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NEGRO SAILORS OUSTED FOR PROTEST

J. F. Finerty Joins Aid For Waller

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 hts 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 quicted 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 Chatof Appeals of Virginia to throw the verdict aside on the grounds of evidence of prejudice in the

the landlord, Oscar Davis, in self- decision to oppeal the case. Also defense, after Davis attempted to ready the Minneapolis Teamsters draw a gun on Waller who was Joint Council, the Building Trades trying to get the shares due him Council and the executive board for work performed by him, his of the Minneapolis Central Labor wife and 69-year old mother.

cause of the previous threats of to support the stand of 544. landlord Davis. Virginia state It is certain that Nick Wagner law permits a citizen to carry a will be nominated and will stand gun if he believes his life to be for re-election in Local 544's an-

The case is vital in disclosing | Testimony throughout the long the sordid injustice which the trial showed that the leadership white Southern landlords impose of Local 544 has acted consistently on the Negroes, and in providing on sound trade union principles an example of the legal methods in the interests of the union mememployed against the Negroes in bership and organized labor. the poll-tax southern states.

in the hands of the Workers De- run, the officers are honest, that tional office is at 112 East 19th union members, to aid other la-

Italian military machine?

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 var-

ious quarters suggest that the

Germans are by no means en-

tirely displeased with Mussolini's

Behind this, these reports say.

is the internal struggle within

the Axis. Mussolini is supposed

to have been instrumental in

spiking Hitler's attempts to force

Spain into his orbit on the

grounds that Germany was edg

ing too far into Italy's "sphere"

of present or future influence.

not be taken at face value, but

German complacence 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 Eu-

Hitler's Speech on Tuesday

rope will be his alone.

Most reports like this can-

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

How far will or can Hitler let all enemies, actual and potential.

his Axis partner slip down into The reduction of Italy to a minor

the bog of military reverses role in the Axis "new order" un-

which is rapidly engulfing the doubtedly forms part of his plan

already been concentrated in to the Nazis.

Court Order Denounced Here's A New Angle 13 Discharged; 2 By Minneapolis Unions

Drivers Union Rejects Judge's Order Famous Attorney To 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 presumptious 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.

resolved to challenge the court's organizing the 12-state area over-Commission of Inquiry which ac decision head-on. Carroll's decision sets such a sinister precethrough the highest court. When boss courts presume to replace the union membership in decidham, Virginia. An appeal is be- ing who shall and shall not be of- as "dishonest." Acting on a ing made to the Supreme Court ficers of unions, it's time for a moth-eaten legal technicality, the showdown.

Developments of the last few Union have met and in each ins-Waller had carried the gun be- tance by unanimous vote resolved

nual election this month.

Judge Carroll himself has conced-

and to this end, the Greek vic-

But again, how far will Hit-

ler let his ally slide? The Al-

banian defeats have already

opened an astonishingly wide

fissure in the Italian totalitar-

ian facade. The army and navy

commands have been split

asunder. The official Italian

news carries a curious report

of protests by returning Ital-

ian soldiers against the high

command in Albania. Another

official Fascist publication

takes open note of an alarm-

ing increase in the cost of liv-

ing in Italy. Official Rome com-

muniques obviously protest too

much in denying disaffection

among army and navy officers

and among the people general-

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

Moreover, Hitler cannot him-

self afford to mark time. He

has to keep his forces in mo-

tion-and victoriously in mo-

last suggests that he is confident | tion at that. It is safe to as-

that the Nazi military machine sume that he will begin to

alone is sufficient to deal with move again-and soon.

The Local 544 executive board met, surveyed the situation and

While conceding all this, the dent that it must be fought judge has given credence to a few of the thousands of viciously antilabor charges by the finks, who were attempting by this suit to have the union officers removed judge used the occasion of his original decision to order the union to remove Carl Skoglund from his conduct of the trial and the selec- LABOR'S ARMY ASSEMBLES post as 544 president-on the grounds that Skoglund was not According to the evidence at the days show that the whole labor yet a citizen. (Skoglund is still a general milk-drivers strike, call-According to the evidence at the days show that the whole labor Chatham trial, Waller had shot movement is of one mind on the president. Nothing was done about on the guaranteed wages of the the judge's order, pending a hear-

> Now the judge has gone a step of Wagner because a few filthy finks claimed that Nick "intimidated" them. If this precedent were to stand, bosses everywhere would send their stool pigeons and finks into unions to cook up case against the officers, drag them before an enemy court and ion is to follow.

