomas West..... Ensley Steel Works

All honest union men should know what to do with these popsicles when they come around.

—A Steel Worker.

## SCHOOL'S OUR RIGHT

Russellville, Ark.

Editor, The Southern Worker:

Here at Russellville, Ark. we are likely to be deprived of school at most any time. And the place at which we are having school isn't fit for a mule barn. There are no toilets. The windows are all broken out. Cracks in the walls are large enough for a cat to go through. Sometimes we have wood for the stove and sometimes we don't. There are only three blackboards.

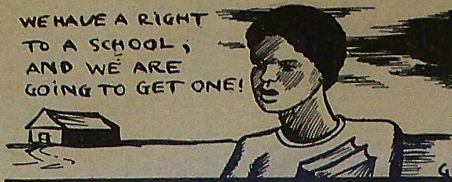
When cold wind comes through the children who have coats have to hang them on the wall to keep the cold out. The last day of school the place was so inconvenient our teacher had our program at her friend's house.

We Negroes here are having a hard time

with our school. But we have a legal right to a school and we are going to have one.

—Elaine S., A Schoolgirl

WE HAVE A RIGHT  
TO A SCHOOL;  
AND WE ARE  
GOING TO GET ONE!



## AS THE ORANGES GROW

Jacksonville, Fla.

Editor, The Southern Worker:

The citrus trees are the only plants which bear, at the same time, ripe fruit, blossoms and green fruit. . . .

Among the Florida citrus workers there have been in the past fierce struggles against the big growing and shipping corporations, and against the absentee owners. There have been unions that have grown up and ripened as quickly as an orange—and that have been destroyed by boss terror as

quickly as an orange can be plucked from a tree and sold or crushed underfoot. But the working class is like the citrus tree. No sooner is one of its fruits stolen or destroyed than many new fruits are growing to take its place.

Today it looks as though the new fruits are going to be too tough to injure—and too big to go in his pocket.

Back in 1933 when Roosevelt was telling the workers they could and should organize and the workers were taking him at his word, the Florida citrus workers built themselves a union. It grew very quickly. By the fall of that year it had 25,000 members. The rank and file workers who earn from \$5 to \$10 a week did this job by themselves.

One man who had some power in the union was not one of the "big shots," but he was a real leader. He was a leader because he studied trade union tactics, because he had courage, and because he was a member of the Communist Party. This leader refused to sell the power he had to the bosses. Therefore the bosses had him murdered. His name was Frank Norman.

## Tenders of Low-Flaming Fires

WHO are we that stand—  
Outstretched hands denied labor for bread?

Who are we that pace city streets, returning in the evening to our little ones unfed?

Are we a First-born  
Slowly led to an altar of blood?  
Are we a sacrifice to warm earth  
For the bursting of the bud?

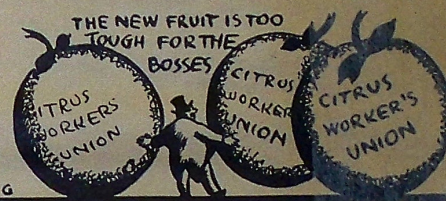
WHO are we that die—  
Yet live, heads unbowed,  
Burning there one purpose,  
One thought yet uncowed?  
We are the Sons of the Builders  
Of this mighty nation; forlorn,  
Pushed aside, and trying to understand,  
Trying to be brave in the dark hour of morn.

WHO—We are the Tenders of Low-Flaming Fires,  
Keepers of unrestive dreams, unremembering

Our lips knew songs one day,  
That our eyes have seen beauty,  
That we have had laughter, been gay.

LET seed fall to their places,  
We are the Risen Ones.  
Our patience has been exceedingly long,  
But ours is the vision of brighter suns;  
And for their coming  
This is our meeting in one accord,  
Our rising together, fighting  
Till the Last Victory is scored.

—Rand Boring,  
Tellico Planes, Tenn.



