

Why Do We Need An I. L. D.?

UNION LEADER HELD FOR MURDER: STRIKE SETTLEMENT EXPECTED HOURLY

In the Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Colorado, Alabama coal fields. Strike. Continued for weeks despite police terror, barbed wire entanglements before mine tipples, professional armed thugs with sawed-off machine-guns imported from the Big City. The strikers stood solid. They stuck by their demands. Union recognition, increased wages, election of their own check weighman, 8-hour day. Then, during one of the battles on the picket line – a battle started by the armed thugs against the peaceful but powerful mass picket line – a gunman was shot dead. Here was an opportunity for breaking the strike!

Immediately the union leader was arrested. Charge: murder! Dozens of witnesses had seen him in the union headquarters several miles from the scene of the shooting. But these witnesses were all strikers. The company and the prosecution lined up police captains, gun thugs, scabs – all ready to testify that they had seen with their own eyes how the union leader had fired the fatal shot.

Here was the company's big chance. Clap the leader into jail and behead the strike. None of the local lawyers would dare to put up a real defense against the company's prosecution. The gun men will swear to anything. So will the scabs. The strikers' testimony will be discredited. And the District Attorney can be trusted to see that the jury is OK.

But the company's plans have not always gone through as smoothly as all that. The company and its prosecution, the District Attorney, judge, police have been amazed time after time to find that an organization called the International Labor Defense floods its offices and courtrooms with protest wires and resolutions, that lawyers appear sent by this organization, that newspapers carry stories reporting meetings, demonstrations, picket lines organized by this same ILD in support and defense of the frame-up victim.

The lawyers sent by the ILD stump the district attorney and the gun thug witnesses with questions that are hard to answer and in spite of all the DA's objections (usually sustained by the judge) and in spite of the judge's consistent overruling defense objections – certain issues which have nothing to do with a murder case (according to the company's way of thinking), appear in the court room: *the right to strike, to picket, the right to organize the class struggle.*

ALIEN RED ORGANIZER HELD FOR DEPORTATION LOCAL OFFICIALS ASK SUPPORT OF WASHINGTON

New England textile towns, Michigan auto towns, Ohio steel towns. Filled with foreign born workers. (The census of 1930 accounted for 14,204,149 foreign- born in the U. S. A.) Whole families working at starvation wages. Time and again the textile, auto, steel bosses with the aid of terror, murder, jail sentences, trickery and the reliable assistance of labor fakers have succeeded in crushing the workers' organizations born in bitter struggle against their miserable living conditions and crushed in bitter struggle against temporarily superior forces. And just at the moment when the wave of unrest among the workers is rising to the peak after which it will come down on the mills and their owners, just when the endurance of the workers has reached the breaking point, several of the union organizers are seized, arrested, held for deportation to fascist Italy, Poland, Bulgaria. (In 1920, 2,762 were deported, in 1933, 30,201).

And here again the organization called the ILLD amazes the bosses, the local immigration officials, the secretary of labor in Washington, with its prompt and militant defense of the rights of foreign-born workers to stay in the country whose mills and factories and highways they have helped to build. Often these actions are carried through jointly with an organization called the Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. This organization fights tooth and nail to prevent the deportation of these militant foreign-born workers. This organization demands the right of asylum for the foreign-born and for political exiles – a traditional right which was once the boast and pride of Americans.

19 YEAR OLD NEGRO LYNCHED; PAL HELD IN JAIL CHARGED WITH ATTACKING WHITE GIRL; TEXTILE STRIKE UNREST CURBED

For tens of years the battle cry of the divide and rule policy of the Southern white bosses – "*attacked a white girl*" – has rung out over the Southern States and hundreds of Negroes, young and old, have lost their lives so that the greed of the Southern land-owners might be satisfied without interference or challenge. In order to grow their cotton, plant it, pick it, spin it into thread and textiles at the lowest possible cost leaving the highest possible profits – the Southern ruling class must keep the Negro people enslaved and the white workers suppressed.

Chattel slavery is no longer possible under the law. But there are other ways of enforcing peonage and economic slavery and the most

effective among these have been terror and hatred. Teach the white workers (miners, textile workers) and farmers to hate the black, and make the black croppers and farm hands hate and fear the whites and they will stay divided and weakened. Lynch the Negro, or if it is more convenient, bring him to trial and get him sentenced to death on the chain gang or in the electric chair. There is no fear that the courts will fail you. The judge is an old' friend of the family and can be relied upon. Enforce Jim Crow living conditions, schools, hospitals, trains. Chuck the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments into the waste basket. Divide and rule.

And if, in the militant strike struggles that are developing daily, the Negro and white workers join together in the fight for better conditions, the lynch cry is raised louder than ever.

But even into the black belt, ruled for years by the rope and faggot, this organization – the ILD – has come with its demand for unity of white and Negro toilers in defense and enforcement of their rights and the rights of the Negro people. Even into unknown, sleepy little towns where the law has always been lynch law and the judge has sat with his feet on the bench undisturbed by the tiresome details of the Constitution which probably hangs on the wall draped by the American flag – even here the ILD fights in defense of the white and Negro victims of Southern bosses' terror; fights against Jim Crow lynch law, raising the question of the rights of Negroes to sit on juries, the rights of Negroes to open, fair trials; fights for defense of Negro rights to the land they are tilling, to exercise their constitutional rights to vote; fights for the right and the necessity of white and Negro toilers organizing their common defense together.

50 ARRESTS FOR HOLDING MEETING ON BOSTON COMMON; CHIEF OF POLICE PLEDGES ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ORDER

Boston Common, San Francisco's Embarcadero, Detroit's Grand Circus Park, Chicago's Lincoln Park – wherever workers have gathered to voice their protest against the accumulated' abuses, exercising supposedly guaranteed rights (the right of free speech, the right of free assembly) cops on horses, cops on foot, plainclothes cops, have charged the meetings, slugged and jailed the speakers and the listeners, and forced "Law and Order" with clubs and black jacks. But on the very same night or the next morning in the courtroom the arrested workers, either by defending themselves or through lawyers provided by the ILD, have raised the question of their right to free speech; have turned from accused into accusers, protesting against police brutality, protesting

denial of constitutional rights, voicing their demand for the enforcement of these rights whether free speech, free assembly, free press, the right to organize, picket, petition. Answering the call of the ILD issued through leaflets, through the press, at meetings; a call to jam the courtrooms and demonstrate fighting solidarity with the prisoners, workers have forced their way through lines of blue-coated police into musty halls and courtrooms – enforcing still another right – denied by the forces of "law and order," the right to an open trial.

PICKET LINE DISPERSED FROM SIDEWALK FRONTING GERMAN CONSULATE

In New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Los Angeles, in every city where the agents of Hitler Fascism, Mussolini or Austrian Fascism sit in comfortable chairs behind glass-topped desks and conduct the business of their masters in this country, wide masses organized by the ILD have formed picket lines protesting against the fascist terror raging against their fellow workers in these countries.

Delegations have called on the consul, telegrams piled up on his desk, in some cases telephone calls have paralyzed his business. The ILD time and again organized the workers under its influence to voice their international solidarity with the victims of fascism in other countries as part of their fight against fascist terror here at home.

I. L. D. Raises Herndon Bail; Secures His Release.

I. L. D. Forces Miss Perkins to Release Borich.

I. L. D. Wins New Trial for Farm Pickets.

I. L. D. Offers Defense of Textile Workers to U. T. W. Strike Committee.

I. L. D. Handles Organizer of West Coast Vigilante Victims.

What Is The I. L. D.?

The ILD is a defense organization – a mass defense organization of, by and for the American workers, farmers, teachers, writers, members of oppressed national minorities.. Its program, its policy is based on a fact that our law makers, law enforcers and educators try very hard to deny. On the fact that there is a class struggle and that certain individuals because of their activity, beliefs, position, fall victims in this struggle.

The ruling class has powerful weapons at its command. It owns the factories, mines, railroads, the steamships – all the means of production. It controls the courts, the judges, attorneys, the police – the state. It has

the army, navy and militia to enforce its wishes. It has money with which to hire armies of gun thugs and professional criminals from the dregs of society to enforce its will.

But the working class has even more powerful weapons. It has the weapon of mass power and mass strength. It has the gigantic weapon of mass pressure and mass defense in behalf of those who fall victims in the class war – on the picket lines, in the struggle for organization and unity of the workers, in the cities and on the countryside, in the mills and in the schools, white and Negro, employed and unemployed, native and foreign born.

And the International Labor Defense is the organization which organizes and leads in the mass defense of those who are taken prisoner by the enemy in the class war and provides relief for them and for their families.

The International Labor Defense has proved during the nine years of its existence that mass defense supplemented by the best available legal defense in the court room, and self-defense backed and supported by mass pressure are the only effective methods of working-class defense. The International Labor Defense has no illusions about the courts of this country – from the smallest local court to the Supreme Court of the United States.

WHO RUNS THE COURTS?

During the nine years of its activity the ILD has received sufficient proof about who owns these courts and what kind of justice they hand down. Justice, in books, is pictured as a blind-folded goddess with scales in her hands – scales in which the evidence presented by both sides is weighed. But the ILD has learned through experience that the blind-fold is tied on by the ruling class and it's made of cheese cloth. When the evidence presented by the ruling class agents is not heavy enough to swing the balance in its favor the goddess just takes her other hand and shoves the balance over.

Nevertheless the ILD carries its defense battles into the court rooms. Our present system of society drags its victims into these court rooms and the ILD must be there to defend them. The courts, judges, district attorneys, etc., try to hide the real issues involved behind a tangle of legalities and over-rulings and objections. Workers defending themselves and the ILD attorneys cut through this tangle of legalities with the sharp blade of real working class defense.

"Never mind the legal trimmings," they say. "What is really involved here? This worker accused of murder, rape, disorderly conduct,

obstructing traffic, criminal syndicalism, inciting to riot – is accused because of his activity in defense of his right to live and the rights of the working class."

The ILD does not confine its defense to the court room. The ILD organizes mass defense, in the streets, in meeting halls, in the factories, on the countryside, wherever workers, farmers, teachers, white collar workers, etc., Negro and white, employed or unemployed, native or foreign-born, live and struggle against ruling- class oppression.

NOT A LEGAL AID SOCIETY

The ILD is not a legal aid' society which provides lawyers. The ILD is convinced that legal defense alone is inadequate; that alone by itself it cripples the main issues involved – not merely the defense of the individuals accused, but the class character of the case, the real reasons why those workers are persecuted, is drowned in a tangle of legal red tape. It is a mass organization with 200,000 members and affiliates. It immediately mobilizes this membership for action in defense of victims of the class struggle. These members in turn through leaflets, through the press, house-to-house canvassing, meetings, try to rouse all those within the reach of their influence and draw them into the defense movement.

SELF-DEFENSE

In addition to mass defense plus expert legal defense, the ILD is engaged in arousing workers and farmers to the realization that they have another much more powerful weapon on their side – self-defense in court. Every person has the right to defend himself in court. He doesn't always need a lawyer. This method of defense becomes of the most serious importance wherever a militant struggle develops and fascist terror rules the day (in the South, on the West Coast, etc.) Vigilantes, Ku-Kluxers strike at lawyers who defend workers as sharply as they do against the workers themselves.

When mass arrests take place, it is difficult to arrange for adequate expert legal defense. In small towns and outlying areas where there are no sympathetic lawyers, where ILD lawyers cannot reach the court in time, a knowledge of the right and methods of self- defense become the most important defense weapon in the hands of the arrested worker or farmer. The ILD in various sections of the country has published a one cent pamphlet called "What To Do When Under Arrest."

There are certain simple rules to remember in this connection:

1. Give no information to officers.

2. Plead not guilty and demand a jury trial.
3. Demand of the court that the ILD defend you or insist on your right to self-defense.
4. Insist that you be let out on your recognizance; if they refuse, demand that bail be set low.
5. Demand a copy of the complaint.
6. Do not sign anything.
7. Telephone the ILD.

But most important of all, self-defense gives the worker an opportunity to throw aside very legal trick used by the prosecution. The worker or farmer arrested on the picket line or for distributing leaflets or for speaking or attending a meeting or demonstration knows why he was arrested. And he knows that it was not for littering the streets, or obstructing traffic, or murder. He can turn the court room into a forum not only in his own defense but in defense of the entire working class.

HISTORY OF THE DEFENSE MOVEMENT

Since the beginnings of working class organization which in this country go back before the revolution of 1776, terror and arrests have been gigantic obstacles and the need for working class defense and relief for the political prisoners and their families has always been a necessity. During the great strike movement of 1877 small defense groups came into being. None of them were permanent. None of them had any clear program or policy except defense of the one or more victimized workers – usually strikers.

