

# NEW MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Workers Party of the U.S.

VOL. I. NO. 16

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1935

PRICE 3 CENTS

## THE CRIME OF SACRAMENTO

AN EDITORIAL

The conviction of eight leaders and active workers of the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Union, and consequent sentence to the penitentiary, is a crime of the first magnitude, not only against the individual victims but against the entire working class of America, against all forces in the country working for a better and happier future.

A blow has been struck at Sacramento against labor rights painfully acquired in generations of bitter struggle and sacrifice. Reaction, conspiring in the dark to thwart all the aspirations of the oppressed people for a better life, has scored a victory. Eight militants will pay for that reactionary victory with the loss of several years of liberty. The workers everywhere will pay for it in their struggles against exploiters emboldened by the precedent.

Those guilty of the Sacramento crime are, first of all, the industrialists and bankers of California, their cover organization, the Associated Farmers, and their agents, the prosecuting attorneys, the court, the vigilantes and deputies, the police and the hired stool pigeons—the whole state apparatus of repression and oppression.

Accomplices in the crime are the cynical and corrupt leaders of the Communist Party who shamefully subordinated the interests of the defendants to an internal party factional struggle against them, and sacrificed the class interests involved in the case to sectarian considerations in the struggle against another party.

They played down the historic case and robbed it of the national prominence which was its due; they kept the defendants—members of the Communist Party—in jail for six months before the trial, refusing to provide bail for them; they broke up the united front movement of defense and protest; while the trial was on they slandered one of the defendants, Norman Mini, who is distinguished only by his superior intelligence and integrity; they imposed courtroom tactics on their attorney which worked exclusively to antagonize the jury and jeopardize the chances of the defendants.

Despite all this the jury had to deliberate 66 hours before reaching a verdict. Four jurors held out for acquittal, finally consenting to a horse-trade which convicted eight out of fifteen defendants. A powerful united defense movement, an intelligent courtroom policy and a loyal attitude toward all defendants would undoubtedly have brought a different result at Sacramento. The American working class will do well to probe this tragic experience to the bottom. The day of reckoning will come for the capitalist perpetrators of this crime and also for their accomplices, the perfidious leaders of American Stalinism.

## NY Left Wing Leaves YPSL And Joins WP

Resign as a Group in Protest against N C Decision at Buffalo

Twelve young socialists who have constituted the New York left wing group of the Young Peoples Socialist League have joined the Workers Party and Spartacus Youth League in a body. This is the first answer of the revolutionary socialists to the treacherous decision of the N.E.C. meeting at Buffalo declaring the advocacy of revolutionary views to be "incompatible with membership in the Socialist Party."

A public mass meeting to welcome the young socialists into the ranks of the Workers Party and the Spartacus Youth League will be held at Irving Plaza, Sunday, April 14 at 8 P.M. Dave Atkins, Julius Bertman, Manny Garrett, Joseph Carter and James P. Cannon will speak.

The statement of the young socialists clearly explains the reasons for their resignation and their adherence to the Workers Party and the S.Y.L. They record their repeated warnings against the Old Guard, the majority of the National Committee (Hoan-Thomas) and their criticisms of the vacillating, centrist "Militants."

**Analyses Confirmed**  
"Our analyses"—says the statement—"were completely confirmed by the decisions of the Buffalo meeting of the National Committee of the S. P. and the 'Victory' reports spread by the leaders of the New York 'Militants'."

"At Buffalo the majority of the national committee retreated from their plan to take immediate decisive action against the Old Guard. They gave them six weeks in which to consider a compromise proposal. At the same time a heavy blow—this time a serious political one!—was directed against the true revolutionary elements, that is, against those who favor the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. According to the N. C. majority revolutionary socialism has no place in the S. P. and the Y.P.S.L. Or as the suave 'Militants' would have it: revolutionary Socialists can remain in the Socialist movement only if they do not propagate a revolutionary program! For what is the essence of revolutionary so-

cialism if not the revolutionary way to power?

"Politically the Hoan-Thomas majority are far closer to Oneal and Lee than to revolutionary Marxism. A split with the latter will not make Thomas and Hoan revolutionary Socialists or the Socialist Party a revolutionary organization."

