

Expose the Lies of Our Enemies Build the NMU!!

Last week there appeared the most vicious of the operators' lying attacks on our union and the strike. These attacks are featured in the rather pitiful and very stupid leaflet entitled "Miners Expose Reds" distributed throughout the strike area last week. In this circular the united front of all enemies of the miners is completed.

STOOL PIGEONS, UMWA AND GUN THUGS

The leaflet was written by three stool pigeons within our own ranks, Harvey Collett, Finley Donaldson and Willard Rose, with the help of Judge Van Bebber and County Prosecutor "Spider" Smith. It was printed with money supplied by the Bell County coal operators. At the demonstration in Pineville, Feb. 10th, it was distributed at the Court House steps by Turnblazer, district president of the United Mine Workers of America. Turnblazer was protected from the angry miners while he distributed the leaflets by the deputized gun thugs of Sheriff Broughton, part of the same murderous crew who killed our leader, Harry Simms.

The lineup of the enemies of the miners is now complete — Stool pigeons write the leaflet. The coal operators print it. Turnblazer of the UMWA distributes it, while gun thugs protect the distribution.

WHO ARE THE MEN THAT WROTE THIS LEAFLET?

Finley Donaldson is a striker from Straight Creek who had been sent North to help collect relief. He came back Monday, Feb. 8th. His first act was to go to the relief warehouse in Pineville to get food and clothing. From there he went to the office of "Spider" Smith, where he had a long talk with the Prosecutor who is sending our Comrades to prison and the Judge who is helping him. What did they promise you, Finley Donaldson, to make you rat on your fellow strikers?

Willard Rose was also a Straight Creek striker sent North to collect aid. He refused to speak at meetings in the North to raise aid for his starving fellow-strikers in Kentucky, so he was sent home. What did the coal operators pay you, Willard Rose, for your lies against the union?

Harvey Collett also signed the leaflet. Collett is a bootlegger who managed to worm his way into the confidence of the strike leaders in order to betray them. Through some mistake, his owners—the coal operators—had him jailed. Then Collett showed his true colors. This miserable rat not only betrayed us by lying about our union, but he testified in defense of Orbin Miller, the Murderer of Harry Simms. As a result this murderer of our comrade walks the street a free man and Harvey Collett has been released from jail and is now scabbing on the Gun Thugs. Harvey Collett, you are a Judas, the lowest thing that crawls. You have sold out your union and defended the murderer of your leader for money of the Coal Operators.

WHO DISTRIBUTED THIS LEAFLET?

This strike-breaking leaflet, written by stool pigeons, and printed with operators' money, was distributed by the scab herding officials of the UMWA, headed by William Turnblazer. These are the people who have sold out strike after strike, who withdrew completely from the field leaving 30-odd men charged with murder after they had broken the 1931 strike in Harlan. These are the people whom our worst enemies are now inviting in to "organize" the miners—to "organize" the miners in order to smash the strike and send us back to the pits defeated.

WHAT DOES THE LEAFLET SAY?

This "Stool Pigeon—UMWA" Leaflet says: (1) The National Miners Union is against religion. (2) The NMU believes in equality of white and Negro. (3) The NMU is "against the government. (4) The NMU is a part of the Communist Party.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

The NMU takes no official stand for or against religion as a whole or any particular brand of religion. It welcomes into its ranks miners of all religions or no religion who are ready to fight the operators for decent conditions. It does expose the actions of preachers such as those who make up the Bell County Baptist Preachers'

Association, who are nothing but agents of the operators who are doing their level best to break the strike.

The NMU does not hide the fact that it fights for complete equality for Negroes. On the contrary it proudly proclaims this point in its program. The NMU knows, every thinking miner knows, that countless strikes in the past have been broken by the ability of the operators to split the ranks of the workers and play white against Negro and Negro against white. When white miners strike, Negro scabs are brought in to break the strike. When Negro miners strike, white miners are incited against them by the operators and are brought in to break their strike.

The NMU knows that no workingclass struggle can be won without the firmest solidarity of white and Negro. It realizes that white workers can never be free as long as workers in a black skin are in chains. For this reason the NMU fights unceasingly the battle of the most exploited section of the working class, the Negro workers. For this reason it calls on all miners, white and Negro, native and foreign born to unite in unshakeable solidarity for the fight against starvation wages and slave conditions in the mines.

IS THE NMU "AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT?"

The NMU is a trade union engaged in the struggle for better conditions for all miners. Whenever the workers strike against starvation and slave conditions, as in the present strike, the full forces of the National, State, County and City governments always come into the struggle on the side of the operators. In this strike the government has been the chief strike-breaking agency of the operators. Federal courts issue injunctions forbidding all strike activity. The National Guard is called out to smash the funeral of our murdered leader, Harry Simms. Gun thugs, deputized by the county sheriffs, patrol the roads beating up kidnapping and murdering active strikers. The courts are raiding scores of our fellow-strikers to jail terms as high as 20 years. This is what the Government is doing in our Strike.

The NMU states openly that it is against this kind of Government—a Government owned body and soul by our class enemies! The NMU will continue to resist with every resource at its command the strike-breaking attempts of the Coal Operators' Government.

IS THE NMU A BRANCH OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY?

The NMU is not a branch of the Communist Party. It is an organization of miners. It welcomes into its ranks miners who are republicans, who are democrats, and those who are Communists. It bars no one from membership for their political beliefs, providing they believe in military struggle against the bosses for better conditions. Some Communists are in the leadership of the NMU, not because they are Communists, but because the miners who elect them have found them to be the most capable and courageous leaders.

The stool pigeons who wrote the leaflet condemn the collection of aid for our strike by the Communist Party. The NMU welcomes the support of every working class organization, irrespective of its political beliefs. The Communist Party, and its paper, the Daily Worker, have made great efforts in support of our strike. The NMU welcomes this support and calls on all other workingclass organizations to follow this example.

The NMU calls on every miner to expose the lies against our union that are spread by our enemies, whether they be stool pigeons or leaders of the UMWA.

Expose the Lies Against Our Union!
Drive the scab-herding UMWA from the Coal Fields
Support and Join the National Miners Union!
Win the Strike and Our Demands!
Forward to Victory in the Great Struggle Against
Starvation and Gun Thug Rule!

NATIONAL MINERS UNION, SOUTHERN DISTRICT
Box 73—Pineville, Kentucky.