In 1886, when six leaders of the Chicago working class were arrested and framed and executed on a charge of bombing their own protest meeting at Hay-market Square, a meeting called to protest against the murder of several workers on May Day, a weak, unorganized defense movement in their behalf was formed but it died with their heroic speeches on the scaffold.

Later, in 1892 during the Homestead steel strike, an ineffectual defense sprang up around the 167 leaders and strikers who were arrested. A vigorous defense campaign, to which the A. F. of L. contributed \$75,000, won the acquittal of all. Still no permanent defense committee resulted.

In 1903 the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone defense committee was formed to defend these three leaders of the Western Federation of Miners. Considerable mass agitation was aroused. Thousands of dollars were collected. A workers' jury sat in the court-room throughout the 83

days of the trial. The result was victory for the workers. Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone were acquitted. But instead of using this victory to build a permanent defense organization, the whole thing was dissolved.

1903-1925

From this date until 1925 dozens of defense committees and councils were formed and dissolved. They sprang up around a certain case and when that case ended in victory or defeat the committee broke up. (The Mooney Molders Defense Committee is the only exception.) When the next act of terror made it necessary to organize defense for the victims, all the terrific work of gathering forces had to be done from the beginning. Debs, Joe Hill, Mooney, Billings, McNamara, Ettor, Giovanitti, Caruso (leaders of the Lawrence Textile strike), Sacco and Vanzetti – all these leaders of the working class faced trial with defense committees behind them – but different ones in each case.

ILLUSIONS OF IMPARTIALITY

All of these defense committees suffered from one other common and basic defect. They based their program on the belief that it was possible for a worker to get justice in a ruling class court. The founders and members of these committees were filled with illusions about "impartial justice" in the courts. They thought that expensive lawyers and some publicity would be sufficient to win their case. The most glaring example of the weakness of such tactics came in the last years of the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

Workers led by the newly-formed ILD, who no longer had these illusions; who had seen these illusions smashed in the Mooney case and others demanded that the defense take a more militant turn. They demanded mass protests and mass pressure on the Massachusetts courts. The liberals and anarchists in charge of the Sacco and Vanzetti defense committee violently opposed such tactics. They said, "Demonstrations will offend the judges and the Governor. Protest demonstrations and picket lines and strikes will have a bad effect." Too late did the working class organize its militant defense. Vanzetti himself was well aware of its necessity. "Only a million men can save us," he wrote from his cell, "a million men."

SMASH ILLUSIONS

The ILD from the start considered as one of its basic tasks the smashing of illusions in ruling class courts. We defend our prisoners in

these courts because the system under which we live forces us into these courts. But we know who they are. We have no illusions. We never saw a court issue an injunction restraining bosses from hiring thugs. We never saw a court that said to the prosecutor, "You are trying to camouflage this case. Mooney, Haywood Patterson, John Smith, is here because the bosses of San Francisco, Alabama, Kalamazoo want to get him out of the way." We never saw a district attorney who didn't defend the most powerful moneyed interests in the city or state.

We know that there is only one thing that can force these gentlemen to free our fellow workers. There is only one thing that they fear and that is mass pressure and mass defense. Time and again this policy has been proven correct. In Imperial Valley (where 8 leaders of the California workers sentenced to from 3 to 42 years, were all released), in Scottsboro, in Atlanta, in Gallup, New Mexico, where release of the miners' strike leaders became one of the demands for settling the strike – and was won!

THE I. L. D. IS FORMED

During and following the World War, the necessity for a permanent organization became more and more apparent. Beginnings were made in the Workers Defense Union (1920), the National Defense Committee (1921), Labor Defense Council (1922), groups composed of members of the I. W. W., Socialists, Liberals, etc., whose chief activity consisted of defending the victims of the Palmer and subsequent anti-red drives. But here again these were just committees with no apparatus, with no contacts in wide sections of the country.

The class struggle was growing fiercer every day. Victims increased in number. A permanent, national organized defense movement became a vital necessity.

In June, 1925, a conference was called in Chicago by the remains of the Labor Defense Councils to which all existing defense committees, organizations, trade unions, fraternal orders, etc., were invited. This conference formed the International Labor Defense.

