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Launch United Unemployed Organization

Klan Pays Defense Attorney

Whitewash Planned in Tampa Flogging Trial

TAMPA, April 6.—The appointment of two outstanding Florida attorneys to strengthen the prosecution in the flogging murder trials is being asked of Governor Dave Sholtz by labor, religious and civic groups that are fighting Ku Klux Klan terrorism here.

These groups are dissatisfied with the conduct of the state's case up to now by State Attorney J. Rex Farrow. The addition of new counsel, they feel, is essential to the vigorous prosecution of the cases and to resist the introduction of false and extraneous issues by the defense.

When the first of the trials reopens next Monday in Bartow, Polk County, the defense will be bolstered by two additional criminal lawyers, Luke C. Johnson and E. A. Borsage, whose record of acquittals is among the highest in Florida.

The hiring of Luke Johnson in a criminal trial in Polk County constitutes the nearest thing to buying an acquittal. Johnson is reputed to have compiled a highly informative file of all the eligible jurors in the county. He knows the life history and prejudices of every man on any given venire and he usually wins his cases right after the jury box is filled and before any witnesses are called. Such a convenience should bring great relief to the defendants and explains further the anxiety of Pat Whitaker, chief defense counsel, for a change of venue which meant moving to Polk County.

Attorney Paid in Cash

Johnson is said to have demanded and received \$5,000 in cash before consenting to help acquit the 11 ex-cons and Klansmen who are indicted for the murder of Joseph Shoemaker and the kidnapping and flogging of Eugene F. Poulnot and Sam D. Rogers. Whitaker himself is also said to have received an initial payment of \$5,000 in cash as chief defense counsel.

While the defendants may have (Continued on Page 4)

Unions Flay Grand Jury

The following telegram was sent to Mayor La Guardia, Governor Lehman, and to Borough President Robert Ingersoll by the Conference for the Defense of the Rights of Organized Labor in Brooklyn:

April 2, 1936

The Kings County December Grand Jury presentation of April first is definite challenge to organized labor in Brooklyn. They charge that the strike at May Department Store conducted by Local 1250, Department Store Workers Union, American Federation of Labor, was organized by certain uninformed persons neither patrons of Brooklyn stores nor residents of Brooklyn consisting of a disorderly rabble of some two or three hundred young radicals aided, abetted and encouraged by the responsible heads of the Union. The recommendation of the Grand Jury calling upon city magistrates to deal with the situation with a firm hand is direct encouragement to all anti-labor forces to crack down upon picketing in Brooklyn. Our organization, a firm supporter of the May department store strikers, and representing twenty-six Brooklyn American Federation of Labor unions with a membership of one hundred fifty thousand Brooklyn workers, maintains that the decision of the Grand Jury is in direct line with the desires of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and other anti-labor forces in Brooklyn. We demand you take action with regard to investigating the personnel of the Kings County December Grand Jury.

Conference for Defense of Rights of Organized Labor in Brooklyn, Jesse Lane, Secretary.

Tokyo - Berlin Alliance Against USSR Reported

Adequate Soviet Defense Made Extremely Difficult By Stalinist Manoeuvres With Chinese Bourgeoisie

By LO SEN

Germany and Japan have struck a virtual bargain for joint action against the Soviet Union.

This alliance, in preparation for several years and often reported consummated, was the outstanding development this week in an international diplomatic situation crammed with plans and counter-plans, notes and threats, offers and promises, under cover of which the powers of Europe are jockeying into position for war.

News of the Berlin-Tokyo pact, while not official, came through Augur, a White Russian emigre close to the British Foreign Office and one of the best-informed correspondents in Europe. If not yet embodied in a formal document, the understanding between these two Powers is complete as to military details. The frequent exchange of military and economic commissions between Japan and Germany during the last three years has not been for purposes of courtesy or mere display. Now that Germany has upset the European apparatus by marching into the Rhineland and the crisis brought nearer, it is logical that Japan should seek means of correlating its own plans against the Soviet Union more closely with similar arrangements in Europe.

