

The Murray-Lewis Conflict

By Farrell Dobbs

The Lewis-Murray fight is now on in earnest with Murray charging that Lewis is "hell bent on creating national confusion and national disunity."

The CIO executive board accuses Lewis of using his post in the miners' union to hamper the war effort, adding that District 50 of the UMW has stirred up jurisdictional disputes with a dozen CIO unions.

The miners' policy committee, in turn, has demanded that Murray remove all "Communists" from the CIO payroll, declaring that his failure to do so shall be "full and complete admission upon his part as accepting the principles of Communism, to wit, the overthrow of this government by force."

Events have moved rapidly since Lewis on May 28 removed Murray from office as vice-president of the UMW. Martin Wagner, one-time president of District 50, has resigned from the international executive board and is leading the opposition to Lewis in District 50.

UMW'S Demands On CIO

The miners' policy committee has made three formal demands upon the CIO: 1. enter unity conferences with the AFL; 2. acknowledge the debt of \$1,665,000 which the UMW claims is owed to it by the CIO; 3. cease the attacks on the UMW, its leaders and its organizational efforts.

Until these demands are met, the policy committee declared, the miners will withhold payment of per capita taxes to the CIO, such taxes to be deducted from the monies due them on the above mentioned debt which is now in dispute.

The UMW claims to have advanced over five and one-half million dollars in services and cash to the CIO between December 1, 1935 and May 1, 1942, plus almost one and three-quarter million dollars in per capita taxes. The CIO executive board, contending that all funds were put into the CIO without any strings attached, denies that it owes the above sum to the miners and has now formally declared the UMW "delinquent."

On the Question of CIO-AFL Unity

The policy committee supplemented its demand for unity negotiations with the AFL by declaring that "President Lewis is chairman of the standing peace committee of the CIO." The miners, they added, would not be bound by the actions of any peace conference between the AFL and CIO "in which the UMW is without precise and adequate representation."

The CIO executive board has countered by suggesting the establishment of a United Labor Council to be created by joint sessions of the AFL executive and CIO executive board. This is supplemented by a CIO proposal for a national conference to be called by Roosevelt's six-man "labor victory committee."

The internal fight in the CIO, long smoldering, broke into the open when Murray strongly opposed Lewis' surprise move last January proposing that AFL-CIO peace negotiations be resumed. Murray blocked Lewis at that time with Roosevelt's aid.

Lewis launched into the campaign to organize the dairy farmers and by the middle of March reported 30,000 members recruited in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and North Dakota. In April Lewis men began to resign from their posts in the CIO. Included among them were CIO regional directors and presidents and board members of state CIO councils.

(Continued on page 2)

Negro March Group Calls Rallies To Protest Jim Crow

Negro Militants Are Waiting for Randolph To Offer His Program to Achieve Equality

By ALBERT PARKER

The June 16 Madison Square Garden meeting to be held under the auspices of the New York Division of the March-on-Washington movement promises to be one of the greatest demonstrations against Jim Crowism in the entire history of this city.

Announcement was also made last week by A. Philip Randolph, director of the March-on-Washington movement and president of the AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, that the committee sponsoring the meeting was asking for a complete, voluntary blackout in Harlem on the night of June 16 as an expression of the Negro people's determination to win equality.

Business and church in Harlem be closed down during the meeting, that every social and recreational activity in Harlem be discontinued, that the window shades in every home be pulled down.

DEMANDS

The demands which will be raised at the Garden rally will include the following:

Full enforcing power for the Fair Employment Practices Committee, so that it can really compel employers to cease their practices.

(Continued on page 3)

SOLDIERS' FAMILIES TO GET STARVATION ALLOWANCES

Supreme Court Again Refuses To Act On Odell Waller Case

Mass Protest Is Needed to Prevent June 19 Execution

When the high priests demanded the crucifixion of Jesus, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor sitting in judgment, "took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just man."

Nine modern Pontius Pilates of the U. S. Supreme Court on June 1, for the second time within a month, washed their hands of the impending execution of Odell Waller, a poor Virginia Negro sharecropper condemned to die on June 19 for the self-defense slaying of his white landlord.

The Supreme Court judges refused to review the case without even saying why.

But if Waller dies, his blood will be upon those nine august justices, as much as on the Jim-Crow Virginia judge and the all-white planters jury who convicted Waller, and the southern courts which upheld the conviction.

For Waller never had a fair trial, and the Supreme Court knows it. He did not have a hearing before a jury of his peers. In Virginia, as in seven other southern states, the poll tax has served to disfranchise the vast majority of citizens, the impoverished whites and Negroes. They cannot vote; they cannot serve on juries.

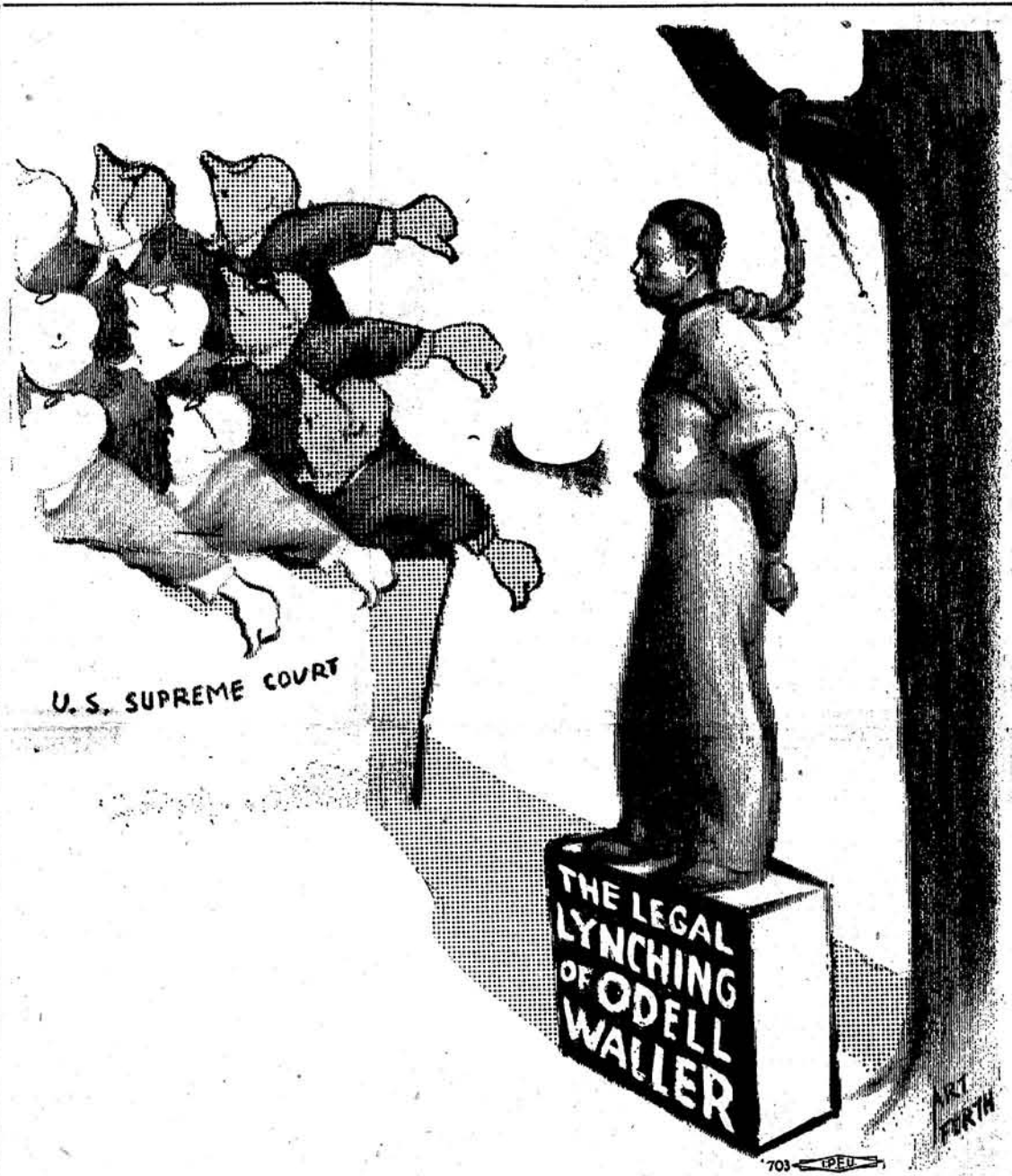
If the Supreme Court had ruled, as it should have, that Waller had not been tried by a jury of his peers, a great blow would have been struck at the poll-tax system. That is the system which permits a handful of ruling southern whites, the most reactionary scum in the country, to perpetuate themselves in political office.

But the Democratic Party's strongest base is that very southern ruling class which demands the death of Waller. That is why Roosevelt's Supreme Court would not even express an opinion on the case.

The original Pontius Pilate could seek to evade responsibility by claiming that the "multitude" — incited, of course, by the high priests and Pharisees — had demanded the death of Jesus. The Supreme Court's refusal to review the Waller case satisfies only the demands of a tiny minority, the southern ruling class.

But it does not satisfy the "multitude" of 1942, the millions of Negro and white workers and progressives who are demanding that Waller's life be saved. The CIO and AFL general counsels, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Negro March-On-Washington Movement, and a host of other organizations, are demanding that Waller go free.

Waller can yet be saved. Despite the Supreme Court's failure to act, one narrow gate remains open. Waller's counsel can appeal to the Federal District Court of Eastern Virginia for a writ of habeas corpus. If rejected there, he can appeal to the Circuit Court, and then, once more, to the U. S. Supreme Court. Meanwhile, Waller is already within



Senate Bill Prohibits Anti-Trust Prosecutions

Monopolies Given Free Rein Under Measure Advocated By Administration's Spokesmen

By WALTER FREEMAN

At the behest of Big Business, the Roosevelt administration and Congress are pushing through legislation guaranteeing the war production monopolies immunity from anti-trust prosecutions.

The Senate last week quietly approved a rider, attached to the House bill setting up the government's small war plants corporation, which gives WPB

chairman Donald Nelson power to suspend the requirements of the anti-trust laws and the Federal Trade Commission in connection with government war contracts.

This would permit the monopolies to violate the anti-trust laws with the authority and approval of the government itself.

The measure approved by Congress is similar to that proposed two weeks ago to the Senate Judiciary Committee by Attorney-General Biddle.

Under the Senate-approved measure, Nelson will be able to give the trusts the right to engage in such monopoly practices as pooling, price-fixing, sales agreements, etc. In this way, the war program is to be used to strengthen the monopolies now and help them to further entrench their rule over the economic and political life of the country for the period after the war.

Several months ago the materials shortage and production lag compelled the government to start anti-trust prosecutions for the release of joint American-Nazi patents. The corporations then began a terrific campaign to force the government to suspend the anti-trust laws.

campaign were the issuance of consent decrees on the corporations' terms in the anti-trust trials of Standard Oil and Aluminum Company of America.

A request from the War, Navy and Justice departments heads was sent to Roosevelt recommending that anti-trust prosecutions pending or in process should be suspended for the "duration" in cases where these might "interfere with war production."

Roosevelt made public this letter and his reply, approving this policy. He issued an executive order giving the War and Navy Departments and Maritime Commission power to halt anti-trust prosecutions, except where the President orders the contrary.

As a result of this order, the War and Navy Departments were able to secure the suspension of the federal anti-trust trial of General Electric for blocking the production of tungsten carbide in conformity with its patents-pool deal with Krupp, the German steel trust.

House Votes Dependents Aid Lower Than Relief Standard

New Bill Would Give Draft Boards Excuse To Cancel All Deferments for Dependency

Paving the way for drafting millions of men with dependent families into the armed forces, the House of Representatives last Monday passed a bill providing barest subsistence allowances for the wives and children of soldiers and sailors. The House bill is a slightly modified version of the one originally passed by the Senate.

This starvation allowance will give local draft boards an excuse for denying deferments on the grounds of dependency. The voracious demands of the war on a world-wide front already have virtually exhausted the supply of young unmarried men without dependents.

The House bill would provide families of fighting men with allowance even lower than the relief granted by many municipal agencies.

It would provide, in this period of high prices, only \$48 per month for a wife; \$62 for a mother and child; and \$10 for each additional child. This is less than the relief allowance of \$77.80 a month provided for a mother and two children by the New York City Welfare Department.

Furthermore, \$22 of this dependents' allowance would be paid not by the government, but out of the wages of the soldiers themselves, thus reducing their meagre pay by almost half!

Dependents other than wives and children, such as parents, brothers and sisters, are to fare even worse. These "secondary" dependents, as they are classed in the bill, are to receive \$5 from the service man's pay, plus the government allowance of \$15 for one parent, \$25 for both parents, and \$5 each for any other dependents, up to a total of \$50 for all dependents.

Thus, the men in the armed forces who are now facing death or preparing for the battle lines are getting an intimation of how a "grateful" capitalist Congress intends to protect their loved ones, and the kind of treatment they themselves can expect to receive when they return home jobless after the war.

GIVE AND TAKE

At the same time as the House voted on the family allowance measure, the Senate was passing the soldiers and sailors pay increase bill, raising the minimum monthly wages from \$21 and \$30 to the still inadequate \$50 and \$54. Congress passed this measure only after long wrangling and haggling. But it is adding the supremely brazen touch of taking away most of the increases by forcing the service men themselves to foot a large portion of the family allowance bill.

Congress' clear intent in passing the family allowance measure was revealed when the House struck from the Senate version of the bill a clause permitting the President to classify men for deferment on the grounds of occupation, disability and dependency.

This is to make certain that the local draft boards will have the power to deny deferment for reasons of dependency.

It is generally recognized that many Congressmen who voted for the family allowances and pay increases might, have opposed even these gestures had this not been an important election year, with most of Congress running for re-election.

The trade unions, which have tens of thousands of members in the armed forces, have a responsibility to defend the soldiers' and sailors' interests at home. It is the elementary duty of organized labor to protect the welfare of the families of the men in the armed forces, by demanding that Congress provide these families with allowances sufficient to enable them to live in health and decency.

The bosses may criticize the administration for not having gone "far enough" with its "wage stabilization" program, but they are deeply grateful to it just the same.

For as the authoritative Wall Street Journal of May 28 makes clear, it has become one of their chief weapons in opposing the demands of the workers for wage increases to meet price rises of the last year.

"Employer resistance to wage increase demands will be a by-product of Washington talk about stabilizing pay scales."

"Official line is hard to follow, industrialists say; there's been no clear anti-wage boost policy laid down. But an employer who wants to put up a fight against increasing wages has at least a left-handed encouragement. It's only a short step to 'unpatriotic' wage increases."

"The anti-trust laws suspension measure, if signed by Roosevelt, will amount virtually to a declaration of unconditional surrender to the monopolies."