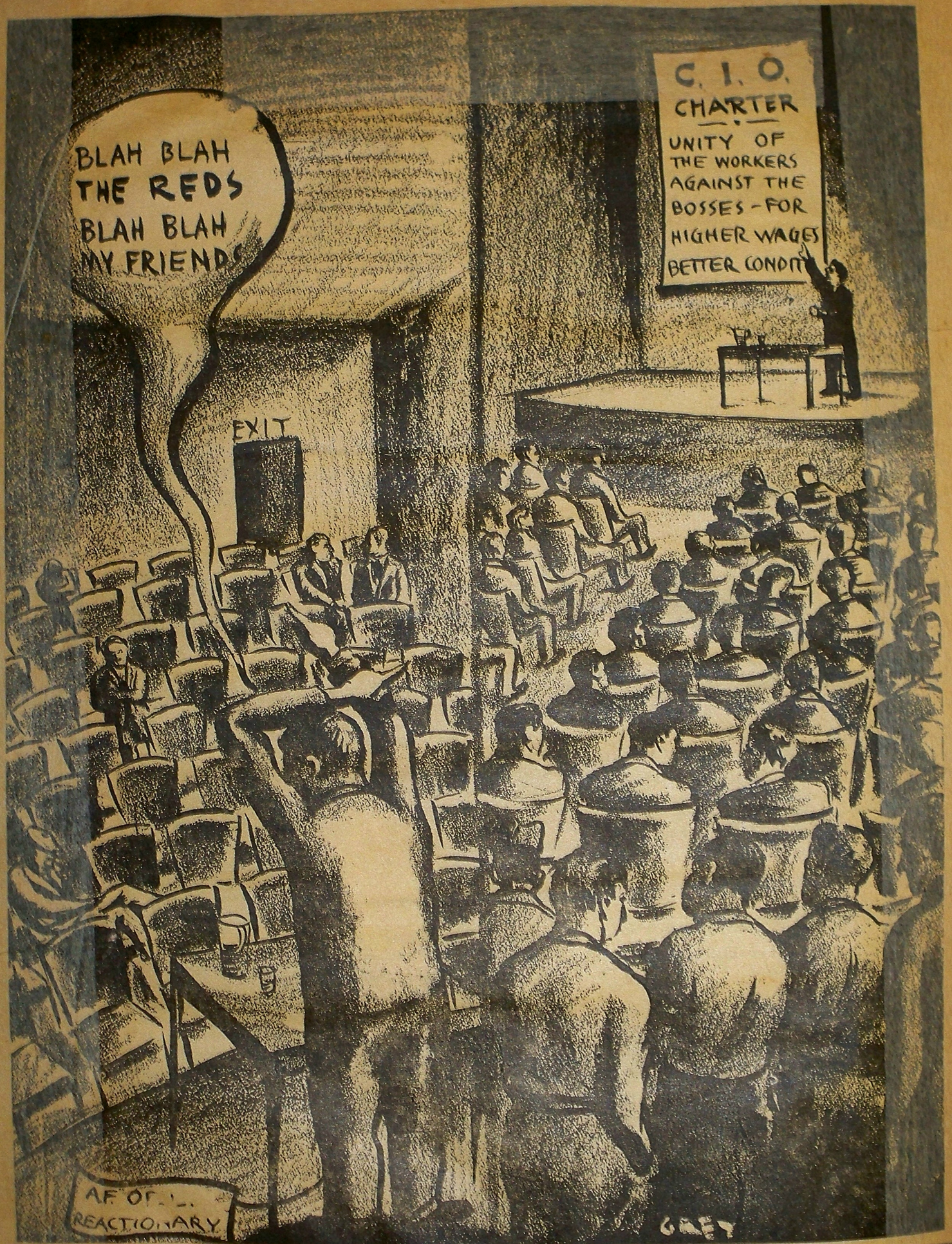
For three years now the new fruit has been growing and ripening. For three years the workers have been thinking and talking about their past mistakes, studying the literature and of the National Committee of Agricultural and Rural Unions, and listening to the wisest among themselves. And now, in the spring of 1937, they are approaching the new harvest.

This time, as the last time, as always, it is the rank-and-filers who are doing the work. It is the workers themselves who have seen the great victories of the CIO up North, who have watched the LaFollette Committee expose all the terrible things which they already knew—and now that they have seen the protection which the Wagner Act gives them—they really mean to go to town.

In the spring the fruit is tiny, green and hard, almost invisible behind and between the blossoms. But it is growing. And in the late fall, when the bosses expect once more to reap their big profits and let the workers go crawling along close to starvation—then these new fruits of the working class, these fighting citrus unions, this great new crop of working class unity, will, like the orange, be big and ripe. But unlike the orange it won't profit the bosses anything. And also unlike the orange, IT WON'T BE YELLOW.

—Paul Scott





AT THE SOUTHERN WORKER EVERY MONTH