

# The Labor Movement and the Sacco-Vanzetti Case

By WM. Z. FOSTER

THE American ruling class has dared to execute our comrades, Sacco and Vanzetti. In the face of a world-wide protest of the workers and notwithstanding the condemnation of everybody with even a tinge of liberalism in their makeup, the exploiters, throwing aside even the pretenses of legality, have ventured to do away with these two loyal champions of the working class. It was a brutal act of terrorism, which will bring no profit to the capitalists. It was a cynical example of class justice which will waken masses of workers to the hypocrisies and horrors of capitalism.

The Sacco-Vanzetti case far transcends in significance the framed-up charge of murder which furnished the technical basis of it. It is a political issue of the most vital importance. The workers in other countries understood this infinitely better than here. Hence, their monster demonstrations. The capitalists, strong and arrogant in their profits of imperialism, wrung from the exploited workers all over the world, saw in the Sacco-Vanzetti execution an opportunity to deliver an attack at the labor movement, through its most advanced section, the left wing. Hence, the tyrants struck their deadly blow.

In this great class drama what a sorry role was played by the men who stand at the head of the trade unions. Once again they have acted as agents of the employers. Instead of trying to save Sacco and Vanzetti and thus check this offensive of the employers against the workers, they have facilitated

their execution. Great mass strikes, militant demonstrations of all kinds were all that could have saved Sacco and Vanzetti. But these labor lieutenants would have none of such movements. They blocked every effort at real struggle against the executioners of our comrades. Their long course of treachery was climaxed in their last minute statements admitting the guilt of Sacco and Vanzetti (statements of A. F. of L., Chicago Federation of Labor, etc.) and asking that their sentence be commuted to life imprisonment.

The betrayal of the workers by their false leaders evidenced by such treacherous policies as support of the old capitalist parties, refusal to organize the unorganized, establishment of the B. & O. Plan, etc., receives just one more expression in their shameful failure to support Sacco and Vanzetti. It was such treason by the so-called leaders of labor that jailed Mooney and Billings and that has kept them imprisoned for all these years.

Sacco and Vanzetti are dead, but the cause for which they died goes on, fertilized by the blood of these new martyrs. It is our duty to make the capitalists pay as dearly as possible for these cold-hearted murders. Millions of workers all over the world are aroused and indignant at this attack upon their leaders and their organizations. It is our big task to point out to them the full political meaning of the Sacco-Vanzetti case, to teach them that the same forces that murdered our comrades are those that oppress the workers in the shops and subject them to the bitterest of exploitation.

The Sacco-Vanzetti execution must be the signal for a renewed struggle against capitalism on every front. One phase of this must be a drive to free all political prisoners. To the eternal shame of the labor movement such men as Mooney, Billings and others remain year after year in jail.

Every trade union, every shop must be made to ring with protests against the assassinations of their comrades. The masses of workers must be turned out to great memorial protest meetings in all industrial districts. August 22nd must be set aside as a day upon which the proletariat all over the world demonstrates against the murder of our comrades and for the emancipation of the workers.

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## WITHOUT THE BOSSES

Tune of America.

By MARGARET CHIKI.

All Comrades called to thee  
Ruthenberg of liberty  
To you we turned.  
Long did we want your lead  
To rid us with great speed,  
Of bosses proud and strong  
But it won't last long.