

NEGRO SAILORS OUSTED FOR PROTEST

J. F. Finerty Joins Aid For Waller

Famous Attorney To Fight Execution Of Negro Sharecropper

NEW YORK—John F. Finerty, famous labor attorney has joined the defense lawyers who are pressing last minute efforts to save the life of Odell Waller, Negro share-cropper, sentenced by a Virginia court to die in the electric chair December 27 for slaying his white landlord.

Mr. Finerty was a defense counsel for Tom Mooney and in the Sacco-Vanzetti case, and acted as legal counsel for the International Commission of Inquiry which acquitted Leon Trotsky of the Moscow Trials charges.

An all-white jury including 16 landlords, a business-man and a carpenter passed the death sentence on Waller in a trial at Chatham, Virginia. An appeal is being made to the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia to throw the verdict aside on the grounds of evidence of prejudice in the conduct of the trial and the selection of the jury.

According to the evidence at the Chatham trial, Waller had shot the landlord, Oscar Davis, in self-defense, after Davis attempted to draw a gun on Waller who was trying to get the shares due him for work performed by him, his wife and 69-year old mother.

Waller had carried the gun because of the previous threats of landlord Davis, Virginia state law permits a citizen to carry a gun if he believes his life to be in danger.

The case is vital in disclosing the sordid injustice which the white Southern landlords impose on the Negroes, and in providing an example of the legal methods employed against the Negroes in the poll-tax southern states.

Organization of the defense is in the hands of the Workers Defense League, which is appealing for urgently needed funds to save Waller's life. The League's national office is at 112 East 19th St., New York City, David Clendenin, secretary.

Court Order Denounced By Minneapolis Unions

Drivers Union Rejects Judge's Order To Remove Loyal Unionist From Office

By CARL O'SHEA MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—With one voice the union movement here has decided to cry "HALT" to the presumptuous efforts of the district court to dictate to the Minneapolis General Drivers Union through the means of the famous fink suit.

Friday morning, November 29th, Judge Paul S. Carroll handed down his ruling on motions by Local 544 and the finks to amend his original findings in the long-drawn-out suit. The court utilized the occasion to take another crack at the union by ordering it to remove Nick Wagner, trustee, from office, on the grounds that he "threatened and intimidated" finks.

The Local 544 executive board met, surveyed the situation and resolved to challenge the court's decision head-on. Carroll's decision sets such a sinister precedent that it must be fought through the highest court. When boss courts presume to replace the union membership in deciding who shall and shall not be officers of unions, it's time for a showdown.

LABOR'S ARMY ASSEMBLES

Developments of the last few days show that the whole labor movement is of one mind on the decision to appeal the case. Already the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council, the Building Trades Council and the executive board of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union have met and in each instance by unanimous vote resolved to support the stand of 544.

It is certain that Nick Wagner will be nominated and will stand for re-election in Local 544's annual election this month.

Testimony throughout the long trial showed that the leadership of Local 544 has acted consistently on sound trade union principles in the interests of the union membership and organized labor. Judge Carroll himself has conceded the union elections are fairly run, the officers are honest, that the union has acted within its rights in using its funds to conduct strikes, to defend arrested union members, to aid other labor organizations, to donate to the Farmer-Labor Party, to assist in

HOUSTON DAIRY DRIVERS STRIKE AFTER LOCKOUT

All Deliveries Stop As Milk Trust Tries To Stall Contract

By a Truck Driver HOUSTON, Texas, Dec. 2—The bosses of this "Southern Metropolis" appear headed for a show-down with the entire union movement. And they're going to get that show-down.

Yesterday morning, Sunday, the managements of the six biggest dairy concerns locked-out all their milk drivers and dairy workers, over 700 men and women. All milk deliveries were suspended.

Local 133 of the Teamsters Union has turned the lock-out into a general milk-drivers strike, calling for an additional \$5 per week on the guaranteed wages of the "staff" route drivers and four additional days vacation with pay.

The lockout, and now strike, came on the eve of a planned strike against the key Phenix Dairies here, and was an evident move of the Houston Dairy Council, the milk bosses' association, to get the jump on the Milk Drivers and start the drive to bring back the open-shop once more.

It is the general belief among the labor leaders here that the employing class as a whole in this city is planning to utilize the dairy situation for the start of a general drive against the 20,000 organized workers here whose contracts are due to expire within the next few months.

Behind the Houston Dairy Council stand powerful oil and banking interests who would move heaven and hell to break the unions of this town.

ALL UNIONS COOPERATE

Although the strike is just in its second day, the milk drivers have already been pledged all possible support from the CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods here, as well as the AFL.

Public sentiment is clearly on the side of the strikers, despite the horrible picture of dying babies which the bosses have been painting in almost hourly blasts over the radio and in screaming full-page newspaper ads. And woe betide the luckless scab who tries to deliver milk to any worker's home.

