

# Negro, White Reformists Spur Betrayal Against Scottsboro 9

By CYRIL BRIGGS.

The appeal against the lynch verdict sentencing eight of the Scottsboro boys to burn in the electric chair is to be heard before the Alabama Supreme Court on Jan. 18.

As the hearing nears, the Negro and white reformists are

redoubling their efforts to betray the fight against the Scottsboro frame-up and against the whole murderous system of Negro national oppression of which the Scottsboro case is a classical example.

The Negro press is being flooded with statements as to what is "being done" to free these boys by the N. A. A. C. P., by the Fellowship for Reconciliation, by the Inter-racial Commis-

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## s in Germany Pay Cut Order

was decided to give full support to the Bruening government and all its fascist measures.

In order to cover the real meaning of this further step against the workers, the Socialist leaders Wells and Breitscheid, said that this support was given to the Bruening gov-

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sion and other organizations of white and Negro reformists.

Are these gentlemen really fighting to FREE the Scottsboro boys and to smash this vicious murder frame-up of innocent Negro children? They say they are. But ARE THEY? Let the gentlemen speak for themselves. Not in the careful statements they release to the Negro press. Not in the studied speeches they make to deceive the Negro masses as to their true role as apologists for the bosses' lynch terror. Let them rather speak for themselves in the confidential letters they send out among their own group! From such a letter sent out by Howard Kester the cooperation of these traitors with the Alabama lynch courts is made clear for those comparatively few workers who may still be deceived by their lies. Kester, appealing for funds, writes:

"In the event that the Supreme Court grants a new trial we may hope for something approximating what might be reasonably expected under the circumstances. To hope for acquittal is to hope for the impossible and to run the risk of stirring up a Januishing institution—the Ku Klux Klan. If a new trial is granted we may reasonably hope for twelve or fifteen year sentences for the boys. Most likely it will be life imprisonment. Then we may hope for a pardon."

**Supports Boss Efforts To Brand Race as Rapists!**

Kester, who is one of the leading lights in the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and a bed-fellow of Walter White, Pickens, etc., hopes for 12 or 15 year sentences for the boys. Most likely life imprisonment! Mr. Kester raises the scare crow of the Ku Klux Klan as an argument why these innocent Negro children should not be released unconditionally. Kester supports the efforts of the Alabama boss class to brand the Negro masses as a race of rapists. And his grounds?

Because, says Kester, acquittal would revive the Ku Klux terror against the Negro masses! But it was this same Kester who in a secret report before a conference of the Fellowship of Reconciliation admitted the lynching of "at least 75 Negroes" in Alabama alone since last August. It is this same Kester who admits a general increase in the terror against the Negro masses!

Like Walter White and Pickens, Kester defends the boss courts which framed up these children, but attacks the revolutionary Negro and white workers who have protested vigorously against this frightful crime. In his letter, he warns against the growing influence of the Communists among the Negro masses. He attacks the militant methods of the Communists in exposing the Scottsboro frame-up and in rallying the international working class to the mass fight to free the boys. The Communists, he says, "are trying to bulldoze the state." Ignoring the fact that it was only this mass protest which stayed the murderous hands of the southern boss lynchers and forced a stay in the executions set for last July, Kester writes:

"To my mind the N.A.A.C.P. and the Interracial Commission followed the only logical and political method they could under the existing circumstances. Without the Communists, I believe the N. A. A. C. P. could get something that would approximate the reasonable—but never justice."

And the reasonable, in Kester's expressed opinion, is 12 or 15 years or "most likely it will be life imprisonment" for these innocent working class children, caught in the net of a murderous frame-up while engaged in the hopeless hunt for work.

Workers! The reformists are redoubling their efforts to betray the Scottsboro boys. We must increase a hundred-fold the fight to smash this hideous frame-up and free these innocent children! Organize demon-

What of it, Mr. Doak? Why shouldn't these leaders have been Reds? All the yellows and blacks are preaching to the workers submission, they preach acceptance of starvation, a starvation aggravated by the taunt of charity. The Reds, the Communists, are the only ones that point out to the workers that they have a right to demand a chance to eat and that the capitalists must be forced to provide them with food.

The chief of Mr. Doak, President Hoover recently declared over the radio that it is not the business of government to take care of the unemployed. This declaration is made by the chief of the same government which during the war paid the American capitalists many hundred million dollars for goods sold by them to Britain, France and Italy. Britain, France and Italy were unable to pay for the war materials they had bought in America. The American government then considered it its business to insure the American capitalists against certain losses. So the American government paid these bills.

Evidently it is the business of the American government to take care that the American capitalists should not be deprived of their profits on sales made to insolvent customers. But according to Mr. Hoover it is not the business of the government to see to it that the masses of unemployed workers be saved from starvation through adequate unemployment relief by means of unemployment insurance. The government says that it is its business to

strations and protest meetings! Rally the masses for the nation-wide demonstrations on Jan. 18! Build the fighting alliance between the Negro and white workers against the lynch terror, against Jim Crowism and national oppression, against unemployment and starvation!

Defend the Negro masses! Support the demand for the right of the Negro majorities in the Black Belt to decide and control their own government! Support the struggles of the colonial masses! Defend the Chinese Revolution and the Soviet Union! Down with imperialism and its bloody oppression of the working class and the national minorities!