It has become increasingly clear that the Hirota Government is carrying through on all fronts intensive preparations for war in the East while presenting to the world a large "liberal" and "moderate" front. The Ministry of War in Tokyo on April 6 asked for a "special budget" of \$300,000,000 for the purpose, frankly stated, of strengthening the Japanese military ma-

(Continued from Page 3)

Sentence Chambers, Mini, et al.

Calif. Prison Board Sets Sentences for Sacramento Defendants

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., April 10.—The California Board of Prison Terms yesterday set sentence for five of the Sacramento criminal syndicalism prisoners. Pat Chambers, Martin Wilson and Jack Crane were given five years, Albert Hougardy three and a half years, and Norman Mini three years. Both Mini and Hougardy will serve 16 months of this period on parole. Assuming time off for good behavior, since both have already served one year; the two have about four months more to serve in prison.

Of the 18 defendants tried, Caroline Decker, Pat Chambers and Norman Mini were special targets for the prosecution's mendacious wrath. The first two had led the strikes which won \$2,000,000 additional wages in 1933 for the exploited migratory workers of the State. In Mini's case what particularly infuriated Sacramento reactionaries was the spectacle of an educated, intelligent native son spurning all evasions and, in the face of threats and pressure, reaffirming in open court his devotion to the idea of a new social order and a particular road to it. It was because he so defiantly affirmed that "the future belongs to us" that the Sacramento Bee and other reactionary institutions have hounded Mini and the National Sacramento Appeal Committee ever since its creation.

That Mini has, nevertheless, received a relatively short term is a tribute to the effectiveness of the work of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee. Although its activities were all aimed at the setting of minimum terms for all the prisoners, the Board of Prison Terms knew that the N.S.A.C.'s Mini's chosen representative, spoke for a vastly broader force than did the International Labor Defense, representing the other prisoners. The Board has no desire to prolong the activities of a body which rallied ten International Unions, five State Federations, two score city central labor bodies and a group of Senators and Congressmen to its support.

Compared with the sentences given the Imperial Valley C.S. prisoners in 1931, the Board has been harsh. The fact that a great reactionary drive is under way, financed—by the N.S.A.C. has established—by the State Chamber of Commerce which aims to smash unionism through the C. S. law, underlies this harshness. Many persons expected 7-year terms.

A partial victory has been won, but the fight is not ended. The N.S.A.C. aims to upset the Mini verdict and to fight for the freedom of all the prisoners. The three women in Tehachapi have yet to appear before the Board. Prisoners now denied parole will be eligible for parole later. Even after Mini is free, there will still be prisoners in whom the N.S.A.C. is interested. Pressure must go on, as well as legal moves.

Tribute to Sacramento Committee

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Muste to Speak On April 19th

A. J. Muste, National Secretary of the Workers Party, who has just completed a tour through the mid-west and is at present attending the Unity Convention of the Workers Alliance in Washington, will speak at Germania Hall, 8 P.M. Sunday, April 19. Comrade Muste will speak on present trends in the labor movement, political and economic, dealing particularly with the strike of the Akron rubber workers and the Labor Party baby-hoo of the Communist Party.

Azana Speaks Firmly For Conservative Spain

Loudly Applauded by Stalinists and Monarchists—Cabellero Cautious; Swing to Right Apparent

By ALFREDO ROJAS

The Azana government took another big step to the right this week. On April 4, only eight days before the municipal elections were to be held, Azana issued a decree indefinitely postponing them. The rightists—Monarchists and Catholics—had declared they would abstain from the elections and had called upon Azana to postpone them. This leaves bourgeois-republican majorities, elected in 1931, still in control of the local governments.

Azana's postponement of the elections was preceded the day before by a significant speech by Azana before the Cortes, and which was greeted with praise by all sections of the bourgeoisie and by the Stalinists.

