

Whistling In the Dark

The Norfolk "Ledger-Dispatch" of May 18 tries to make believe that the Negro masses are highly satisfied with their conditions...

From this, the wise editor concludes that the Negro masses are too ignorant to become revolutionary.

Most of them would laugh at the idea of a revolutionary movement directed against the existing order.

Uh, huh! They would laugh—but with joy! The editor goes on to argue himself out of any anxiety.

That's for the masses. And the leaders, the educated men, such inspired and towering figures as Dr. Moton...

Oh, yeah! To be "without education" because of Jim Crow, discrimination, and to go "along the path they are now treading"...

That's why the capitalist editor is whistling to keep up his spunk.

A New One

We happened to run across it, the "Louisville American," when the sixth of a series of articles appeared.

"Over-industrialization in America at the expense of agriculture has put us in a position where work must be supplied for approximately six million men..."

"Are you hungry? Go 'way and reforest! Do you want a job? Shucks, no! What you need is a hickory tree..."

We nominate the editor of the Louisville American for the Pulitzer prize for monumental jackasses.

would mean to insure the death of every one of them.

(5) He agreed to let Charlie Weems and Clarence Norris go to trial together, thereby sealing the death warrant of both; he placed Norris on the stand as a witness for the defense...

(6) He did not call or even investigate, nor even ask for time to investigate, the many known eye-witnesses...

(7) He shamelessly cooperated (as he had promised in open court he would) with the prosecution by abstaining from questioning the state's witnesses...

(8) He did not even express during the court proceedings any desire for an acquittal, nor any thought that the boys were innocent...

(9) He refused three times, in the three cases, to speak to the jury; he refused to ask for an acquittal, and when asked by the court whether he would do so...

The LSNR and ILD, being interested only in saving the lives and liberty of the boys, could not permit the Ku Klux Klan lawyer, who is the only one the NAACP has as yet publicly claimed as its attorney...

The LSNR calls again, as it has from the first day, for a united front of all forces who are willing to fight for the unconditional release of the nine innocent Negro boys...

LEAGUE OF STRUGGLE FOR NEGRO RIGHTS. B. D. AMIS, President. CYRIL BRIGGS, ROBERT MINOR, WM. L. PATTERSON, For the Executive Committee.

court under its present government of white "supremacy." Anyone who thinks otherwise is a fool.

The attitude of the NAACP is: "Let the Alabama courts decide after 'a fair trial.' Then, if they are innocent, they will be freed."

But it is impossible for the LSNR to agree with the NAACP that the first thing to do is to respect the courts of Alabama that have framed up the boys...

We must handle this case in the Alabama courts, where our boys have been dragged by force to be tried on the frame-up...

But is any fool so naive as really to think that the court will not condemn them again to death or prison if the masses of people are not aroused...

The NAACP wants, more than anything else, to stop the mass movement which is the only thing that has brought a hope for the condemned boys...

It is clear that the boys were taken into court only as a legal cover for the lynching. But all of the lynchers, the lynching court, the prosecutors...

The LSNR and ILD will proceed more vigorously than ever to call for a united front of millions of black and white men and women and youths...

The NAACP says: "The NAACP has already instructed its lawyers and cooperated as far as possible in legal defense with all other lawyers working in behalf of the nine boys..."

The LSNR and ILD have been entrusted by the nine Negro boys, all their parents and by the masses of Negro people and the working class...

Although the NAACP says under date of May 18th that it has "already instructed its lawyers to cooperate," we must say that up until the present time not one single lawyer claiming to represent the NAACP has presented himself to either the ILD or the LSNR...

The only lawyer whom the NAACP has ever declared publicly to be employed by the NAACP for this case is Stephen R. Roddy. This lawyer on the day before the case came up in court gave an interview to the Chattanooga Times...

The NAACP has announced as being employed by them for the Scottsboro case, Mr. Roddy, who appeared in the official records of the trials as "attorney for the defense" conducted the "defense" in the following manner:

- (1) Consented willingly to take the boys to trial for their lives on April 6th, not even asking for a postponement, seven days after their arraignment...
- (2) Openly in court he promised to cooperate with the prosecutors who were framing up the 14 year old Negro boys...
- (3) His first and only speech in court was a long harangue on the subject of who would get whatever fees might be paid for acting as official attorney for the boys.
- (4) He did not ask for separate trials for the boys, although knowing that not to do so

Statement of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights

upon limiting the purpose to "but one object, and that is, a fair trial for them before the courts and exact justice to them regardless of race."

Why does the NAACP want to change the purpose from "saving the boys from prison or death," to the purpose of what it calls "a fair trial?"

Some persons might think that, since the boys are innocent (as they are, and as the NAACP knows, although it does not say so in its statement), it is only necessary to ask the Alabama courts to give them "a fair trial for them before the courts and exact justice to them re-

gardless of race"—and then the Alabama courts will free them. This way of talking will appeal only to persons who know nothing about Alabama courts or about capitalist "white supremacy" courts generally.

There can be no such thing as a "fair trial" of Negro boys accused of rape in an Alabama

You're getting to look like me more and more, brother, now that Green and Woll have been fighting wage-cuts!



PARTY LIFE

Conducted by the Org. Dept. Central Committee, Communist Party, U. S. A.

Section-Functionaries Must Participate in Every-Day Activities of the Units

By LIL (National Training School)

In an article by Comrade Flaiani, published in the Party Life column of May 19, we read:

"These tendencies lead toward the development of the worst form of bureaucratism, which does not serve as an example to the membership and does not encourage the rank and file to work. The Sections must analyze this situation at once and guard against the development of such a kind of leadership in the Units. The Unit Buros must participate in the every-day routine work of the Unit and must also guard against functionaries whose tendencies are that of only giving instructions to others."