Nazis Arrest 90 Trotskyists in the Paris Region

The DAY, Jewish daily newspaper, publishes the following dispatch in its Dec. 10 issue: "PARIS, Dec. 10—The police here have arrested ninety militant Communists, apparently Trotskyists, and questioned them about the Communist propaganda that is being spread here recently. They also arrested 63 'left Communists.' The Nazi secret police have also uncovered nine underground printing presses of 'left Communists,'"

Here's A New Angle On "National Defense"

"National defense" has been the pretext to break strikes, abolish labor laws, cut wages, lengthen hours, refuse to recognize unions, and fifty other anti-labor moves reported in your morning newspaper, but it remained for John G. Pew, brilliant president of the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, to invent an absolutely new angle in this racket.

His company was charged with fostering a company union, espionage, and coercion, intimidation and discrimination against its employees, and notified to appear before the National Labor Relations Board for a hearing on the charges.

Whereupon President Pew addressed himself, not to the Labor Board, but to his most profitable customer, the Navy. He served notice, in a letter to the Navy Department, that he couldn't make any more ships for the Navy unless the NLRB hearings were put out of the way!

The company, he wrote, finds "it is impossible to (a) exonerate itself from the charges of the board and (b) perform the tremendous task of increasing plant facilities, personnel, purchases of supplies and equipment (in order to accept Navy contracts) at one and the same time." The letter concludes by posing the question:

"Which is more important, that the national defense program go forward on schedule or that the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America be given an immediate hearing?"

Sure! What the hell! You can't expect President Pew (or his lawyers) to put down his tools, take off his overalls and go downtown for just an old Labor Board hearing! Not while HE is working so hard on national defense!

AFL-CIO Unite In Big Lumber Strike

45,000 Rival Union Men Join Hands To Wrest Wage Gains From Timber Lords

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 8—As the joint strike of the AFL and CIO lumber workers moves into its second week, the entire lumber industry of the Pacific Northwest is virtually paralyzed.

Throughout the states of Washington and Oregon, sweeping the mighty Columbia River Basin and up into Puget Sound, the workers of both the AFL and CIO have joined hands to wrest decent wages and working conditions from Weyerhaeuser and the rest of the lumber barons.

PHILA. BOSSES TRY TO QUIET PROTEST STORM

19 Cops, 2 Judges Transferred For Mass Negro Arrests

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5—19 policemen and 2 magistrates, involved in the illegal mass street arrests and jailings of 565 Negroes in the North Philadelphia 20th Ward on November 16, have been quietly transferred into other areas as part of the efforts of the Republican municipal political machine to quiet the storm aroused by this affair.

Meanwhile over 130 of those arrested are continuing to press their civil suits against the police and officials who ordered and conducted the raids.

The raids, made allegedly in an effort to clean up petty crimes in the neighborhood, were really reprisals against the Negro community which refused to vote Republican in the last elections.

Some of the victims acts of the police were vividly disclosed at a mass protest meeting of Negro organizations last night in the St. Paul's Baptist Church. Scores of the victims attended and testified to their outrageous handling.

The victims were picked off the streets and public places just at random. No warrants were used. No charges were placed against them. They were given no immediate hearings as the law provides. And were held on bail of as high as \$800.

Those who protested at this outrageous treatment were roughed up by the police. Twenty and thirty of them were packed together in cells built for four or five people. They were forced to stand up all night.

13 Discharged; 2 Face Navy Trial

Seamen Who Exposed Vicious Jim Crow In Navy Get "Undesirable" Discharges "For the Good of the Service"

By ALBERT PARKER Rear Admiral Nimitz, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, last week finally told what had happened to the fifteen Negro sailors on the U. S. S. Philadelphia who had written a letter protesting Jim Crow conditions in the Navy.

Nimitz announced, in an interview with P. L. Prattis, Executive Editor of the PITTSBURGH COURIER, that 13 of the sailors had been kicked out of the Navy with "undesirable" discharges, and that the other two were still in the brig, probably being held for even more drastic action.

The commanding officer of the Philadelphia, after the boys' letter had been printed in the COURIER on Oct. 5, had placed them all under arrest. He had then forced them all to write statements, telling why they had signed the letter and who had suggested it.

This was obviously a move to find out who was the "brains" behind the letter.

When he had these letters, the commanding officer filed charges against the boys and recommended to the Navy Department that they be court-martialed.

He charged them with violating sub-paragraph 7 of Article 8 of Chapter 1 of the Articles of War, which reads:

"Or joins in or abets any combination to weaken the lawful authority of or to lessen the respect due to his commanding officer."

In addition to this charge was another "conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline."

Other words, if a Negro sailor signs a letter saying he is being Jim Crowed and doesn't like it, he is "Joining a combination to weaken the lawful authority of his commanding officer!"

If he writes to the people outside of the Navy and asks to help put an end to the policy that permits Negroes to become only mess attendants and cooks, then he is guilty of "lessening the respect due his commanding officer!"

