

What Is The Government?

(By Ben Gitlow.)

"Law and Order" is a phrase very often used by the newspapers and politicians. When workers go out to strike for more wages and better working conditions, the police beat them, the courts jail them and the militia shoots them in the interest of **Law and Order.** Bill Dietram

The crowd in this country who are actively engaged in the business of upholding Law and Order, would have the worker believe that the government which rules over him is a government of all the people, that the laws have been enacted for the purpose of protecting the lives of all the people from criminal acts.

Only Workers Can't Murder.

In most of the States murder is punishable by death. Should a worker kill his boss because he abuses him and pays him starvation wages, he would immediately be arrested and made to pay the penalty with his life. Workers have been needlessly killed in industry because bosses have refused to install safety appliances. Yet not a single boss has been sentenced to death for such neglect. Bosses enraged at workers striking to better their conditions, have hired armed gangsters and had workers murdered. Were any of the bosses hung? What happened to Rockefeller when his armed murderers in Colorado killed 12 innocent women and children? What happened to the Copper Barons, when Frank Little, at their request, was tortured and then lynched—murdered because he dared to organize the miners in Butte and vicinity in the I. W. W.? The answer is, Nothing. The pages of the industrial history of America are red with the blood of countless workers murdered by the capitalists in their mad desire for ever greater profits.

The bosses in their fight against the workers have a perfect right to defy the laws and murder unarmed innocent workers. The government which is supposed to insure Law and Order when it does act sends militia to back up the hired murderers of the capitalist class.

New Capitalist Government Acts.

The government is not the government of all the people. Governments are the governments of the dominant class in every country. The dominant class in the United States is that minority class which owns land, the factories, the railroads, the mines, the steamship lines, the banks and the wealth of the country; that class for whom the workers must work. This class, the capitalist class, uses its gov-

ernment to protect it in its right to rob the workers. It uses the government power to prevent the workers from attempting to assert their rights as a class. The government is the machine of the capitalist class to suppress the workers, to keep them in ignorance and servitude.

The laws of suffrage and the political institutions of the state are framed to make it impossible for the workers through elections to gain control of the government. The capitalist class would not give up its jails, its courts, its police, its militia, its army and navy, just because the workers voted for them to do so. They will in the future act as in the past. They will hold their soldiers in readiness to wipe out in bloodshed any successful attempt of the workers at the ballot box. When Bryan first ran for President, the capitalists thought him dangerous and radical. On election day the militia was under arms all over the country, to nullify the popular will if it elected Bryan.

How Workers Can Be Free.

The workers must realize that the capitalist government stands between them and emancipation.

The workers can only become free when they become the dominant ruling class in the nation. The workers must organize their strength—but not to gain reforms, which mean nothing. The workers must organize to take over the industries and wealth of the country. In order to do this they must overthrow the government of the capitalist class. They must then establish a Workers' government. The Workers' government must seize all the social property of the capitalist class, it must deny any rights in the government to those who do not work, and must organize a Workers' Army to protect the Workers' government from the murderous assaults of capitalist governments elsewhere.

The present system of society, which divides the population of a country into two classes, a privileged class and an exploited class, holds forth to the exploited, the workers, nothing but hard work, a bare living, unemployment and poverty with all its terrible consequences. To the privileged few, the capitalist class, it provides all the luxuries and comforts which the labor of the workers can produce. The cruel, mercenary government based upon the exploitation and butchery of the workers, declares to the workers that only under the penalty of death dare they challenge the system which maintains in idleness, comfort, and luxury—the capitalist class.

This is the Government: