

Court Strikes Deathblow at Speech Rights

By Ben Gitlow

THE decision of the U. S. supreme court is a death blow to freedom of speech. Its constitutional guarantees are wiped out by Justice Sanford's decision upholding the N. Y. state criminal anarchy statutes. A set of laws are constitutionalized that can be interpreted to hold as illegal any expression of opinion in opposition to those in power. The decision will unquestionably be utilized to crush any movement of an economic or political character that strives to protect workers against injustices, to defend their interests and to better their conditions. This decision is part of the present move of the powerful capitalist interests to lower the workers' standard of living. This move is evidenced in the campaign to smash unions, to prevent workers from striking, as in West Virginia, to increase the hours of employment and to reduce wages. Characteristic of this campaign are the many vicious injunctions that are being issued by the courts against labor. With this decision the U. S. supreme court has definitely arrayed itself in support of this anti labor campaign.

The U. S. supreme court took almost two years to arrive at a decision after having heard the arguments in the case. It is rather unusual for the court to do so. The only explanation that can be given is that the majority of the court thinks the time is now favorable for the rendering of such decisions. When reaction is in full swing all over Europe the court feels it is good policy to strengthen the hand of reaction in the United States.

THE forces of reaction will seize upon this decision to begin a campaign of brutal suppression against the organized labor, radical, and Communist movements. The raiding and persecuting parties of the famous Palmer and Lusk days will be persecuted, deported and thrown into prison.

This decision further establishes the fact that the United States supreme court is not a defender of the rights and liberties of the people but is the servile tool of the capitalist interests who are bent on depriving the mass of the workers from organizing to combat the attempts of the capitalists to further degrade and subjugate them.

THIS decision directed against all labor the Communists realize will be used against them first because they represent the most militant section of the working class. The Communists know that the ground is being prepared for action against them. In the recent public statements of government agencies, chamber of commerce, church organizations, of those interested in establishing religious training in the public schools, etc., the need of combatting the Communists is advocated. Charges undoubtedly will be made that the Communists advocate force, violence and the use of individual terror. On the basis of the charges a demand will be made to either drive the Communists out of the country or imprison them. It is ridiculous to make such charges against the Communists. They emphatically oppose assassination and other forms of individual terror as a means for the workers to accomplish their emancipation from capitalism. The Communists in opposition to individual acts of terror and violence stand for mass political action by the working class. Against the organized power of the capitalists the Communists seek to organize the power of the working class. The Communists advocate the building up of the power of the workers on the industrial field by the amalgamation of craft unions into industrial unions and the organ-

ization of the unorganized workers. On the political field they advocate the uniting of the forces of labor for political action thru the organization of a labor party.

THE Communists however are sufficiently aware of the fact that the capitalists will never give up their power to the workers without a struggle. Whenever the workers fight for their interests they feel the wrath of the organized might of the capitalist class. During strikes workers are continually brutally treated and often murdered at the behest of the capitalist interests. The organized suppressive powers of capitalist governments, the courts, the police, the militia, and even the armies and navies are used against them. All over the world the workers are more and more realizing this. In China the imperialist powers, notably England, Japan and the United States have sent warships to China and have landed marines in Shanghai to suppress the fight of Chinese workers for humane conditions. As a result many defenceless Chinese workers have been shot down in cold blood. In Bulgaria the bloody Zankov regime tortures and massacres thousands of workers. In Poland the brave fighters of the workers are executed or doomed for many years to a living hell in foul dungeons. 8,000 workers are behind prison bars in Germany. Innocent workers like Tom Mooney, Sacco, Vanzetti and

many others are still kept in prison in the United States. These conditions typify the rule of capitalism because capitalism is based on force and violence. It uses force and violence and individual terror against the workers on the slightest pretext. The butchery of the world war is an example of capitalist force and violence. The Communists opposed to the bloody regime of capitalism will organize the workers to overthrow capitalism in the United States and to establish in its place a workers' and farmers' government.

Contractors Cause Unemployment and Weaken the Unions

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City Official Cement Owner.

John J. Sloan has large interests in granite and limestone quarries throughout the state of Illinois, also large holding in cement plants in the state. Sloan, therefore, has been fighting the asphalt paving contractors, such as the Standard Paving company, the R. F. Conway construction company, the American Asphalt company, and the White construction company.

Sloan in Scab Concern.

Sloan is also interested in the Union construction company. It was this company, far from being a union concern, that fought with Peter M. Shaunesy, president of the Bricklayers union No. 2, last summer, when the Union construction company began to lay all sewers with cement blocks instead of brick as had been done in the past. (See August, 1924 issue of the Progressive Building Trades Worker). The Chicago police department was used in this fight to keep the scabs from having their heads broken.

There is another fight now going on between the brickmakers and the tile makers.

Workers Pay For Fight.

The fight going on between the different paving companies and Sloan and his board of improvements is costing organized labor plenty in wages and in the strength of their organizations. This is because at the present time, because of the fight between the Sloan cement interests and

IN conclusion the capitalist interests who are jubilant over this decision should not forget that it will not put a stop to the activities of the organized workers and especially the revolutionary working class movement led by the Workers Party. The Communists cannot be gagged by such a decision. In the end the Communists at the head of all the forces of labor will be victorious over all the forces of reaction and capitalism.

the asphalt and brick interests, no work is being let to the contractors, and the large Chicago companies are closing down and laying their men off.

Thousands of workers are at this moment out of employment at a time when the season is at its height. It not only affects all of the asphalt workers, most of whom are Negroes belonging to Local 25, Asphalt workers union, but also hundreds of members of the cement finishers and plasterers local No. 502, as well as plasterers local No. 464, not to mention the thousands of members of the different laborers local unions.

Business Agents Do Nothing.

The business agents of the unions are taking no action in this situation, but are allowing the cement and asphalt companies to weaken the unions and throw thousands out of work because of the contractors' disputes.

ATTEMPT TO LYNCH NEGRO IN STATE OF ANTI-EVOLUTION LAW

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 17—Fearing an attempt would be made to lynch John Henry Wallace, negro accused of the murder of Everett Hedgcoth, a detachment of national guardsmen was sent to Murfreesboro. The negro went on trial there today.

The troops were ordered out by Governor Austin Peay at the request of the county judge, attorney general and sheriff of Williamson county.

Get a sub—make another Communist!

TO ELLA REEVE BLOOR

To those who carry on and never falter,
To those who never parley nor betray,
To those who scorn the dungeon and the halter,
To those whose deeds are flame to clear the way,
To those whose bleeding feet have walked the path
That only great souled ones have ever dared,
To those whose naked breasts have felt the wrath
Of blazing hate that scorched them and that scared,—

Come! Drink a toast! They are the gods immortal
Whose flesh may pass, whose spirits never die.
Come! Drink a toast! They live within the portal
Of victory, and urge us with their cry.
Fill up the glasses. Ready! Drink once more
A toast to her that joins them—Ella Bloor!

HENRY GEORGE WEISS.