

THE MILITANT

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Mooney-Billings Stay Jailed

Appellate Court Turns Down Foster, Minor, Amter and Raymond

The Supreme Court of California last week refused to recommend the release of Warren K. Billings, working class fighter who is serving a life sentence in the most notorious anti-labor frame-up that American history redolent with these crimes of capitalism has known for decades. Because Billings has been in prison before for his labor activities, the "governor cannot act on a pardon" until the Supreme Court makes a "favorable" recommendation.

A few days later, the Advisory Pardon Board of California handed in a recommendation to Governor Young against the pardon of Tom Mooney, the comrade of Billings, who was convicted together with the latter, allegedly for having thrown the bomb at the San Francisco Preparedness Day Parade in 1917, but in actuality, because his activities among the workers were a thorn in the side of the open shop magnates who have made "Sunny California" a hell for the workers.

In New York, at about the same time, the highest state Court of Appeals refused to act against the outrageous decision of the lower court in convicting and sentencing the leaders of the Communist Party, William Z. Foster, Robert Minor, I. Amter and H. Raymond who are serving terms for leading the unemployment demonstration in Union Square on March 6th.

The frame-up against Mooney and Billings is one of the most dastardly monstrosities of American capitalist class justice. In the 13 years of their imprisonment, exhaustive investigation has proved to the hilt that they were tried in the

most prejudiced atmosphere and convicted on the basis of corrupted, perjured evidence, bought and paid for by the manufacturing and industrial interests of the State. One by one, the witnesses against the two militants were exposed as prostitutes, pimps, gamblers, drug addicts, forgers and similar types. The frame-up was so manifest that a commission appointed at one time by President Wilson revealed it publicly in all its criminal detail. Ev-

ery development since then has only served to confirm Mooney's and Billings' innocence of every crime but that of having antagonized the California boss class.

Class conscious workers have pointed out for years that Mooney and Billings will be released only after a vigorous campaign of the workers to compel the jailors to open the prison doors. Liberal and socialist "friends" of the prisoners have, instead, sought to obtain their release by cringing before their jailors, by back-door dickering, by appeals to capitalist politicians. The false hopes raised in this manner have been shattered a dozen times, and once more today by the recent decisions.

Justice in capitalist courts is not meant for workers. We emphasize what we have constantly repeated: Mooney and Billings will be freed only by the mass pressure of the working class. Mooney was saved from hanging by the protest of labor. Labor can obtain his and Billings' freedom only by the same method. This holds true for the New York Communists, whose continued imprisonment is a blot on the working class movement and a burning indictment of capitalist class "justice".

The fight for the release of our class war prisoners is the fight of every worker of the whole labor movement. There is still time for the building of a broad, powerful mass movement of defense. The Left wing must initiate it and imbue it with spirit and determination. A united battle will defeat the jailors.

LOVESTONE'S SYMBOL

Gandhi, says Lovestone, is the 'symbol of the revolutionary upsurge in India'. Gandhi's closest lieutenant is Pandit Valabhi Patel, president of the all-India National Congress. On July 6th the New York Times reported a speech of Patel's to the rich Parsee merchants of Bombay. And this is what this Lovestoneite "symbol of revolutionary upsurge" said:

"It has been suggested that the Parsees might lose all their wealth under swaraj, but instead of being millionaires as at present, you would all become multi-millionaires under swaraj."

Apparently imperialism abrogates the class struggle in the eyes of the Bucharins, Stalins, Roys and Lovestones but not in the eyes of the Chiang Kai Sheks, Patels and the good Parsees of Bombay.

APPEAL TO OUR READERS

Last week the Militant was compelled to omit publishing its regular number. Lack of funds made it impossible. The income of the Militant has been sharply affected by the intense unemployment and by the summer period which usually cuts down activities. The decrease in our income—never very high—has been a serious blow to the activities of the organization and to the Militant in particular.

The difficulties with the Militant are all the more harmful now, at a time when the Marxist truths it has been hammering home, against the greatest obstacles, have taken deep roots in the Communist and class conscious movement in this country. The living evidence of this is contained in the numerous statements of adherence to the Opposition made by rank and file and leading comrades of the Communist Party, which cannot forever be kept in a state of injurious ignorance by the prevailing regime of organized falsification.

The Opposition is growing, and the Militant must keep pace with it. Up to now, the financial support for the paper has been received largely from the members of the Communist League (Opposition) and their most direct sympathizers. The maintenance of the Weekly Militant by this small group has entailed some pretty heavy burdens in many cases.