That, at least, is the viewpoint of the officer caste that runs the ships and every day violates the law passed by Congress that prohibits discrimination in the armed forces against any person because of race or color.

The commanding officer wanted them court-martialed. But the Bureau of Navigation takes a lighter view of the matter. It agrees that this action is almost as bad as a mutiny, but doesn't feel it wise to have the mess boys hanged from the yard-arm.

So the Bureau over-ruled the recommendation of the highly respected officer and gave orders for thirteen of the boys to be transferred to the receiving station nearest their homes and there given "undesirable" discharges. (A discharge of this nature differs from a dishonorable discharge in that it does not deprive the man of his civil rights. It is a discharge, as the Navy officers call it, "for the good of the service.")

The other two men are still in jail, which would indicate that the commanding officer decided that they had "instigated" the letter, and that Admiral Nimitz has accepted the recommendation of the commanding officer that they be court-martialed.

But the case would not be closed even if all the men had been set free. Indeed, the fight must go on as long as the officer caste controls military training and has the power to Jim Crow Negroes.

This was indicated also by the Courier in its issue of December 7 in the story entitled "Here Are the More Chambermaids' You Can Fire, Rear Admiral Nimitz," which contained another letter, from a group of six Negro sailors of the U.S.S. Davis, stationed at San Diego, California.

This letter, which is the sixth signed by groups of mess attendants on as many different ships in the Navy in the last two months, tells the same story that the others did, of segregation, brutal discrimination and vicious punishment for any "back-talk."

Unfortunately, like the others, the authors of this letter, while they demonstrate great courage in signing their names, make the mistake of urging as a solution "that the Negro youth of America . . . cease to enlist in the U. S. Navy."

As we have indicated in our pamphlet, *Defend The Negro Sailors of the U.S.S. Philadelphia*, such a policy will not solve the problem because it is ineffective in the face of conscription; because it will not help the 4,000 Negro sailors already in the Navy; and because it does not take into consideration the need for military training of all kinds by the oppressed Negro people and the working class, if they are to be able to defeat their enemies.

The latest developments in the Philadelphia case point once again to the need for the Negro people to join in the struggle for a system of military training under the control of the trade unions—take control and power out of the hands of the Jim Crow and anti-labor officers and put it in the hands of the workers themselves.

Grace Carlson On National Tour

Dr. Grace Carlson, who as our candidate, under the designation of "Trotskyist Anti-War Party" received 8,761 votes for U. S. Senator from Minnesota, will make a coast-to-coast speaking tour starting January 2.

The tour is being undertaken in response to requests from comrades and sympathizers in all parts of the country who have expressed their keen desire to meet Comrade Carlson and hear her speak.

By special arrangement, Comrade Carlson will speak before local Negro organizations on special topics dealing with the health problems of the Negro people under capitalism, a subject on which she has made extensive studies

ON THE WAR FRONTS

How far will or can Hitler let his Axis partner slip down into the bog of military reverses which is rapidly engulfing the Italian military machine?

The German legions that have already been concentrated in Hungary and Rumania are in a position to attack the Greeks in the north, via Bulgaria. So far there has been no indication they will do so. A Greek minister is still in Berlin and a German minister in Athens. Extremely circumstantial reports from various quarters suggest that the Germans are by no means entirely displeased with Mussolini's discomfiture.

Behind this, these reports say, is the internal struggle within the Axis. Mussolini is supposed to have been instrumental in swiking Hitler's attempts to force Spain into his orbit on the grounds that Germany was edging too far into Italy's "sphere" of present or future influence.

Most reports like this cannot be taken at face value, but German complacency in the face of Italian reverses seems to go far toward bearing them out. Mussolini is going to make a major effort to retrieve his losses in Albania and if that effort fails, then Hitler is first likely to step in and by doing so ensure that the disposal of the spoils in Southeastern Europe will be his alone.

Hitler's speech on Tuesday last suggests that he is confident that the Nazi military machine alone is sufficient to deal with

all enemies, actual and potential. The reduction of Italy to a minor role in the Axis "new order" undoubtedly forms part of his plan and to this end, the Greek victories in Albania are satisfactory to the Nazis.

But again, how far will Hitler let his ally slide? The Albanian defeats have already opened an astonishingly wide fissure in the Italian totalitarian facade. The army and navy commands have been split asunder. The official Italian news carries a curious report of protests by returning Italian soldiers against the high command in Albania. Another official Fascist publication takes open note of an alarming increase in the cost of living in Italy. Official Rome communique obviously protest too much in denying disaffection among army and navy officers and among the people generally.

One cannot yet by far deduce from these signs that Italy is close to a complete breakdown. But they do show how quickly reverses in the field can expose the internal weaknesses of a totalitarian regime. Hitler can not afford to have this happen even in Italy. It strikes too close to home.

Moreover, Hitler cannot himself afford to mark time. He has to keep his forces in motion—and victoriously in motion at that. It is safe to assume that he will begin to move again—and soon.