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MINNEAPOLIS WPA INDICTMENTS QUASHED

FIGHT OPENS ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Unions Must Act To Put Heat On In Washington

The first stage of the fight to pass the Anti-Lynching Bill through the Senate began at the hearing before a Senate subcommittee on February 6. Here the representatives of the Southern plantation owners will make their next attempt to kill the bill.

Senator Tom Conally, who is (if we except Neeley from the border state of West Virginia) the only Southerner on the subcommittee, was the leader of the seven-week filibuster that defeated the bill in the Senate two years ago. He told the press some time ago that he would ask for a Senate appropriation to pay for the expenses of witnesses against the bill, but nothing more has been heard about this. But the money to defeat this bill will not be withheld by its landlord-employer opponents.

Supporters Mobilizing

The supporters of the bill are also preparing to send their witnesses. The Texas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in particular will send a large contingent from the native state of Conally (as well as of such other Southern gentlemen as Garner and Dies), and from such advance reports as are available their testimony will be so overwhelming as to embarrass even him.

This bill, however, will not be passed merely on the basis of facts. It is mass pressure, and only mass pressure, that can force the Northern capitalist-representatives to take a stand against their Southern class-brothers.

Act Now!

Write, and get your union and club to send resolutions, to Senator Frederick Van Nuys, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. in support of the bill. Van Nuys, with Wagner and Capper, is co-author of the bill and is also chairman of the subcommittee hearing testimony on the bill.

NYA Seeks to Drive Youth into Army

Officials Turn Over NYA Lists To Army; Youth Asking Relief Told To Join The Army

The National Youth Administration announced Feb. 2 that it had instructed state NYA directors to turn over to the Army Recruiting Service a list of all male enrollees between 18 and 25.

The order followed a suggestion by the Army Recruiting Service that—in the words of the A.P. dispatch reporting this—"perhaps many young men now receiving \$14 to \$21 a month from the NYA would find the army's base pay of \$21 a month for a recruit, plus food and clothing, more attractive."

Thus it becomes very much to the interests of the Army, and its government, to keep NYA wages and funds as low as possible in order to make army pay "more attractive." Roosevelt's budget cut of NYA funds thus serves as economic pressure upon needy youth to enlist in the Army.

Relief Applicants Pressured
In the Middle West, young men applying for relief are being asked by administrators why they do not enlist in the Army or Navy. Their names, together with the names of military eligibles already on relief, are being

turned over to recruiting officers.

Where young relief applicants refuse to join some branch of the armed forces, they are being urged to apply for CCC jobs. Relief applications are often turned down or held up for weeks in the hope that applicants will join the CCC. In the CCC camps, boys are writing home that Army administrators are exerting pressure on them to join the Army after completing their CCC terms. In a North Carolina camp two months ago the boys conducted a demonstration against militarization. Growing fear of militarization of the CCC is cutting down the number of applicants.

In response to demands from apprehensive parents, farm leaders are asking for the formation of special conservation projects apart from the CCC. They are being told by government spokesmen that such projects will not be started so long as CCC jobs are available.

"Recruiting Hints"
A list of "recruiting hints" sent to U.S. Army reserve officers points to the unemployed as the "most likely prospects" for enlistment.

Proposed Deal Fails British Spurn Gandhi;

Viceroy Refuses Even To Promise New Status For India After the War; Gandhi Finds "Solution Impossible"

By SHERMAN STANLEY

After a two and a half hour discussion with the British Viceroy, Mahatma Gandhi was reluctantly forced to admit in a statement on Feb. 6 that, "A peaceful solution to the problem of India's freedom is apparently impossible."

The British authorities, rejecting completely even the conservative demand of Gandhi for a promise of Dominion Status for India after the war, have slammed the door in the face of the Congress Party once more.

Gandhi has admitted that resumption of the long-drawn out negotiations is useless. Meanwhile, the left-wing forces within the Nationalist Congress have openly stated that they will split the Congress from top to bottom if Gandhi should sign any agreement with the British, or attempt any sell-out of India's demand for freedom.

"England's difficulty is India's opportunity"—this was the clamor of the 400,000,000 workers, peasants, students and middle class people of India, when the Congress Party once more admitted that resumption of the long-drawn out negotiations is useless. Meanwhile, the left-wing forces within the Nationalist Congress have openly stated that they will split the Congress from top to bottom if Gandhi should sign any agreement with the British, or attempt any sell-out of India's demand for freedom.

