

# The Negro Misleaders on the Scottsboro Decision

Walter White, Speaking for N.A.A.C.P., Seeks to Disrupt Mass Fight

By CYRIL BRIGGS

IN a statement in the New York Times of November 8—the very day following the announcement of the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court reversing the lynch death verdicts against 7 of the Scottsboro boys—W. White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, expressed the pious hope that “prejudice from either side may be kept out of the retrial in Alabama and that the innocence of the defendants, of which we are convinced, may be clearly established.”

The only logical conclusion to be drawn from Mr. White's phrase of “prejudice from either side” is that he is referring to (1) the prejudice of the ruling class lynchers against the Scottsboro boys and the entire Negro people, and (2) the prejudice of the revolutionary workers in favor of the Negro masses groaning under a brutal national oppression, and in militant defense of the nine innocent Scottsboro victims of capitalist justice.

## WALTER WHITE'S PURPOSE

No worker will believe that Mr. White seriously imagines that the rabid hatred of the Alabama ruling class against the Negro masses has been magically wiped out by the decision of the United States Supreme Court—a decision wrested from this high court of American capitalism by the tremendous protest and mass fight of white and Negro workers in this country and of millions of workers and intellectuals throughout the whole world. What, then, is Mr. White's purpose in holding up before the masses the illusion that these Negro victims of capitalist justice can secure a fair trial in the Alabama lynch courts? Plainly, what he is seeking is not the unobtainable “impartial” and “fair trial” in the courts of the boss lynchers, but the disruption of the mass defense which alone can save and free the Scottsboro boys.

It is only this mass defense that has saved the boys so far, that has five times forced back the hands of the lynchers reached out to burn these innocent working-class children in the electric chair. And it is precisely against this mass defense that Mr. White and the other reformist leaders of the N. A. A. C. P. and the Socialist Party have levelled their attacks in the past. It is precisely this mass fight, with its unifying influence on the American working-class, with its relentless struggle against the whole system of Jim Crowism, lynch law and the national oppression of the Negroes, that American imperialism and its reformist lackeys fear.

IT is significant in itself that on the very day of the Supreme Court's decision, the New York Times should solicit statements on the decision from the white and Negro reformists who have consistently hampered and betrayed the struggle for the Scottsboro boys. Can anyone imagine that the New York Times does not know who has mobilized and led the fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys? The whole world knows that this fight is organized and led by the Communist Party, the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

Upon several of those occasions when the mass fight has smashed through the conspiracy of silence of the whole capitalist and “socialist” press, the Times has been forced to record the fact that all of the boys and their relatives had repudiated Walter White and the other reformist leaders of the N. A. A. C. P. and had endorsed and were staunchly supporting the militant defense policy of the International Labor Defense. Yet it was not from the Negro head of the I. L. D., Comrade William Patterson, or other white and Negro leaders of the I. L. D., that the New York Times sought to obtain statements on the present status of the case.

The tremendous growth of the mass fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys make it impossible

for the capitalist press to maintain its conspiracy of silence. It is now feverishly trying to rehabilitate the shattered prestige of the capitalist courts in the eyes of the working-class. It is seeking to disarm the Scottsboro mass defense by peddling illusions among the masses as to the “fairness” and “impartiality” of the courts. It carefully attempts to hide the real reason for the Supreme Court decision—the tremendous mass pressure exerted on the court—and attempts to interpret this decision, wrested by the working class from the capitalist oppressors of the Negro masses, the jailers of the innocent Scottsboro boys and of Tom Mooney, the murderers of Sacco and Vanzetti—as “proof” of the “impartiality” and “integrity” of capitalism, a court of last illusions. And in its attack on the mass fight, the capitalist press is mobilizing the white and Negro reformists for an even fiercer assault than these lackeys have carried on in the past against the Scottsboro defense.

MR. WHITE eagerly responding to his master's voice shows clearly that the N. A. A. C. P. misleaders intend to continue their insidious campaign to disrupt the mass defense campaign. The white and Negro workers and all those elements sincerely interested in freeing the Scottsboro boys must answer the capitalist press and the Negro and white reformists by further building and extending the mass fight on the basis of the concrete program of the I. L. D. for a united front from below.

## John Reed Club Artists Exhibition Now on at ACA Gallery, New York

TWENTY artists of the New York John Reed Club are at present exhibiting work on revolutionary themes at the ACA Gallery, 169 First Street, New York. The exhibition, which began on November 7, will continue until the 25th of the month. The work includes thirty-six paintings, drawings and lithographs, and among the artists and subjects are the following:

“For Refusing to Starve,” by Bard; “United Front,” by Gropper; “Attack on Bonus Army,” by Max Spivak; “Worker's Supper,” by Regler; “Miners,” by Quirt; “Das Kapital” (interpreted in lithographs), by Gellert; “Morgan,” by Hernandez; “On the Bench,” by Ishigaki; “The Park,” by Lozowick; “Injured Worker,” by Oley; “Sunday Morning,” by Reisman; “Miner's Funeral,” by Siegel; “New York's Finest,” by Burck; “Three Cops,” by Limbach; “New York Night—1932,” by Biel; “Farmers Uprising,” by Baum; “No Help Wanted,” by Soyer, and others.

The John Reed Club, whose art school at 650 Sixth Ave, is now reopening for a new term, invites all workers to the exhibition at the ACA Gallery.

## Noon at the Factory

By DOMINIC MUSARAFITI

*Whistles toot like whistles of boats  
That are ready for a picnic up  
the river.*

*There is the grinding of pistons  
Stopping abruptly.*

*But it is only dinner time—  
A dinner of dry food.*

*The Sandwiches are taken down  
From the pails on the wall.*

*They are chewed, but without  
enthusiasm,*

*By bored jaws.*

*With the rhythm akin to that of  
the pistons*

*Down in the engine room.*