BOSSES DEMAND BLOOD

There is no doubt that the pressure of the employers on Judge Organization of the defense is ed the union elections are fairly Carroll must be terrific. The bosses through the fink suit are fense League, which is appealing the union has acted within its out to "get" the militant union for urgently needed funds to save rights in using its funds to con- which for six years has turned Waller's life. The League's na- duct strikes, to defend arrested aside every other blow they have sought to deal it. But this time St., New York City, David Clen- bor organizations, to donate to the Carroll has gone too far. At Farmer-Labor Party, to assist in whatever the cost, Local 544 means, to establish its right to conduct its own affairs completely free from intervention by the biased courts who use their legal cil stand powerful oil and bank. Transferred For position to sanction the rotten ing interests who would move charges of a handful of finks fin- heaven and hell to break the un- Mass Negro Arrests anced and guided by the bosses.

Throughout the nation, in Washington and in every state capitol and industrial center, the bosses and their politicians are getting The German legions that have tories in Albania are satisfactory set to swing on organized labor. The courageous stand of the Vultee strikers stopped the enemy for a moment. Now Local 544 and the Minneapolis union movement The example of this brave fight should give new confidence in its own organized power to labor ev-

Nazis Arrest 90 Trotskyists in the

Paris Region

The DAY. Jewish daily newspaper, publishes the following dispatch in its Dec. 10

"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 nine underground printing

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

Local 133 of the Teamsters Un: ion has turned the lock-out intoon the guaranteed wages of the ing on the motions to amend his retail route drivers and four additional days vacation with pay.

The lockout, and now strike, further and ordered the removal 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 have the court behead the union the labor leaders here that the and lay down the policies the un- 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. Lending strength to this belief is the fact that coincident with the breakdown of the negotiations of Local 133 for a new contract with the Dairy firms, several key compa-Dairy firms, several key companies in bottling, baking, trucking and furniture hauling have refused to renew their union contracts. 19 Cops, 2 Judges Behind the Houston Dairy Coun-

ALL UNIONS COOPERATE

ions of this town.

have already been pledged all pos- arrests and jailings of 565 Negroes sible support from the CIO and in the North Philadelphia 20th Railroad Brotherhoods here, as Ward on November 16, have been

Public sentiment is clearly on the side of the strikers, despite the horrible picture of dying bamean to challenge the whole reac- bies which the bosses have been tionary union-smashing campaign 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. The sentiment in favor of the union is strengthened by effort to clean up petty crimes the fact that everyone knows how in the neighborhood, were really the milk trust, including the huge Borden outfit, has been "milking" munity which refused to vote the consumers for years.

While no retail milk deliveries are being made, special arrangements have been made to see that milk gets to the hospitals and similar institutions, and home consumers can gt all the milk they want by fetching it them-

drivers will not only stiffen the No charges were placed against teamsters organization, but will them. They were given no iminspire the cutire labor movement mediate hearings as the law prohere to fight down the growing vides. And were held on bail of common labor and 5 cents an hour boss offensive. The rank and file as high as \$800. of Local 133 are clearly determ. Those who protested at this ou- leaders assailed the employers' ined to make the milk trust come trageous treatment were roughed move as a desperate attempt to rade Carlson will speak before lo sponsoring the tour, has an-Communists.' The Nazi secret police have also uncovered across with a greater share of the police. Twenty and outmancuver the efforts of the cal Negro organizations on special topics dealing with the health

Houston milk shed.

"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 apsolutely 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 oustomer, 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

"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 Lumber Strike

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

PORTLAND, Orc., 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 side of the Navy and asks to belp workers of both the AFL and CIO have joined hands to wrest decent put an end to the policy that perwages and working conditions from Weyerhaeuser and the rest of mits Negroes to become only mess the lumber barons.

