

THE SCOTTSBORO FRAMEUP

The quest for bread has brought nine innocent Negro boys to the shadow of death. Nine young colored youths hunting for jobs boarded a freight train on which were some white men and two hobo white girls. The white men left the train after a fight with the colored boys and telephoned ahead to Scottsboro, Alabama, about the affair. At Scottsboro the colored lads were arrested on a trumped up charge of rape. The girls at first refused to prefer any charges, but as they were themselves suspicious characters, probably prostitutes, the authorities were able finally to scare them into making these charges. At the trial, which was a farce, as trials of Negroes charged with such offenses in the South always are, the boys were convicted and sentenced to death.

During the trial there was a howling mob outside the courtroom which demanded death for the boys and cheered mightily whenever a conviction was brought in. This fact was made part of the testimony by the defense lawyer and will offer some chance to have the conviction set aside, PROVIDED WE CAN RAISE UP A MIGHTY PROTEST. The time for protest is short. For this unlit pyre of nine lives is to blaze July 10. It is up to you.

Are you helping the "legal" lynchers?

Unless you are doing your bit to help save these victims of white mob madness that generally ends in the brutal murder of some helpless innocent Negro, your silence, your passivity, encourages these murderers.

If you don't in outraged decency and fairness cry out in protest, your very silence necessarily lends endorsement to the perpetuation of these criminal atrocities that are a stinking blot on the justice and intelligence of our government.

Mob lynchings, burnings, shootings, hangings, now farcial court trials leading to more burnings and hangings, will continue if you don't protest and think. Colored workers, if you let these nine innocent youths be assassinated, their blood is on your hands.

The Socialist Party urges you to write and telegraph your protest and demand for a new trial to Governor B. M. Miller, Montgomery, Alabama.

PROTEST AND THINK

These Scottsboro frameups are only one of many such. To prevent them we must protest and think as well. The Socialist Party has a constructive program for fighting lynching, race prejudice, segregation, and poverty.

People often need a case of terrorism to arouse them. But when aroused, you should not forget so easily. What will you do when this case is over? We of the Socialist Party want you to remember that it is the system of Capitalism that is responsible for ignorance, lynching, and poverty.

The rich class, with the Republican and Democratic parties that they control by campaign contributions, want to get cheap labor for their farms, mines, mills, railroads and factories; that is they want to pay low wages. To do this they want to keep the workers divided by race prejudice, segregation, disfranchisement, and lynchings. If they can divide the workers along racial lines it is easier for them to exploit both groups. Every thinking worker, white or colored, wants to have all workers united, whatever their race, creed or color, so that they can get higher pay, higher standards of life, and better education. Every thinking worker, therefore, should support a party that is working to get rid of exploitation, segregation, race prejudice, disfranchisement and lynching.

The Socialist Party has definite remedies for these evils. We demand:

1. A FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LAW. This will protect the Negro worker from local mob violence.
2. A FEDERAL ANTI-CHILD LABOR LAW AND EDUCATION LAWS. This will prevent the illiteracy now prevalent in the South and give Negro children better chances for education in those states.
3. ADMISSION OF NEGROES TO JURIES AND EQUAL VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL RACES. If the Southern states still refuse to grant this, we, even in the North, can support the Socialist proposal to make representation in Congress depend on the number of votes cast instead of on the population, and thus reduce the representation and influence of those states which do not let the Negroes vote.
4. PART PAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED THROUGH A SYSTEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. If these boys in Scottsboro could have had decent unemployment relief where they lived, as we Socialists want, they would not have had to bum the trains hunting for jobs.
5. JOBS FOR ALL. The Government could provide decent work and decent pay for all if it was run for the interest of the workers instead of for the exploiters as the Democrats and Republicans run it now. Much race friction is due to the competition between members of the white and colored groups for a limited number of jobs. Jobs for all would go far to get rid of race prejudice.

Join the Socialist Party, Comrade, in our struggle against lynching, ignorance, and poverty, and our fight for better conditions for the workers of all races and creeds.

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