Azana's Speech

The tenor of Azana's speech is summarized by "Ahorá," republican daily, as follows: "The fear that the recent disorders (i.e., strikes and peasant seizures of land) would continue, should be dispelled by Azana's speech. In it he declared, first, that he will go no further than the limits fixed by the electoral pact of the Popular Front; second, that he, heeding the dictates of experience and responsibility, would keep control of the execution of the (electoral) program, which is equivalent to regulating the rhythm, circumstances, possibilities and consequences of it; third, that everything will be done by legal methods and within the law, punishing all who violate it. These statements are satisfactory and reassuring and demonstrate that Azana knows that it is expected of him that

he stop the excesses of the lefts which have resulted in disorders the last few weeks." For Azana—Monarchists, Stalinists Jimenez Fernandez, spokesman for the reactionary Catholic Ceda, said: "I support ninety percent of the speech." Gil Robles, after praising Azana's attitude, declared: "I cannot understand how some paragraphs of the speech could have been applauded by the Communists and the extreme Socialists." Even the arch-monarchist, Count Romanones, declared that Azana's speech would undoubtedly facilitate re-establishment of tranquility and calm in "public opinion." Calvo Sotelo, leader of the monarchists, said: "It was the expression of a true conservative. His declaration of respect for the law and the Constitution should make a good impression on public opinion."

The Stalinists were equally fulsome in their praise, the general secretary of the Communist party issuing a statement saying: "We were pleased with the speech. In Azana we see the (Continued on Page 2)

March on Capitol Is Last Act

Johnson's Rump Convention Folds Up—A Fiasco

Uniting three separate and often warring organizations the organized unemployed are now concluding their business in the nation's capital by creating the most powerful fighting machine the million-headed jobless have seen since the crisis began.

With the Workers Alliance, the National Unemployed League and the unemployed councils merged into one cohesive body, the unity convention will wind up its stay in Washington with a mass demonstration around the White House and the Capitol.

More than a thousand workers, representing a force of unemployed some 200 times their number are expected to take part in the planned march which will protest the scheduled layoff of over 700,000 WPA workers. They will demand job and social insurance and a 6 billion dollar appropriation for relief.

N U L Well Represented

At this writing with details not yet available, representatives to the National Executive Board of the United Workers Alliance of America are being selected in caucus by the various participating organizations for ratification by the convention.

Preliminary reports indicate that the National Unemployed League, which merged with the WAA prior to the opening of the convention was represented by close to 150 delegates, coming from their battle grounds of struggle in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and other parts of the country.

Rump Convention Fizzles

The rump convention of the NUL organized by Arnold Johnson, Stalinist stooge, proved to be a complete fizzle. With hardly as many delegates as can be counted on the fingers of your hands, this "convention" had to abandon the pretext of representing the NUL. We learn from a Daily Worker Washington dispatch that the traitor Johnson has been placed on the Executive Board slate as an "independent" from Kentucky (!). Placing Johnson as a "representative" from Kentucky, which the real NUL was unable to contact, the Stalinists have confessed failure to realize their wretched scheme to capture the NUL by a too-clever maneuver. The leagues throughout the country quickly realized that Johnson was acting in their midst as an agent of the Unemployed Councils, and sabotaging unity in the interest of the latter, turned a deaf ear to his appeals and convention calls.

Ted Selander and Anthony Ramaglia, former officers of the NUL, were speakers at the convention. Ramaglia came to the convention fresh from the picket lines of the Lehigh County WPA strike. Selander, whose name is intimately associated with the famous Auto-Lite strike of Toledo, spoke to the assembled delegates on the community of interests between employed and unemployed, describing the cooperation rendered striking workers by the leagues in his district.