PHILA. BOSSES TRY TO QUIET

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5-19 Although the strike is just in policemen and 2 magistrates, inits second day, the milk drivers volved in the illegal mass street 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 eivil suits against the police

The raids, made allegedly in an reprisals against the Negro com-Republican in the last elections.

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 off the tie-up, the managements A clean-cut victory for the dairy random. No warrants were used.

stand up all night. '

 Logging camp and saw-mill operations in Portland, Seattle, Everett, Tacoma, Morton and a score of other lumber towns are at complete standstill. By last night the number of

estimated strikers rose to over 30,000, with the end of the walkout spread not yet in sight. The pledge of the joint conference of the representatives of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union (AFL) and the International Woodworkers Union (CIO), which met in Centralia, Washington. last Sunday and agreed to united strike action, to effect "as broad a tieup as possible," is being fulfilled. The strike appears to be heading toward a shut-down of every camp and mill from the Canadian border to the California

The major demands of the strikers, formulated at the Centralia meeting by 350 rank-andfile delegates from 76 local unions representing 45,000 timber workers, are for a minimum wage increase of 71/2 cents an hour and one week's vacation with pay.

The two unions agreed that any plant closed under a particular union would re-open under the same union.

OTHER UNIONS AID Representatives of the Inland

Boatmans Union (CIO), and the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Masters, Mates and Pilots Some of the vicious acts of the (AFL), who attended the conferpolice were vividly disclosed at ence, pledged the timber workers a mass protest meeting of Negro their full support. The sailors and boatmen have refused to haul of "Trotskyist Anti-War Party" re many Negro groups in Minnesota. any scab lumber.

As a last-minute move to head-

streets and public places just at of 13 mills in Portland and the Columbia basin had announced, in response to requests from com | social and economic problems two-days before the general strike call, a 212 cent hourly raise for more for skilled workers. Unlou speak. thirty of them were packed to-workers to obtain a minimum problems of the Negro people up move flopped miserably.

On "National Defense" 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,

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

bination to weaken the lawful the power to Jim Crow Negroes.

good order and discipline." DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

In 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 outguilty of "lessening the respect due his commanding officer"!

That, at least, is the viewpoint of the officer caste that runs the mistake of urging as a solution hibits discrimination in the U. S. Navy." 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

This was obviously a move to find jail, which would indicate that out who was the "brains" behind

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 sub-paragraph 7 of Article 8 of even if all the men had been set Chapter 1 of the Articles of War, free. Indeed, the fight must goon as long as the officer caste con-"Or joins in or abets any com- trols military training and has

Courier in its issue of December in the story entitled "Here Are In addition to this charge was Six More 'Chambermaids' You another "conduct prejudicial to 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 ships and every day violates the "that the Negro youth of Amerlaw passed by Congress that pro- ica cease to enlist in the

> 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

The latest developments in the given "undesirable" discharges. Philadelphia case point once again (A discharge of this nature differs to the need for the Negro people from a dishonorable discharge to join in the struggle for a sysin that it does not deprive the tem of military training under man of his civil rights. It is a the control of the trade unionsdischarge, as the Navy officers take control and power out of the call it, "for the good of the serv- hands of the Jim Crow and antilabor officers and put it in the

Grace Carlson On National Tour

Dr. Grace Carlson, who as our and which she has presented in candidate, under the designation highly successful fashion before ceived 8,761 votes for U. S. Senator from Minnesota, will make cularly interested to know that a coast-to-coast speaking tour Comrade Carlson will endeavor starting January 2.

rades and sympathizers in all which confront women under caparts of the country who have ex pitalism, and in particular, the pressed their keen desire to mee problems of women in industry Comrade Carlson and hear he: under war-time conditions.

she has made extensive studies days.

Women workers will be partiduring her visit in each local com-The tour is being undertaken munity to hold conferences on the

The National Committee of the By special arrangement, Com- Socialist Workers Party, which is nine underground printing presses of 'left Communists'."

the creamy profits which it has gether in cells built for four or been skimming from this great five people. They were forced to