In a few short months the ILD grew from 59 branches in October, 1925, to 128 branches by January 1, 1926. Today it has about 800 branches in 47 states. It has a dues-paying individual membership of over 12,000 and affiliated membership of about 200,000.

In 1926, the ILD defended some 150 cases. In 1933 incomplete records show that the ILD defended almost 8,000 cases. Thousands of workers walk the streets of American cities free today because of the

existence of the ILD. In 1934 the figures, under increasing oppression and the NRA, mounted to four figures monthly.

It is impossible here to list the victories of the ILD. Only highlights can be recorded. Hundreds of textile strikers from New Bedford, Passaic, Gastonia freed. – hundreds of miners in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Colorado and West Virginia – Accorsi, Grecco and Carillo, the Imperial Valley 8, Edith Berkman, Frank Borich, Angelo Herndon – saved from death or imprisonment by the mass pressure organized and led by the ILD.

THE INTERNATIONAL RED AID

And as the defense movement developed the members of the ILD saw that terror was not confined to the shores of the U. S. A. Terror against workers and farmers and intellectuals raged all over the capitalist world, in India, China, France, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Poland, etc. International solidarity was becoming more than ever a necessity. Not only national but international mass protest and defense became a vital necessity to the defense movement. The ILD became a member of the only international working class defense organization, the International Red Aid. This organization has sections in 70 countries and a total membership of over 14,000,000.

Its section in Germany functions today in spite of Hitler's terror. Its Austrian section is today collecting relief in the factories of Linz and Steyr and Vienna to aid the victims of Dollfuss fascism. In Italy, Spain, Shanghai, its members defend their own national victims and join together in the defense of the international struggle against terror and oppression. It was this organization that organized the international movement in defense of the Scottsboro boys. It was this organization that mobilized world-wide defense of Dimitroff, Torgler, Popoff and Tanev and won their acquittal in Nazi courts. It is this organization that conducts the fight for the freedom of Ernst Thaelmann, the leader of the German working class.

The Soviet Russian section of this organization, the MOPR, has several millions of members who are engaged in extensive relief activities for the victims of terror in capitalist countries. It is this organization, for instance, that invited the Shutzbundler (Austrian defense corps members), who escaped arrest in Austria after the February uprising to come to live and work in the Soviet Union, the only country in the world where they are free from persecution. In addition to its relief and defense activities, this Soviet section of the IRA plays a very important role in the building of socialism in the Soviet Union.

How Does The I. L. D. Work?

How does the I.L.D. mobilize its thousands of members behind a single case? How is it organized?

The basic unit of organization of the I.L.D. is the branch. Five or more workers anywhere in the United States who accept the defense program of the I.L.D. may receive a charter and constitute a branch. Where a number of branches exist within a certain territory they are formed into a section. For instance, in a large city like New York or Chicago or Cleveland a number of branches in one end of the city are grouped into one section while those in the other end are grouped into another. All the sections in a large geographical area are grouped into a district. The I.L.D. has 20 districts throughout the United States. Districts are based on geographical or industrial divisions.

The I.L.D. is organized on the basis of the broadest working class democracy. Each branch elects its own officers – organizer, secretaries, a treasurer, a literature agent, and depending upon the size and activity of the branch, whatever committees and officers are necessary.

The activities of the section are guided by a section committee, which is elected by a section conference or at a general section membership meeting. The officers in charge of the section are chosen from those elected on the basis of ability, etc. In addition branches elect representatives to meet with the section committee. The district apparatus consists of a district secretary, assistant secretary and a district committee elected at a district conference; the district executive committee which meets every week, is composed of the secretary, assistant secretary and heads of various departments – prisoners relief, literature, legal, Negro, etc.

The national office of the I.L.D. is situated in New York City. Every two years there is a national convention which elects the national committee. This body functions between conventions and is the highest body of the I.L.D. It designates the National Executive Committee which meets once a month to formulate the principles and policies of the organization on the basis of the resolutions adopted at the national convention, to discuss the program and activity, cases conducted nationally, and reviews the work of the districts on the basis of reports. Between meetings of the national executive committee, a small resident bureau composed of the officers of the organization and members of the National Executive Committee, meets every week to discuss the daily work.

Who Are The Members of I. L. D.?

