

# CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDER

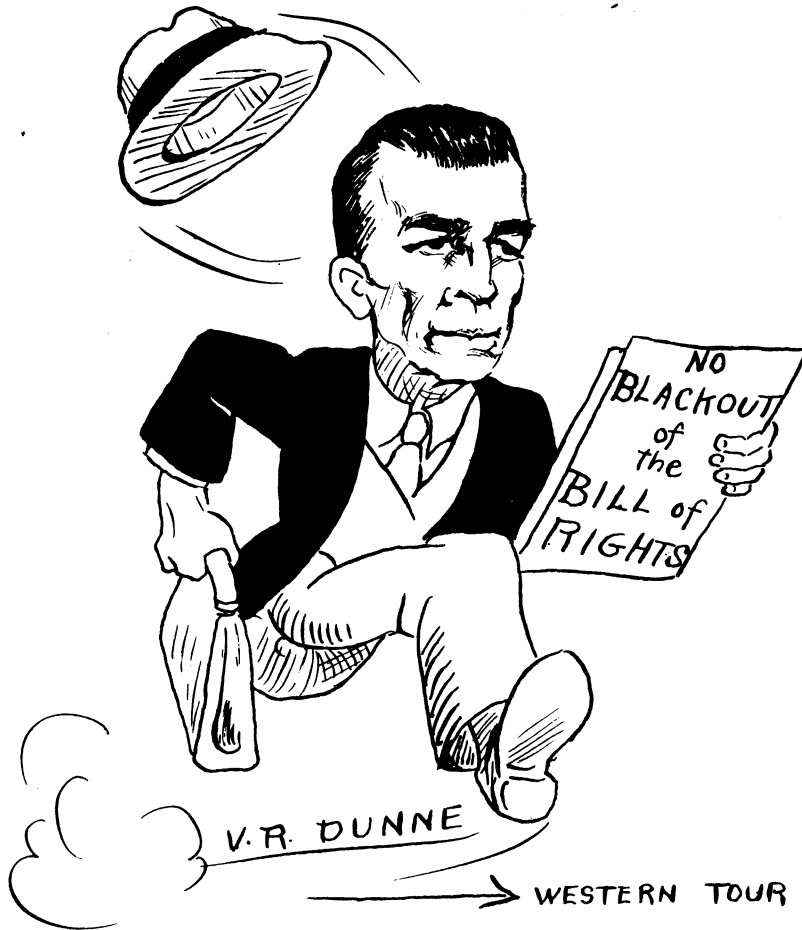
APRIL 1942  
VOL. 1 NO. 4



Published by the CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE 160-5<sup>TH</sup> AVE. NYC



# WESTWARD HO!



We knew the Dunne Tour would be a success, but the scale and extent of the results have gone far beyond our expectations.

The latest example of this comes from St. Louis. This Committee had been afraid that with their small forces, their efforts would be too modest. And what did they accomplish? No less than a meeting of the St. Louis CIO Industrial Council, attended by 125 delegates from CIO locals, at which Dunne explained the significance to labor of the Minneapolis convictions. This resulted in a substantial donation from the St. Louis Joint Advisory Council of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees CIO.

This is just one of many similar examples. In the two months since V.R. Dunne began his tour in Milwaukee on Feb. 2, he has visited over 25 cities in the East and Middle East. In every city Dunne's visit resulted not only in fresh impetus to the work but also brought

in many valuable new contacts and friends. Hundreds of workers, trade union officials, educators, clergymen, liberals and progressives have been reached by Dunne's talks or by his personal visits and have been provided with an understanding of the deep significance of the Minneapolis convictions as a part of the steadily increasing campaign against labor's rights and civil liberties. As Dunne said: "We are fighting not only for ourselves but for the freedom and democratic rights of the entire labor movement and the American people."

So enthusiastic has been this response to Dunne's tour, that the CRDC has arranged a continuation of the tour as far as the West Coast, covering cities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Washington, Oregon and California. We feel confident that the results will be in every way equal to what has already been accomplished.

With the inspiration of Dunne's visits, this is the time for all the local Committees to show a new spurt of activity. Follow up the workers and new friends and contacts who came to the Dunne meetings. Send speakers to the trade union locals. Arrange CRDC socials and gatherings. Talk to liberal groups and organizations. Keep up your work... spread it wider...and DO IT NOW!

# More Unions Rally to Defense

## UNION SUPPORT

The fact that a steady stream of union support has been rolling in is proof in itself that a more and more important section of the workers are beginning to realize the significance of the Minneapolis case to the labor movement.

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THE DUNNE TOUR HAS GIVEN A SPURT TO THE UNION SUPPORT.

The list of central labor bodies in various cities is growing more and more impressive week by week. Thus far the following CIO Councils and AFL central bodies have supported the Defense.