The statement cites the entrance of the Belgian Labor Party into a capitalist coalition government as a warning sign as to the preparations of the Labor and Socialist International for a new war on the side of the national capitalist class. A repetition of the betrayal of 1914 can only be counteracted by the organization of revolutionary parties of the Fourth International. That is why they today, when war may soon be a reality, join the Workers Party and the Spartacus Youth League.

**Struggle Against Reformism**  
"We call upon those who do not as yet agree with our views or the step we are taking to give serious consideration to what we have said. For we are convinced that only on the program of revolutionary Marxism, and through the medium of the revolutionary parties of the Fourth International can we defend the immediate interests of the working class and bring about triumphant world socialism. We are no less convinced that those of you who conduct a serious struggle against reformism in all its forms will come to the same conclusion and join the Workers Party and the Spartacus Youth League."

The signatories are: David Atkins, member of the S. P. 7th A.D., Bronx, two years; member of Y.P.S.L., Circle 4 Srs. Bronx, 4 years. Julius Bertman, member of S. P., 7th A.D. Bronx, two years; member of Y.P.S.L. Circle 12 Srs. Bronx, five years. Edward F. Dawley, Circle 6 Manhattan Y.P.S.L., two years; Evelyn Dorum, Circle 6 Manhattan, one and a half years. Frances Levinsky, Circle 13 Srs. Manhattan, seven months; Marion H. Berkowitz, Circle 14 Srs. Bronx, three years; Sam Roth, Circle 13 Srs. Manhattan, one and a half years; Edward Rosen, Circle 1 Srs. Bronx, three years; Alice Falek, Circle 8 Srs. Manhattan, two years; George Fletschman, Circle 3 Srs. Bronx, one year; Freda Lapedas, Circle 5 Srs. Manhattan, two years.

**JOBLESS DRIVERS ORGANIZE**  
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Unemployed drivers, helpers and inside workers of Local 574 met here recently and planned to form an unemployed organization. A large mass meeting was held. An Action and Organization Committee of 15 was selected to draw up a program, plan of action and list of demands.

# Akron Rubber Strike Impends

## Modern Strike Strategy DAILY STRIKE BULLETIN GAS HOUSE WORKER GAS WORKERS STRIKE 100% EFFECTIVE

**LAKEIDE COMPANY DISCONTINUES FREE SERVICE**  
According to the statement of the Laide Gas Light Company, the free service which was given to customers for the past several years has been discontinued. The company says that this is due to the fact that the cost of the service has become too high. The company says that it will now charge for the service.

**GAS HOUSE WORKERS STRIKE CRUSHING BLOW**  
The first day of the well-known strike of the Gas House Workers, which was announced on Thursday morning, the strike committee was at work. The day before had been a busy one. Before the strike had been announced, plans had been made for the strike. The strike is 100% effective.

**ON THE FIRING LINE WITH THE UNION SHOCK TROOPS**  
The union shock troops are on the firing line. The union is trying to force the workers to accept a new contract. The workers are refusing to accept the new contract. The union is trying to force the workers to accept the new contract. The workers are refusing to accept the new contract.

**STRIKE PAPER GOES OVER**  
The strike paper has gone over. The paper is now in the hands of the workers. The paper is now in the hands of the workers.

**WOMEN'S ROLE IN STRIKES**  
The women's role in strikes is becoming more and more important. The women are doing a great deal of work in the strike. The women are doing a great deal of work in the strike.

**MASS MEETING TONIGHT, 8:00 P. M. — ELECTRICAL WORKERS HALL**

Following the example of Minneapolis Drivers' Local No. 574, the striking gas house workers of St. Louis are publishing their own daily paper. A facsimile of the second number of the "Gas House Worker" appears above.

## St. Louis Gas House Workers Answer Bosses with Strike

Police and Scabs Fail To Terrorize Strikers; Two Unions Offer Aid

ST. LOUIS, March 30.—Swiftly and secretly Federal Union of Gas House Workers, No. 18799 struck a well-prepared blow for the right to organize. In this battle against the profit-gorging Laide Gas Co., the Gas House workers have taken up the cause of the entire laboring population of St. Louis.