The ILD is a broad mass organization. Its defense and relief activities cut across the barriers of race, color, nationality and political affiliations. Its members belong to many different political parties, subscribe to various religious creeds, are members of all races and nationalities. The ILD is affiliated to no political party.

Its members are in no way bound to the organization by iron-bound rules, codes, signs or insignia. Its officials, from the branches to the top, are chiefly volunteers who are required to give a strict accounting to the membership on every phase of their work – financial, organizational, etc.

The membership at large is urged to voluntarily accept whatever phase of ILD activity most interests the particular individual. There are no compulsory duties for members, except the payment of dues. However, all members are encouraged and urged to undertake and carry out at least one particular phase of ILD work.

There are two types of membership in the ILD, individual and collective (affiliated). Individual membership dues are 20¢ a month for those who are employed and 2¢ a month for unemployed. The initiation fee is 25¢ for employed and 5¢ for unemployed. As soon as a branch is formed or as soon as an organization votes to affiliate with the ILD, a charter can be secured from the National Office in New York upon application and the payment of one dollar. Collective (affiliated) dues are determined by the size of the organization on a per capita basis. There are also members at large where there are no branches, and sustaining members – those who pledge to support the organization with a definite, voluntary, yearly contribution.

THE RELATION OF THE I. L. D. TO OTHER MASS ORGANIZATIONS

Many people ask, what's the difference between the ILD and Such and Such an organization? What's its relationship to the ILD and vice versa?

Through years of struggle the working class has developed many organizations to gain united strength in fighting for its rights. Some organizations concern themselves chiefly with fighting economic battles, others for mutual benefit and insurance, still others for cultural advancement.

The work of the ILD is created, dictated by all other workers, farmers, foreign language, cultural, fraternal organizations which conduct class struggle activities. Any organization which participates in

such activities will very soon come face to face with the forces of "law and order" (frame-up, terror, murder, jail). Its activities will be threatened or smashed by police terror. Its leaders and most active forces will be sniped off by jail sentences and deportations.

The ILD stands ready to defend and support the activities of all genuine working class organizations.

It defends and supports the rights of bona fide trade unions (A. F. of L., T. U. U. L., Independent) to organize workers, lead them in their struggles. It offers defense to trade unions at all times and particularly during strikes. The local organizations of the ILD have sent representatives to strike defense committees, helped organize such committees (Paterson, San Francisco, Philadelphia). Sometimes it assumes the entire burden and responsibility for the defense of persecuted strikers and trade unionists.

The ILD defends and supports the activities of organizations of the unemployed. It not only defends arrested unemployed in court, but in many cases enters into joint actions of protest, demonstrations, hunger marches, in which actions it carries on its special defense program as an independent organization.

The ILD cooperates with anti-fascist relief organizations, with anti-fascist, anti-war organizations like the American League Against War and Fascism, to which it is affiliated; in all relief, protest activities mobilizing its entire membership in support of their work (e. g., Thaelmann Defense Fund collections, popularization and attendance at Anti-War Congress.)

The ILD defends and supports the activities of the organization that is genuinely leading the liberation struggles of the Negro people, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights. It cooperates with this organization in many of its actions: picketing, demonstrations, protest, united front conferences. It invites the active participation of the L. S. N. R. in mobilizing mass defense in behalf of the victims of national oppression defended by the ILD.

The ILD attempts to coordinate the defense activities and problems of all these organizations by arranging mutual cooperation in defense of the common struggles of all against the forces of terror and reaction.

It is particularly in its relationship to other organizations, such as those mentioned above, that the ILD plays its role as the shield of the working class.

The Activities of the I. L. D.

1. **The ILD fights** for the release of all class war prisoners. The ILD proudly accepted as a heritage and a duty the fight for the liberation of Tom Mooney, Warren K. Billings, J. B. McNamara and other workers who were taken prisoner in the battles of the class war before the establishment of the ILD. In addition to these world-known veterans of the ILD. In addition the ILD carries on a constant and relentless fight for the release of scores of long-term prisoners, sentenced to one year or more. In addition each district conducts ceaseless campaigns for the release of local prisoners.