An example, incidentally, of what the handling of "news" can do was afforded last week by the meeting of the Balkan Entente. Here was a meeting of small states divided into groups that are already definitely linked to this or that great power or else are the scenes of conflict among them. Yugoslavia is in Italy's orbit and Turkey and Greece in that of the Allies, while Rumania remains ticklishly balanced between the Anglo-French bloc and the Reich. The conference took place and of course decided nothing, and from every capital representing violently conflicting interests, came "expressions of satisfaction" over the outcome. You pay your money and you take your choice.

One of the Minneapolis Strike Meetings



5,000 workers were present at this, one of the mass meetings held by the WPA strikers at the Minneapolis Parade Grounds last summer. They stayed together after the strike, too, and with the backing of the organized labor movement of the city, state and nation, forced the government to call a halt to the WPA strike trials.

MINERS' CONFAB OCCUPIED WITH UNEMPLOYMENT WPA Workers Ask Large Scale Aid

30-Hour Week Is Raised For Miners As Jobless Aid

The historic 36th constitutional convention of the United Mine Workers concluded its sessions on Thursday, February 1, by sharply warning the Roosevelt administration "that labor wants no war . . . and will hold to strict accountability any statesman who departs from this policy."

Lewis stated in his final address to the convention "that the workers of America are opposed to war and that under no circumstances will labor support a policy of killing off young men on battlefields."

In direct contrast to the position taken by the current quarterly meeting of the AFL Executive Council, the convention adopted a resolution urging the government "to withhold the lending of any money, or the participation either directly or indirectly in the wars now going on in Europe and Asia."

Lewis and all of his lieutenants made numerous militant speeches throughout the convention. This is explained by the fact that all of them are keenly aware of the seething discontent that prevails among the broad masses of American labor. They know that the labor movement has been on

For Red Sundays!

It can be done! Red Sundays will work, if the branches will only give it a fair try.

Here's the first report of a party local that tried the Red Sunday plan and made good. Writes the Boston literature agent: "The Boston branch has APPEAL house-to-house sales twice a week, on Tuesday or Thursday, and a Red Sunday. This has been very successful as we get into the hands of workers about 40 APPEALS each day we go out. This is only with three or four crews of two comrades to a crew, one girl comrade and a male comrade if possible. We are going to have a complete mobilization of the branch and will be able to get rid of more Appeals. THE COMRADES ENJOY THIS VERY MUCH. They meet new contacts and discuss the war question, unemployment, etc. Through this we will be able to build neighborhood discussion groups and build a neighborhood APPEAL route, as well as make new contacts. . . ."

Good work, Boston! That makes at least two branches, Boston and Detroit, we know definitely are actively putting over the Red Sunday plan. How about it Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and the rest of you throughout the country?

One more word for the hesitant comrades: the Boston letter says, "at first comrades were of the opinion that it was foolish to try it (Red Sundays). . . ." But once it got under way, distribution went like a house afire.

Give the plan a chance! It's the only way to stabilize the Appeal and increase the circulation.

We propose that the regular 1940 session of the Congress of the United States shall enact emergency legislation to put into immediate effect the following:

1. Appropriation of \$10,000,000,000 to provide, at once, jobs on housing and other public works projects for unemployed workers.
2. Amendment of the Wages and Hours Act to provide throughout private industry and public works a maximum work week of 30 hours and a minimum weekly pay of 30 dollars.
3. 30 dollar weekly old age and disability pensions.
4. Appropriation of \$3,000,000,000 to guarantee either maintenance at school or jobs for all youth.

'Conspiracy' Charge Against 130 Dropped

Five Plead on Minor Charge; 17 of 32 Already Convicted Get Sentences From 30 Days to Eight Months

By CARL O'SHEA

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 3.—The expanding pressure of the city, state and national trade union movement upon the Roosevelt administration finally cracked the WPA strike prosecutions wide open this week, as organized labor's magnificent defense of the unemployed victims brought the Department of Justice to terms.

In return for a face-saving plea of nolo contendere (no defense) on a minor charge by five of the accused jobless workers, the government dropped entirely its "conspiracy" and other indictments against all 130 remaining defendants.