While it is correct that such a situation exists in some of our units in New York, one must not stop there, however, but must go a little further. The unit functionaries develop such an air of "superiority" and merely give instructions to the membership, without themselves participating in the every-day routine work of the units, because they receive instructions from the sections in the very same manner.

The section functionaries must not be detached from the every day work of the units and should devote at least one night to unit work. The most experienced comrades in the sections must give guidance to the membership not only by word of mouth, but in the direct process of carrying out decisions must show the less experienced comrades how best to do it.

In order for the Unit Buros to overcome the disease of "superiority" it is necessary for the section functionaries to get rid of the same malady, thus assuring correct guidance and leadership.

This active participation of leading Party committees in the lower Party organs must, also apply to district functionaries in regard to section committees, and central committee members in relation to district committees, wherever conditions permit this direct contact.

The Party membership must carefully watch such bureaucratic tendencies and in a frank, self-critical manner bring up and correct any such manifestations of bureaucracy.

What the Ill. Miners Will March for, on June 12-14

By PHIL FRANKFELD.

PREPARATIONS are proceeding apace for the State Wide Hunger March to Springfield, Ill., on June 12th to 14th. In the So. Illinois coal fields a series of mass meetings are being organized, workers' organizations visited and Unemployed Branches being built.

Amongst the miners, the question of unemployment is a burning one. The problem of unemployment is nothing new amongst the coal miners. Tens of thousands of miners have been thrown out of the industry—permanently—as a result of mechanization of the mines.

But now the situation is intensified greatly. The present crisis has hit the mining industry with particular fury. The crisis continues to deepen and grow, especially in the soft coal fields (as well as in the anthracite). The St. Louis Post Dispatch stated that "for the first 92 working days in 1931, production declined by 6.9 per cent as compared with 1930. This is the lowest production figure for the past ten years."

Today, whole mining towns are unemployed. In others, the vast majority of miners are jobless. Some mines have been down for 2 years, others for 13-18 months, and others for a period of 3 to 9 months. Starvation, misery, poverty have tremendously increased in the past period. Until now, a certain amount of "relief" work was carried on by the United Shanties, Red Cross, and Salvation Army. This relief work was simply a question of handing out crumbs to the miners—to keep body and soul together.

Whole mining communities are in a stage of becoming pauperized! No work can be found anywhere—or even bought. The miners come to look at the \$2 or \$1.50 "relief"—as they are getting in Christopher from the Salvation Army as a means of getting by. Demoralization and passivity reigns supreme. A little fishing, a little truck farming, come in to help along. But capitalism today, is tending to develop a mass of paupers—miserably destitute and impoverished workers, without any possible means of selling their labor-power, and dependent upon the lousy handouts of charity as a means of existence. This can be clearly seen in the coal fields.

The capitalist newspapers report that even the fake charities are closing down, and cutting

off "relief." From Pana, Ill., the report for May 8th states that "Pana Food Distribution Ends." Chairman Brown of the local United Charities, announces that food and clothes distributions has ended in Pana. From Harrisburg, Ill., where fully two-thirds of the miners are jobless, the newspapers of May 8th announce: "Relief Funds Exhausted. Charity office at Harrisburg closed." The Red Cross in Christopher, Ill., has stopped its "relief" to the miners there. This town is also hard hit by unemployment.

An appeal appears in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as follows: "Asks for Food and Garden seed for needy farmers. Mrs. Francisus announces that other aid is lessening in district southwest of city (St. Louis)." Further on, on this same news item states: "Many families of miners have been unable to plant gardens and have been living on greens gathered in the woods." (May 10 issue of Dispatch). Yes, many miners have been gathering greens in the woods to live.

Summer will soon be here, production will decline further, many more mines will close, more miners will be unemployed—greater misery and starvation for a greater number of miners.

The unemployed workers of Illinois will march to Springfield. The miners, too, will march! They have lots to march for.

The miners of Eldorado, Harrisburg, Marion, Johnson City, W. Frankfort, Zeigler, Christopher, Buckner, Benton, Pana, etc. will march against unemployment and hunger on June 12th to 14th! The miners will march against the danger of becoming paupers!

The miners of Illinois will march against the miserable handouts called "relief" given to them by the Salvation Army, Red Cross, United Charities! Against the \$1 or \$1.50 a week to live on for themselves and their families!

The miners of Illinois will march against the "meals" of "greens gathered in the woods" against unemployment and the system that breeds unemployment! Against being forced to set up committees that go begging from store to store, and house to house!

The Illinois miners will march against the vagrancy laws that are responsible for their being jailed on the roads! Against the system that forces them to break into stores and steal a few cans of beans and a few pounds of pork for themselves and their families!

The miners of Illinois will march on June 12th to 14th for immediate relief and unemployment insurance at the expense of the coal operators and the appropriations of the county, state, and federal governments!

And while marching, we must build up strong Branches of the Unemployed; gain new recruits for the NMU, get the best and most conscious fighters into the ranks of the Communist Party! We must get the miners to understand that they are marching against the whole system of present-day society which produces untold misery, suffering, amongst the masses of workers; and on the other hand, produces a parasitical leisured class that enjoy all the good things in life!

On to Springfield!

The NAACP feels it necessary to reject the proposal of the LSNR and ILD, which is a united front "for the single purpose of saving the boys from prison or death," and insist