2. **Prisoner's Relief:** The ILD considers this aspect of its work one of the most important. The prisoners who sit behind the bars impose a special obligation not only on ILD members but on all toilers. All the political prisoners are in jail because of some activity in the interests of all the toiling masses, or because they are victims of national oppression. They must be made to feel that their sacrifices and sufferings were not in vain. They must be shown that they are not forgotten. They are hemmed in by stone walls and steel bars, dosed off from the outside world. The barbaric prison regime of the United States does not recognize the existence of political prisoners. They are given no privileges, no literature, no writing materials.

The ILD sends relief regularly, each month to the political prisoners in jail so that they can purchase small comforts for themselves and make life in jail more endurable.

If the prisoner has a family his misery is intensified by the constant harrowing worry, what will become of them? Who will take care of them? Who will feed them?

Relief agencies in many parts of the country are closed to the families of political prisoners. And even if they are not, the miserable allowance goes only so far. The ILD sends relief each month to the families of political prisoners and of those who have been killed in the class war.

Each branch is asked to adopt a prisoner and the family of a prisoner. The branch corresponds with them, and pledges a monthly sum for their relief. Individuals are encouraged to do the same. Every year a special winter relief Christmas campaign is conducted to provide special gifts to the prisoners and their families.

In addition the Prisoners' Relief Department tries to organize periodic visits to the prisoners in jail, delegations to wardens, prison commissions, etc., demanding special privileges for the political

prisoners, such as allowing them to receive special literature, allowing them to write an unlimited number of letters, etc.

3. **Literature:** The ILD publishes a monthly magazine, LABOR DEFENDER. This magazine is the only labor pictorial in the country. It brings news and pictures from the defense front all over the world. It carries articles which discuss the defense policies and problems of the ILD. It describes defense activities in far-flung corners of the world. It explains and exposes the role of the capitalist courts and capitalist justice. It is the voice of the class war prisoners. Every month letters from them are published in its pages.

4. **Young Defenders:** Only a year ago the ILD began the organization of children's branches. Members of the ILD are urged to allow their children to join these branches which are directly connected and under the supervision of an adult branch. Children from the neighborhoods are drawn into the ranks. The children adopt a prisoner, correspond with him, write to his family, make gifts for him and his children. Most important of all, the Young Defenders aim to counteract the poisonous influence of the schools which teach our children to hate the organizations of the working class, to be ashamed of its heroes who are sent to jail for fighting their battles.

5. **Patronage:** Individual members, entire branches, districts or sections of the ILD have taken patronage over a sister section of the IRA or of one or more political prisoners in a foreign country.

6. **Patronati:** This is often confused with patronage, but it is another distinct form of I.L.D. activity. Patronati are loosely organized groups of foreign-born workers brought together by the ILD for the purpose of raising funds and support for the political prisoners in their native lands.

Who Should Be A Member of I. L. D.?

Every worker, farmer, teacher, student, housewife, intellectual, professional who believes in the importance of defending the unalienable rights of the toiling masses won through years of struggle, in the defense of elementary democratic rights and civil liberties supposedly guaranteed by the constitution, who realizes that justice in this country has become another tool in the corrupted hands of grafters and hirelings of the ruling class, and who subscribes to the aims of the organization as stated on the inside cover of this pamphlet, should be a member of the ILD.

If you are a member of a trade union, you should join the only defense organization that fights in defense of the right of your organization to

exist, that fights for your right to organize and picket, that defends your right to fight against injunctions, that defends your strongest economic weapon – the right to strike.

If you are a housewife, a mother, you should join the only defense organization that is ready to defend and shield your husband, your children when they fall into the hands of ruling class courts and justice in their daily struggle for a decent life.

If you are unemployed, you should join the only defense organization that defends your right to demand relief, that marches besides you in demonstrations before relief agencies, that is ready to defend you in court if you are arrested while demanding bread, rent, unemployment insurance for yourself and your children.

If you are a farmer, you should join the only defense organization that is ready to defend your right to fight for your land and home; to defend your right to fight against evictions, foreclosures, forced sales; that will help you organize mass defense of your homes and children.

If you are a teacher, writer, intellectual, you should join the only defense organization that fights in defense of your elementary democratic rights – the right of free speech, right to freedom of thought and opinion, assemblage, press, petition.

All those who may at any moment become victims of the class war, who are ready to do all in their power to help the thousands who have already fallen victims, who are ready to help in the defense, in raising relief, who are ready to join their voices in a gigantic protest against the frame-up, murder, torture, terror system called justice in the United States today.

Join The International Labor Defender