As one man the gas workers followed the call of the union to blaze the trail for labor organization in the very heart of open shop territory. With the exception of a few incorrigible bootlickers the entire staff of Laide is on strike. From the main office to the coke plant to the street department and the meter readers the picket line marches for its rights.

**Daily Strike Bulletin**  
Even as the workers left their jobs the union headquarters was humming with activities, preparations having been completed before the plant was struck. So effective has their action been that directly with the declaration of the strike came the immediate issuance of a daily Strike Bulletin.

The "Gas House Worker", name of this bulletin, has been greeted with enthusiasm by the men on the picket lines. Already it has served as a solidifier of the ranks—a spur to new militancy and struggle. Here

### SUBSCRIBERS, ATTENTION

Watch the number after your name on the wrapper in which your paper is mailed. If the number after your name is the same as this number—16—it means your sub has expired and this is the last issue you will receive until we receive your renewal.

If you will send your renewal several issues in advance it will save work and expense in the office and insure your receiving the paper without interruption. Unless you do so you will inevitably miss some issues. No subscriptions can be back dated. Back issues will be supplied at the regular rates plus postage. Please cooperate!  
—Business Manager.

## Court Convicts 8 in Sacramento Amid Red Scare

Jury Acquits Six in Compromise After Sixty Six Hours

SACRAMENTO, April 3.—The Sacramento trial has come to an end. Eight of the defendants, including Norman Mini, were convicted, and stand to receive sentences of one to fourteen years. Six were acquitted.

The jury deliberated for sixty-six hours, taking one hundred and eighteen ballots before it reached a decision.

The defendants will be sentenced by Judge Lemmon on Thursday. At the same time an appeal for a new trial will be heard.

Those convicted were Norman Mini, Pat Chambers, Caroline Decker, Nora Conklin, Martin Wilson, Albert Houghardy, Lorene Norman, and Jack Crane.

Those acquitted were Jack Warnick, Fred Kirkwood, Harry Collett, Lee Hung, Mike Plesh, and W. H. Huffine.

The verdict bears out our statement that the trial was primarily directed toward smashing the Agricultural Workers Union. The eight convicted were the leaders of the union, the men the state was really out to get.

Of the eight convicted, two, Norman Mini and Lorene Norman, received the jury's recommendation for probation.

The jury came to deadlock, the "plants" who were fixed by the banks and farmer capitalists held out for conviction, while the bona fide jurymen held out for acquittal. The final verdict was a compromise.

The whole Sacramento police force was mobilized in and around the court house during the time the jury deliberated. The atmosphere was tense with the "red scare" stirred up by the presence of the police and by the flaming attacks in the capitalist papers.

Two of the jurors, interviewed after the trial, said they held out to the last for acquittals but compromised under pressure. They condemned Gallagher's provocative tactics, saying that there might have been more than four (there were two others) and they could have resisted the pressure. They admitted the convictions were a compromise forced by the anti-red sentiment in the city.

### N.U.L. Helps Win Strike

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — After 16 days of battle representatives of the International Association of Machinists (A. F. of L.) called on the local Unemployed League to help them in strike activity. The local responded to a man. The picketing was intensified. Five days after the League was called in the strike was settled successfully and a complete victory for organized labor in the Kanawha Valley was realized.

## Albert Lea Strikers Duped by False Lawyers - Serve 60 Days

MINNEAPOLIS, April 1.—The case of the eight Albert Lea strikers who are today serving 60-day jail sentences for "illegal entry" is of special interest to the Northwest labor movement because it poses sharply the duties of labor lawyers to their clients; and because, out of this case grew the dismissal of Julius F. Emme, progressive trade unionist, from his post as secretary to the Minnesota Industrial Commission—a situation which is causing most widespread reverberations within the Farmer-Labor party and the trade union movement in Minnesota.

