

National Miners Union, Pineville, Ky.

PRESS RELEASE.

Demanding the immediate release of the four striking miners who have been arrested on the obviously trumped up charge of robbery ~~after~~ because they returned to the relief warehouse in Pineville a large quantity of food and clothing which had been stolen by four deputized company agents, the Central Strike Committee today issued the following statement, a copy of which has been sent to Pineville city officials:

"The Central Strike Committee of the Kentucky-Tennessee Miners Strike denounces the raids that took place on the Relief Warehouse in Pineville on January 30 and February 1 as an organized attempt of the coal operators and their agents, aided by Judge Van Beber, to smash the relief apparatus set up by the Kentucky-Tennessee Miners Relief Committee of the Workers International Relief. These raids are part and ~~parcel~~ ^{part} of the operators' announced policy of starving the striking miners into submitting ~~them~~ to further wage cuts and conditions of semi-slavery in the mines.

"The Central Strike Committee has established beyond all doubt ~~that~~ that the raids, which resulted in the loss of tons of food and clothing contributed by workers all over the country for the relief of the strikers, was organized by agents of the coal operators planted in the ranks of the strikers with the indirect assistance of Judge Van Beber and Deputy Sheriff Broughton. Judge Van Beber participated in this outrage by promising immunity to the women who took part in the raid on February 1 and Deputy Sheriff Broughton participated by deputizing through his deputy Baker four hoodlums for the purpose of loading a truck with food and flour and carting it away. The flooded condition of the roads in Pineville at that time forced the thieves to park ~~the~~ the truck near the depot, where it ^{was} found soon after by a searching party comprised of Henry Williams, Rich Wolf, Charlie Peters and Bill Garland, all members of the relief committee. These four returned the stolen material to the warehouse from which the deputized thieves had taken it. Because the four members of the relief committee restored this food and clothing to the warehouse from which the thieves had admittedly taken it, THEY AND NOT THE REAL THIEVES ARE NOW CHARGED WITH ROBBERY.

"The Central Strike Committee demands the immediate release of the four miners so outrageously charged with robbery, as well as an end to the organized attempts of the operators and their agents to disrupt and discredit the relief apparatus which has been set up ~~up~~ in Kentucky and Tennessee through the united efforts of hundreds of thousands of American workers."