- New Jersey State Industrial Union Council.
- Steel City Industrial Union Council. (Pittsburg)
- United Shoe Workers Joint Council #13, N.Y.C.
- Bridgeport Industrial Union Council
- United Auto Workers District Council, Lockport, N.Y.
- CIO Council #2 of Bucks County, Quakertown, Pa.
- San Francisco Industrial Union Council
- St. Louis Industrial Union Council
- Int. Ladies Garment Workers Joint Board, Baltimore.
- St. Louis Joint Advisory Council, UR& W Employees
- Dress & Waistmakers Joint Board, ILGWU, N.Y.C.

In addition to the scores of local unions listed in the last issue of the CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDER, the following have contributed to the CRDC in recent weeks:

- United Automobile Workers Goodyear Aircraft Local, Akron, Ohio. . . . . \$50.00
- Newton Tile Local #75, N.J. . . . . 10.00
- United Rubber Workers #107, Trenton.. 25.00
- Doll & Toy Workers Industrial Union #224 Trenton, N.J. . . . . 25.00
- Brewery Workers #4, Buffalo, N.Y. . . . 5.00
- Textile Workers Union #277, Newark. . .25.00
- United Rubber Workers #205, Trenton. . 10.00
- Amalgamated Lithographers AFL #1 N.Y. 10.00
- Doll & Toy Workers Industrial Union #225 Trenton, N.J. . . . . 10.00

## C R E D I T

must be given to the Local CRDC branches which went out in their cities, visited trade unionists and local unions, spoke at union meetings and spread the word among the labor movement on the case. Their hard work has brought exceedingly fine results.

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Civil Rights Defender

# Poll-tax Smith & the Minneapolis Case

The full significance of the Minneapolis case becomes more apparent as the anti-labor drive in Congress becomes more outspoken.

The same Poll-Tax Representative Howard Smith of Virginia, who initiated the Smith "Gag" Act of 1940, under which the 18 Minnesota defendants were convicted and sentenced to over 20 years in jail, is the acknowledged leader of the anti-labor bloc.

The CIO has consistently opposed Representative Smith and has specifically condemned the Smith "Gag" Law. On July 21, 1941 the CIO News wrote: "Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia is a gentleman who loves labor in the same kind of way that the proverbial cannibal loves missionaries; he is always thinking up new recipes for making hash out of labor unions."

At the time the Smith "Gag" Act was debated in Congress a CIO News editorial said: "Labor knows that criminal syndicalism laws and the like have been repeatedly used against union organizers rather than for the purpose for which they were supposedly passed."

Trade unionists readily understand now that the Smith Act of 1940 was a part of the whole legislative edifice being built by Smith and his friends to wall up the rights of labor.

The importance of the fight to have the Smith Act of 1940 declared unconstitutional, by appealing the convictions of the 18 Minneapolis defendants to the Supreme Court, is seen now not only as a means of setting 18 labor leaders free, but as a blow struck in defense of labor's rights, and against the particular bloc of reactionary congressmen who made this prosecution possible.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union, is therefore in the forefront of the struggle for labor's rights; our case must be fought through to the end. We are fighting not only to set aside these convictions; we are in the first line of defense of the freedom and the constitutional liberties of all trade unions.

To carry this fight through we need large sums of money. The court costs, attorney's expenses, printing of records, clerk fees, etc. present us with the necessity to raise at least \$10,000 in the next few months.

Every contribution is an investment that will help check the resort to other anti-democratic laws.

DO YOUR PART!

# NEWS from the BRANCHES

THE DUNNE TOUR and the AMMUNITION DRIVE for funds to finance the first steps in the APPEAL of the Minneapolis case to the Supreme Court have resulted in new activities in the branches. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE HEAR.

## Twin Cities

"I am enclosing a check for \$60.10, the amount of the net proceeds of a Workers Defense League benefit for the assistance of defendants in the sedition case and their families. It was strictly a social affair with cards and a showing of the movies of the commissary, etc."

Arthur Sternberg, Treas.  
Twin-Cities Workers Defense League

## Chicago

"Future Plans: A BIG SOCIAL! May 9th Saturday, with the Film, a dance, using a good juke box with an outstanding collection of records, specialty numbers (a magician, dance numbers by experts, humorous songs professionally presented, a bar and buffet administered in style and decorations."

## St. Louis

"Please write a letter to the CIO Council asking permission for V.R. Dunne to speak at their meeting on March 25th".  
Secretary

P.S.- V.R. Dunne spoke at this meeting and the case was wholeheartedly endorsed by the 125 delegates.

## Memphis

"I am enclosing a money order for \$1.50 as our first contribution on our quota for the Defense Fund Drive."

## San Francisco

"We are very happy about Dunne coming out here. We have arranged a public meeting for Sunday, April 26th. Letters to unions are being mailed out. We also plan to have one other meeting, a dinner or a banquet."  
Joan Wakefield,  
Secretary

## Los Angeles

"We are extremely pleased to hear that Vincent Dunne has included the West Coast on his lecture tour. We are making preparations to hold a minimum of two affairs and arrange for him to speak at unions."

Los Angeles concluded a very successful barn dance recently, and has been among the most resourceful of the Committees.