On Monday afternoon, Feb. 4, a delegation from the Albert Lea local of the Independent Union of All Workers called on Mr. Potter of the Potter Foundry Company. The visit was due to a sudden campaign of discrimination against union members by Mr. Potter. Potter was most unsympathetic during the short discussion, and suddenly called for a group of scabs who were standing nearby armed with clubs to "throw the delegation out". A skirmish followed in

Guilty of Organizing



NORMAN MINI

## Scottsboro Boys Granted New Trial

Is Victory for Negro Rights; Struggle Must Be Continued

After four years of almost uninterrupted mass pressure from workers and working class organizations all over the world, the United States Supreme Court has granted a new trial to Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, Scottsboro defendants.

The verdict was based on the legal fact that in the court where the defendants were tried Negroes were barred from jury duty. The exact legal point upon which the decision is apparently motivated is the following:

"Whenever by any action of a State, whether through its legislature, through its courts, or through its executive or administrative officers, all persons of the African race are excluded, solely because of their race or color, from serving as grand jurors in the criminal prosecution of a person of the African race, the equal protection of the law is denied to him, contrary to the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States."

### Victory for Negro Rights

Unquestionably this decision is of tremendous importance insofar as it is the most unequivocal statement yet made with regard to the right of Negroes to serve on juries where members of their race are on trial. As such the victory cannot be too much emphasized for it represents a milestone in the struggle for Negro rights in America.

The decision will also apply to the five other boys who are still

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## CITY TENSE

## Goodyear Vote Overwhelming For A Walkout

By JACK WILSON  
AKRON, Ohio, April 11.—While Akron, seat of a war camp daily this week to Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone tire companies prepared a huge force of deputies to smash any strike, the rubberworkers were gaining strength but were in danger of making fatal errors in their battle against the rubber barons.

A strike vote at the Goodyear local was overwhelmingly for a walkout, according to a survey, and labor was heartened by the large number of workers who voted. Although the local seldom had over 1,000 at the largest rallies, nearly three thousand cast ballots.

The Goodrich and Firestone locals, always considered much stronger than the Goodyear union, are expected to show greater strength in their strike vote this Sunday and should pull out more than half the plants, which have nearly 20,000 workers.

### Danger in Strike Delay

The first danger that confronts the Akron workers is the possibility that they will be induced by William Green, president of the A. F. of L., to accept a compromise something like the auto-code agreement. Tactics of the national A. F. of L. chiefs so far have been purely those of trying to club Congress into passing the unsatisfactory Wagner bill through strike threats.

Waiting too long before actually striking in order to fulfill all A. F. of L. constitutional requirements has already seen one important week pass by and more delay will tend to cause a downswing in the rising strike sentiment. Meanwhile the companies ship carloads of tires out and stock all their warehouses in event of a shutdown. The company tactics continue to be that of provoking labor. Firestone, ordered by the National Labor Relations board to drop the company union, instead orders a strike vote to be taken by the company union.

### Company Maneuvers

This follows on the heels of similar moves by the two other companies whose company unions voted "overwhelmingly" against a strike. This was done for propaganda purposes as full page newspaper advertisements claim that only a minority of workers want to strike, according to their ballots!

Two citizens committees have been publicly formed for the purpose of averting a strike. Of course, alleged liberal ministers, and prominent business men head the list of potential strike-breakers. Union leaders refuse to give any date for the actual walkout on the theory that it would harm labor's chances, although it could hardly be before April 8. There is danger, though, that this is but a camouflage and no official strike will be called.

### Rank and File Restless

In that event, even the rubber companies think that a spontaneous rank and file movement will carry out the plans. In fact, the companies have taken every possible precaution to prevent a spontaneous walkout being effective this week, so restless is the mood of the rubber workers.

The most serious defect of the rubber workers is the lack of experienced strike leaders as time and again good strategy was not used to swing all labor behind the pending struggle. This seems to be overcome by the aggressiveness of the workers.

Issuance of a proclamation forbidding mass picketing, deputizing of hundreds of unemployed including National Guardsmen, erecting of barbed wire fences and other military precautions shows that the struggle will be a bloody one as workers refuse to allow any scabs to work while companies are determined to break the picket lines.

### Regional SYL Conference

REGIONAL CONFERENCE of the Spartacus Youth League To Be Held April 13-14 District No. One: New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pa. Contributions should be sent to Bill Streeter, c/o S. Y. L.

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