Militant Note in Speeches

Other speakers included Ray Cooke of New Jersey, who led a demonstration of unemployed into the legislature of his state where they presented their demands in an emphatic manner; Charles Rossio of the Illinois Workers Alliance which includes thousands of jobless miners in its ranks, W. K. Patrick, one of the 1932 bonus marchers and others from Maine to the Golden Gate.

The militant note struck by the orator-delegates, the applause which greeted all fighting proposals to advance the interests of the jobless, including a resolution for a mass hunger march of 50,000 to Washington this summer presages a great future for the new organization.

A complete account and analysis of the sessions, resolutions and work of the convention will be given in the next issue of the New Militant by our reporters.

Croppers Swindled

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Apr. 2—While the Department of Agriculture meets with representatives of the planting and banking interests of the cotton-producing states, the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union is preparing a stiff resistance to the campaign of terror with which the landlords of Arkansas and Oklahoma hope to smash the organization of the share-croppers and day laborers negro and white. In Washington, new plans are being laid to continue the subsidy to planting interests by means of a "conservation" scheme since the Supreme Court has declared that the "cotton reduction" plan of the AAA was unconstitutional.

Across the Mississippi, in the share-cropping country, poor farmers, who hoped that the AAA contracts of plowing under would afford them some slight measure of relief, have had their hopes dashed when they tried to enforce their rights against planters.

These disputes arose when the farmers could get no justice from the local County Committees which were set up under the AAA as local bodies to administer controversies. The local committees are composed of planters and their agents. The share-croppers are not represented. The courts hypocritically ruled that they could not entertain the disputes because the contracts were signed by the landlords and not by the farmers involved in the controversies.

Share Croppers Not Represented

There was a good reason for the failure of the share-tenants to sign the contracts. To do so would have meant that the planter had a joint interest in the crop and could divide of it as he saw fit. In practice this would have meant that even the few dollars accruing to the share-croppers under the AAA would have passed through the hands of the landlords—and into their pockets.

Tugwell Will Investigate

Now, the same interests are ready to consummate the same fraud by eliminating the contractual rights of the farmers in the new contracts which are being prepared. The share-croppers are not invited to the conferences which are framing the new contracts. A delegation was sent to see Tugwell (Continued on Page 4)

Akron Guild Man Fired

By BLAKE LEAR

AKRON, O.—Branko J. Widick, hard-hitting chairman of the Ohio district of the American Newspaper Guild and leading militant of the Akron Beacon-Journal unit of the Guild, was summarily fired on April 4.

The action came as the first blow of the industrial reaction after the recent Goodyear strike, and preceded by four days the opening of negotiations between the publishers of the Beacon-Journal, the Times-Press and the Guild unit.

Widick has a fine record in the labor movement. He was instrumental in organizing Ohio for the Guild, and was a leading advocate of affiliation with the A. F. of L. On Thursday preceding the company's action Widick spoke before the C. L. U. on the Hearst-Guild strike in Milwaukee.

As a consequence of his record, the C.L.U. has indicated its support of the move for his reinstatement. Powers Haggood of the C. I. O. addressed the Beacon-Journal unit on the Widick case.

Sherman Dalrymple of the United Rubber Workers, and Wilmer Tate, president of the Central Labor Union, are throwing the weight of their organizations solidly behind Widick.

The charge against Widick is "incompetence," but the real reason obviously lies in his pro-labor activity. As was observed at the time in Akron labor union circles, "If it took three years to discover that Widick is incompetent, charges ought to be preferred against the publisher instead!"

Akron is recognized as one of the strongest Guild centers in Ohio. This has come about largely through the efforts of Widick together with other progressives in the Akron organizations.

It is openly admitted that the attack on Widick, if successful, will be a heavy blow to the Guild here. In view of the fact that Akron is the mainpring of the Ohio organizational campaign of the Guild, the successful conclusion of this attack will seriously menace the life of the Ohio Guild.

Labor circles generally and especially the rubber workers recognize this a blow to the A. F. of L. as well. The National Office of the Newspaper Guild has also stressed the importance of this case.