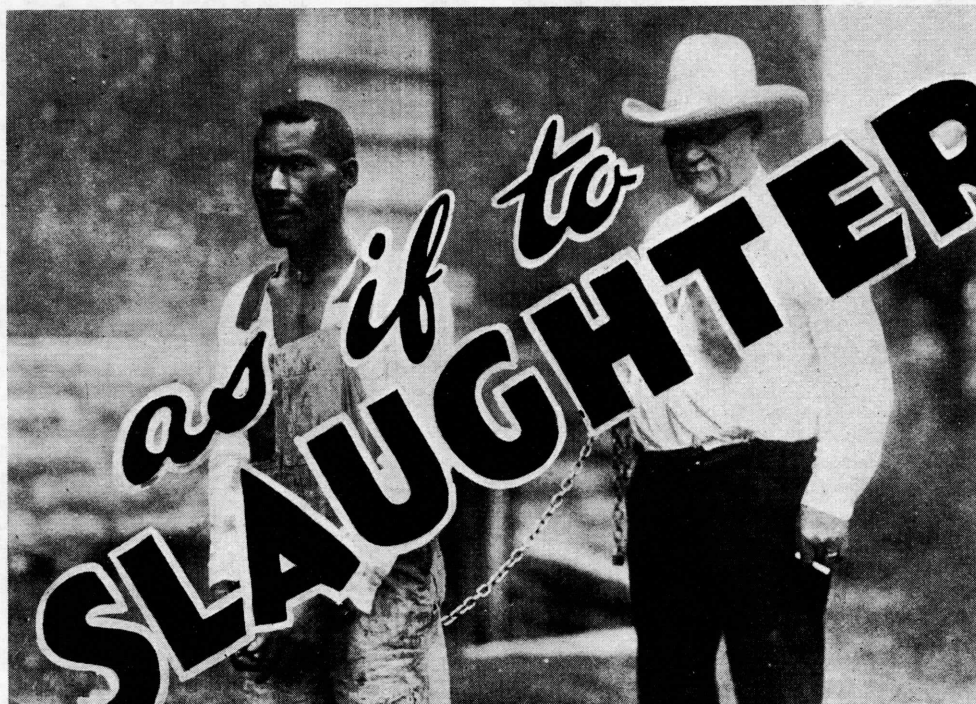




By A. JAKIRA

AT Sherman, Texas, a white mob brutally lynched George Hughes, a Negro, by burning down the prison where he was locked up for "safety." The furious savage mob then proceeded to ride through the city searching for more Negro blood to be shed, and burned down several blocks of houses in the Negro section. The government authorities, who are so vigilant when it comes to breaking strikes or disrupting workers gatherings and demonstrations, had this time, as on similar occasions, "become helpless and unable to cope with the situation." They permitted the wild orgy to proceed unhampered, making a few sham arrests and staging a mock investigation after the lynchers had achieved their purpose.

This savage act of the Texas mob, following closely on the heels of the brutal lynchings of John H. Wilkins, Dave Harris, Jimmie Levine, Laura Woods, Allen Green, John Hodaz, Chester Fugate and others which had taken place within the last few weeks. The cynical brutality which so strikingly marks all of the recent lynchings, is not accidental.

It is not a mere accident that all this takes place at a time when more than seven million workers, both white and Negro, are walking the streets in vain search of employment; that it takes place at a time when wages continue to be cut, when Wall Street goes through one crash after another, when the capitalists the world over are feverishly preparing for new imperialist wars, especially for war against the Soviet Union.

It is not an accident that this "new wave of lynching" appears at a time of growing unity of Negro and white workers, who

George Hughes, handcuffed and chained, being led to the courthouse by the sheriff. The photographer was tipped off by the authorities of the planned lynching, or how else would he have come to take this photo?



After dragging the body of George Hughes from the rear of an auto thru the Negro neighborhood, the lynchers hung the body from a tree and kindled a fire under it.

both feel the iron heel of exploitation, and at a time when thousands of militant workers, both white and black, who are fighting against unemployment and exploitation, are thrown into prisons; when workers' gatherings and demonstrations are

brutally broken up by the police and thugs; when an intense campaign is carried on against the foreign born workers; when many militant workers are threatened with legal lynching in the electric chair for their activities in the class struggle.

It is an old trick of the master capitalist class to pit one race against another, one nationality against the other in order to be in a better position to exploit the workers. This old trick always in operation in capitalist countries, is intensified especially during periods when the master class finds itself in a difficult situation in order to break the unity of the working class and to divert its attention from a militant struggle against oppression and exploitation. It was in the old czarist Russia, when the workers began to awaken and to organize against their oppressors, that the pogroms (race riots) against the Jews reached their height in brutality. At present in Rumania and Poland, two servile tools of imperialism, pogroms (mass lynchings) against the Jews grow in numbers and brutality. It is in this period, when the United States goes through a severe economic crisis, for which the capitalist class can find no solution, that "race riots" against the Filipino workers take place in California, that lynchings of both white and Negro workers are organized by the master class in various parts of the country. The capitalists class and their government are directly responsible for the bloodshed in Sherman, Texas, and in all other lynchings.

The International Labor Defense in co-operation with other class struggle organizations is carrying on a persistent and militant struggle against lynchings and the entire lynch law system. It calls upon all workers, both white and Negro, to unite and jointly fight against lynching.

TO HELL WITH THE LAW—WE'RE FROM TEXAS

By Holloway



Cartoon from the Pittsburgh Courier, weekly Negro newspaper.