

Mass Struggle Will Halt Lynchings

By Claudia Jones

(Continued from *The Worker*)

The Wall Street Bourbon lynch drive against the Negro people has ceased to be sporadic. For seven months each new outrage has shown that this lynch drive by the Wall Street monopolists and their Southern landlord-henchmen is a sustained one.

What we are witnessing are the lengths to which a corrupt capitalist system aims to go, its brutality—as well as its objectives.

Consider in this wise the complete breakdown of the federal and state processes of law and order, so recently admitted by the head of the Georgia FBI—where lynchers freely roam like hunters on human prey! Despite this, an assistant attorney general, from the office of U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark, told a youth-veteran delegation that the Department of Justice would take no positive action against the Ku Klux Klan and that it had no positive result of the 1,000 cases of violent attacks against the Negro people!

Consider, too, the refusal of the President of the United States to give protection to white and Negro anti-lynch witnesses in Georgia, or to demand that the evidence thus far secured be immediately used to prosecute those known to be involved in the brutal mob murder of four Negro citizens!

Yet, this is the same kind of "justice" for which certain American "liberals" recently spent millions of dollars to "save" the hanged Yugoslav traitor, Mikhailovitch. Noticeable in contrast, too, is the manner in which the government of liberated Poland swiftly moved to execute the nine anti-Semites who perpetrated violence against Jews in postwar Poland.

It is not amiss to tell anti-fascists that once before it was

their cry which rang around the world to "Free the Scottsboro Boys!"

Millions moved into action then—as millions must, and can, move now—because we knew that involved then as now—was not only the future of those nine boys, but the future of a whole oppressed people, the liberties of each and every one—of the entire nation.

A tremendous outline of this mass movement is in the making.

Negro women, meeting in the nation's capital, who never picketed before, threw a cordon around the White House in the dark hour following the Monroe, Ga., lynchings.

Thousands, embracing an entire city—as in Philadelphia—mourned the lynched dead of Georgia, unitedly, cutting across class and neighborhood lines.

In the largest single Negro community in the nation—in Harlem—the night after the Georgia Ku Klux fascist crimes, thousands of Negroes packed an entire city block, to head Communist and non-Communist spokesmen, in unity, express their deepest emotions—that our very lives were at stake.

At the Lincoln Memorial and before the White House, two mass gatherings, embracing tens of thousands, protested in anger under the auspices of the Southern Conferences for Human Welfare, the National Negro Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, supported by organized labor.

In Winston-Salem, N. C., in Alabama, and in Georgia itself, the Negro people, supported by AFL-CIO labor leaders and other democratic organizations, hurled their protests in the teeth of the lynchers.

As in Scottsboro, the voice of the youth of the world, through the World Federation of Democratic Youth, urged U.S. capture

and trial of the lynchers from across the seas—in Paris, as from Havana, Cuba, when their protests were heard through the National Federation of Cuban Negro Organizations. These and other actions finally compelled the President of the United States to speak out after six months of silence against lynch terror. But the record of lip service of the Truman Administration tells us that words are not enough. With the prime exception of the Communist Party, not a word has been uttered by either major party—Republican or Democrat. The Communist Party, moreover, is the only party who has matched its words of protest with its deeds.

Only systematic, sustained struggle and action on a mass and community scale will stop lynch terror. Such a struggle can, and should be, focussed around a movement to impeach Bilbo. Just imagine what millions can be stirred into motion and through mass struggle to compel his impeachment!

Bilbo is the virtual symbol of unchallenged lynch terror and "white supremacy." He has openly admitted Klan membership. "Once a Klansman—always a Klansman!" he has held.

The American people can, will and must meet this challenge.

To achieve success, however—unity is necessary.

Unity of Negro and white; unity of all Negro organizations and their staunchest ally—organized labor; unity of labor itself and its full realization of its crucial role in this crisis.

Only mass struggle of the American people—led by labor and its Communist vanguard—can rid the nation of a spectacle which is the real laughing stock of the world—namely, a nation which continues to preach democracy abroad while foully violating it at home.