## New Haven

"The newest additions to the New Haven CRDC are: Ralph Di Gia, CIO Organizer, Rev. Richard A. Foster, Negro Minister; two CIO Organizers, and two divinity students."

Winifred Nelson, Secretary

# THE MINNEAPOLIS FILM

## WHAT IS IT?

A movie made in Minneapolis at the time of the trial...scenes of the defendants at the Commissary provided by the CRDC...the Thanksgiving banquet given for the defendants...Christmas party for the defendants' children...numerous other shots of the defendants and their families...a vivid record of the spirit in which the defendants took the government prosecution.

This is a silent film, with subtitles and a written commentary to be read as the film is shown...runs about 20 minutes...excellent photography, done by professionals.

## HOW CAN YOU USE IT?

1. Unions. An ideal medium for getting into Union meetings which are often hungry for entertainment. Once having shown the film, it should be easy to take collections, raise funds and get resolutions passed in support of the defendants. Make arrangements to show it not only to unions which haven't been approached before, but also to those which have already given donations and support.

2. Organizations. Arrange for showings of the film before fraternal organizations, brotherhoods, clubs, liberal and progressive groups, forums, etc.

3. Social Affairs. large or small, can be built around the film, and a collection taken afterward.

## HOW CAN YOU GET IT?

1. Write immediately to the CRDC, 160 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C. and tell us when you want the film and for how long.
2. There are two copies of the film...available after May 1st. We anticipate a heavy demand so make your arrangements with us now.
3. Plan to keep the film for at least a week, or several weeks if you want. Arrange as many showings in your vicinity as possible.

## WHAT ARRANGEMENTS MUST YOU MAKE?

You will need a 16 mm. projector, a screen and someone to operate the machine. Projector and screen can be rented at low cost from any camera rental agency. Get the projector in time so you can run off the film a few times before it is shown, and practice reading the commentary with the film, to get them synchronized.

## WILL THE MOVIE RAISE MONEY FOR THE CRDC?

Absolutely yes. It has already been shown twice in New York, with excellent results. Chicago and Newark have already requested the film.

## WHEN DO YOU WANT IT?

# WHAT OUR CONTRIBUTORS SAY

From J.H.K., Gettysburg, Pa.  
"I am very pleased to send the enclosed check...Success to you in your efforts."

From F.L., N.Y.C.  
"The...Seminary is greatly concerned with the maintenance and extension of civil liberties in the country during this present period... We are behind your fight to maintain civil liberties."

From B.B., Cambridge, Mass.  
"The enclosed contribution is for the defense. I hope that it will help to some extent to prevent such an incident from becoming a precedent for the future...with all best wishes to you and your work."

From B.B., Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.  
"This is a small contribution, but it indicates my sympathy with the attempt to free the 18 Minneapolis Defendants, and to test the constitutionality of the Smith "Gag" Act. Civil liberties take on a new significance in war time; every effort to retain them in a period like this is a practical vote for democracy. And I'm for democracy!"

From J.H., New Hampshire, O.  
"I hope the support of your work for the civil rights of every human individual will increase continuously. Maybe my contribution can be enlarged the next time."

From W.M.T., Arlington, Va.  
"I am glad to be able to contribute toward the relief and defense of the defendants in the Minneapolis case. I want to compliment you on the booklet which you got out on the case written by Mr. Farrell."

From E.K., Oshkosh, Nebr.  
"Enclosed find check...trust this may be of definite assistance to the cause."

From E.B.H., Hollywood, Calif.  
"Enclosed please find check... I wish you all success and hope for the best of news for the Minneapolis group."

From M.F., Chicago, Ill.  
"Thought I would add to the general exasperation and Weltschmerz of the Steel companies by turning over a check of theirs to me for your cause so I trust you'll make the best use of it possible."

From E.D., Farmington, Mich.  
"Enclosed please find contribution for your work, in which I have much sympathy. I wish I had more to send."

From M.G., Youngstown, O.  
"The Dunne meeting was a great success...the collection came to \$25 with a lot of the workers digging deep for their dollars."

From N.T., New York City  
"I fully agree with you as to the importance of some defense in the St. Paul case, which does jeopardize American civil liberties...I shall do what I can to arouse interest in the case and enclose a small contribution."

From E.B.H., Wilkinsburg, Pa.  
"Enclosed please find my second contribution...I very much wish that it could be far greater, but a retired missionary's allowance is easily stretched too thin. I certainly hope you will win this case!"

From D.B., Glenside, Pa.  
"My liberal education has been neglected! Though I'm a man of small monies, here's a buck to help fight this trial...if you need more dough later, write me again...I'll do my best."

From W.E.C., Cambridge, Mass.  
"I am not content to read your urgent letter on the Minneapolis sedition trial and put it indifferently away. The least I can do is to write my hearty approval of your gallant move...which...must of your approval I shall attempt to cast it among the circles in which I move...and follow this up with a second and more profitable letter to you."

From S.B., Canon City, Colo.  
"We are 71 and have but little money, but we are glad to do all we can to help real people!"