O. J. Rogge, head of the criminal division of the Department of Justice, arrived here last Monday with orders to get out of this fight with the unions as gracefully as possible. Of the 162 indicted for "conspiracy" and overt acts for participating in last summer's

WPA strike here, 32 had been convicted in three trials. The resultant outcry throughout the labor movement was developing nation-wide proportions. Each trial was a major engagement between the government and the WPA Defense Committee set up by the Central Labor Union.

Rogge arrived and opened negotiations with the defense committee for termination of the prosecutions.

FDE's Pound of Flesh

The Roosevelt administration wanted its pound of flesh, of course, to settle the fight. Simply to quash the remaining 130 indictments would be too bald a confession of defeat for the government's punitive campaign. Rogge, therefore, presented a list of forty men among the 130 from whom the government was demanding pleas of nolo contendere—no defense. The defense committee put its foot down, and the list was pared to 21, to 11, to 6, finally to 5. Attempts of the Department of Justice to have the five plead guilty to conspiracy were also unavailing.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, the five pleaded nolo contendere to one charge each, after which, on motion of Rogge, indictments were dismissed against the other 125. Conspiracy charges were dropped against all 130.

Hypocritical Statement

In a prepared statement read to the court, Rogge sought to interpret the government's retreat as being merely due to Roosevelt's amiable intercession, and that such intercession had not the remotest connection with organized labor's pressure.

"The Department of Justice," he stated, "feels that the 32 most culpable persons have already been convicted. . . . It should be noted that such dismissal is made for the purpose of clearing the docket. Shortly before Mr. Justice Murphy retired (as Attorney General), the President discussed the matter of these cases with him. The President felt the duty of the WPA workers had been made clear; that while they may organize like others on the government pay roll, they have no right to conduct a strike or engage in acts of violence. . . . It was felt that this lesson had been duly learned and that the object sought had been attained. . . ."

Mask Slips Off

This hypocritical mask of good will slipped off Judge Joyce's face today, when he sentenced seventeen men convicted in the three trials. The enormous weight mobilized by organized labor resulted in limiting his sentences; but the judge was as vindictive as he could be.

The judge opened with a ten-minute speech in praise of American citizenship; attacked the effrontery of the WPA strikers; declared himself completely in accord with Roosevelt and Murphy in their statements that "the strikers had no right to strike against the government."

Tom Davis, defense counsel, pointed out the trials bore a faint resemblance to political persecution and pled for moderate sentences.

Then the judge went to work, in a burst of invective against the working class militants, whom he called cruel, heartless, ruthless, cowardly, etc. He warned them that next time they would receive much heavier sentences.

Leaders Get Worst

All through the grand jury proceedings and the trials, the government had concentrated its main fire on General Drivers Union Local 544's Federal Workers Section, and the leaders of this model militant organization received the heaviest sentences today. Ed Palmquist and Max Goldman, chairman and organizer, each got eight months. Leslie Wachter, FWS steward, was the only other to receive an eight-months' sentence.

Charles Grider received seven months; William Riley and George Toteno, six months; Milton McLean, four months; Eddie Alberts, Frank Stevens, Floud Hurley, Myron Phillips and Richard Connell, 90 days; Ralph Gore, 60 days; Charles Connors, 30 days; Ben Palmer and Oscar Schoenfeld received suspended sentences and were placed on probation for 18 months, and Carl Femble received a suspended sentence and 24-months' probation.

Class Lines Clear

The judge gave suspended sentences to the ex-preacher the student and the graduate chemist, the intellectuals among the victims, lecturing them that intelligent people of their sort should not be consorting with the low riff-raff. I am not, of course, recording this fact to the detriment of the three, all of whom are rebels to one degree or another, but only to show the sharp class character of the sentencing.

When the judge came to little Max Goldman, FWS organizer, he literally brimmed with hatred, slandering him with the usual bourgeois lie that here was an agitator who, like all agitators, was not found in the melee but sent others into the danger zone.

Judge "Corrects" Error

The dignity of the court was somewhat ruffled when, after lecturing Riley, he sentenced him to six months on a substantive count and placed him on probation for two years on the conspiracy charge. Defense attorneys called the judge's attention to the fact that Riley had been tried only

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