It is imperative to maintain the Weekly! It is necessary to distribute this "burden"—one which we gladly assume as our elementary right and duty in the workers movement—to broader sections of our readers. The existence and maintenance of a revolutionary labor journal is a precarious affair under the best of circumstances. At present, under multiplied difficulties, only the greatest sacrifices and solidarity can accomplish the task.

The National Committee of the Communist League (Opposition) decided to make an intensive drive for a \$2,000,000 fund to maintain the Militant as a Weekly. A certain response has already been given. But it is far from sufficient. Much more money, forwarded at greater speed, is needed IMMEDIATELY!

The urgency of this appeal cannot be exaggerated. Money is needed NOW for the next issue, and the one thereafter. Upon the rapidity and generosity in the response to this appeal, depend the forthcoming numbers of the Militant.

Answer with your contribution right away. Every reader can and must help. Send all moneys to

THE MILITANT
23 Third Ave. Rm. 4, New York N.Y.

CAPITALIST MURDER ON THE STREETS!

Three revolutionary workers murdered in one week. That is the toll taken by police savagery and reactionary labor thugs in New York City and Chicago.

In Chicago, Herzl Weizenberg, a member of the T.U.U.L., was set upon by gangsters of the Painters' Union bureaucracy because he was engaged in distributing leaflets for the Left wing group. The brutal scum of society, paid employees of the reactionary labor traitors, attacked comrade Weizenberg with brass knuckles, black jacks and lead pipes and left him in such a condition that he died a few hours later in the hospital.

In New York City, at a street meeting in Harlem of the Communist Party, the police came to the aid of the black chauvinists of the Garvey movement who had started to break up the Communist meeting. Wielding their clubs in a rabid frenzy, the blows fell thickest upon Alfred Levy, an unemployed member of the Party. The injuries he received at the hands of the police proved fatal.

Forty-eight hours had barely passed when the police claimed another victim. This time it was the Mexican worker Gonzalo Gonzales, also a member of the Communist Party who was shot down in cold blood by a policeman in Harlem for marching through the streets with a small group of workers on their way to an indoor meeting. Comrade Gonzales died an hour later.

The New York militants responded to this outburst of barbaric police fury by an impressive funeral parade of more than five thousand workers, a united march of hundreds of Negro workers together with their white brothers, a symbol of the coming day of the revolutionary labor unity which the capitalist class seeks so des-

perately to hamper and destroy. The splendid march of the workers is only a beginning. A real struggle must now be begun—against police brutality, against the murder of the workers, and for the freedom of speech and assembly of workers.

Police Savagery

Why are the police so savage in their attacks on workers' meetings? There are thousands of gangsters engaged in the most nefarious work, openly, every day, in the city. Thirty thousand speak-easies run with cynical disregard for capitalist law. Corruption, bribery, speculation run rampant throughout the official administration. And the police are silent and inert as the tomb. But the activities of the labor movement, particularly of its revolutionary section, immediately arouse the uniformed thugs to mad activity; because the property, the wealth, the right to exploit and crush, the power of the boss class is endangered; because the threat rises of a working class aroused out of its lethargy and inspired to militant struggle. That is the function of the police: the suppression of the militancy of labor and the preservation of capitalist class power.

The awakening of thousands of workers under the influence of the economic crisis has impelled the police to more brutal activity. The working class must be kept in its place—the place of the underdog! The offensive against it must be sharpened on every front. Therefore, the most violent measures against the vanguard, the most militant section of the working class, the Communists. Break up their meetings! Raid their halls! Shoot down their fighters!

The attack on the whole working class is always started against its most conscious section. The capitalists and the

value to the workers of the Communist movement, and its dangers to their class rule. They know that the Communists alone—not the bosses' agents in the trade unions or the middle class socialist party—seek to mobilize the workers for struggle against their misery. They hate the Communist Party and fear its potential strength—not because of the blundering and harum-scarum policies and leadership of the Party, but in spite of them.

Workers Stirred

The attack on the Communists is first blood drawn from the whole working class. The whole working class must therefore unite against this attack. It must present an iron front to the murderers of workers on the street. The workers have been profoundly stirred by these slaughters. The workers must actively resist the disruption of labor meetings.

The Communist Party must strike back at the police thugs and their masters with the weapon of the united front—the organized power of labor. We do not speak here of the paltry frauds, the hollow, self-deceptive "united fronts" that have been practiced recently by the official Party. We urge instead a genuine united movement of all the progressive workers and their organizations to batter down the police terror, to fight militantly for that which is being taken from labor so violently: free speech, free assembly and free press.

Such a movement and such slogans can make powerful reply to the blue-coated murderers and their capitalist employers. The creation of such a movement will proceed from the elimination of the Party's official phrase-mongering, meaningless to the masses of workers and incapable of setting them in motion.