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HARRY DEBOER



MAX GELDMAN

Labor Organizations Representing

3,000,000

WORKERS DEMAND

FREEDOM

for these 18 CIO and

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

LEADERS IMPRISONED

under the anti-labor

SMITH "GAG" ACT

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE • 160 Fifth Ave. • New York

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# PROGRESSIVE UNION LEADERS SUPPORT THE MINNEAPOLIS LABOR CASE

Recognizing the vital importance of the Minneapolis Labor Case to the entire trade union movement, four Internationals and over 300 unions and progressive organizations representing more than 3,000,000 workers have already backed our campaign to free the 18 and repeal the vicious Smith "Gag" Act. Among these supporting locals are 58 United Automobile Workers-CIO, 22 Steel Workers-CIO, 19 International Ladies Garment Workers-AFL, 14 Textile Workers-CIO, 11 Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Employees-CIO, 10 Amalgamated Clothing Workers-CIO and scores of other CIO, AFL and Independent unions, as well as many Councils and Joint Boards.

JOIN THESE PROGRESSIVE UNIONS BY SENDING US YOUR CONTRIBUTION  
TO HELP OUR FIGHT TO FREE THE 18!



## JOHN GREEN

*PRESIDENT, Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America - CIO*

"I consider it my personal duty as a responsible union leader and as an American to strongly protest the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the U. S. refusing to consider the appeal of 18 members of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Union."



## GEORGE BALDANZI

*EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, Textile Workers Union of America - CIO*

"Speaking for the Textile Workers Union of America, with full knowledge of the issues in this case and on behalf of labor victims of an unfair law, I wish to state that our National Council has endorsed this movement of the CRDC and we intend to continue our support."



## WARREN K. BILLINGS

*Famous Labor Prisoner*

"The prosecution of these 18 was a part of the drive by the enemies of organized labor to get rid of the most militant trade union elements. . . . This is an attack upon the entire labor movement and it must be met with the united action of all labor. That is why it is so important for every class conscious worker to fight for the freedom of the 18 and for the repeal of the Smith 'Gag' Act."



## R. J. THOMAS

*PRESIDENT, United Automobile Workers of America - CIO*

"I am of the opinion that these people should be supported for two reasons: first, the National CIO takes that position, and second, they were undoubtedly sent to prison under a law with which we cannot possibly agree . . . the case itself involves a serious threat to labor generally."



## WILLARD TOWNSEND

*PRESIDENT, United Transport Service Employees - CIO*

"Our International Union at its convention vigorously expressed itself against the denial of civil rights involved in the persecution of the 18 Minneapolis defendants. We feel the refusal of the U. S. Supreme Court to hear your case, the first appeal of any conviction under the notorious Smith 'Gag' Act, is an indication of the anti-civil liberties temper of these times. We pledge our solidarity with you in the work that lies ahead to secure the freedom of the eighteen defendants."



## ROGER BALDWIN

*DIRECTOR, American Civil Liberties Union*

"This is a case which never should have been brought to court under a law which never should have been passed. Never before has the Supreme Court refused to review a case of this importance."

## INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS UNION - AFL

"The records of the case abundantly show that they were condemned simply and solely for the expression of opinion, no overt act of any sort being charged against them. . . . We are deeply convinced that these convictions challenge the best traditions of civil liberty under the Constitution."

*Boston Convention Resolution—June, 1944*

## IRVING ABRAMSON *PRESIDENT, New Jersey State CIO Council*

"My disagreement with their ideas forms the very basis of my strong conviction that their right to their beliefs and their freedom to express those beliefs ought to be strongly safeguarded. This principle, I believe, is the very rock upon which our democracy stands. This is the reason why the Executive Board of the organization which I head recorded itself in favor of protecting the civil rights of the defendants involved. Therefore, on behalf of the New Jersey State CIO Council, I would like to add my strong protest."

# WE NEED \$10,000 TO HELP THE 18 PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



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**ADVANCE, Official publication**  
**Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America - CIO**

"These are the first convictions under the notorious Smith 'Gag' Act, the first peace-time statute since 1798 to make the expression of opinion a federal crime. The act was sponsored by the same poll-tax Congressman Howard Smith who also co-authored the anti-labor Smith-Connally Act. When the U. S. Supreme Court three times refused to review the Minneapolis case, it thereby refused to test the constitutionality of the Smith Act. This now places a legal weapon in the hands of reaction. Under the Smith Act neither overt action nor a 'clear and present danger' need be proved and men can be imprisoned for their opinion alone."

**HERE ARE THE FACTS IN THE MINNEAPOLIS LABOR CASE**

The prosecution arose out of a conflict over trade union democracy between the progressive Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544 and Daniel J. Tobin, President of the AFL International Teamsters Union.

In June 1941 when Local 544 by a majority vote transferred its affiliation from the AFL to the CIO, Tobin personally appealed to President Roosevelt for help.

The Department of Justice then intervened by arresting and indicting the leaders of Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party for their union activities and socialist views.

After a five-weeks trial, 18 were found guilty and given sentences of from 12 months and a day to 16 months for violating the Smith "Gag" Act.

The Smith "Gag" Act was opposed by both the CIO and AFL and condemned by leading labor and civil liberties spokesmen as anti-labor, undemocratic and unconstitutional.

After the Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the convictions, the U. S. Supreme Court in an unprecedented action three times refused to review this important case.

On December 31, 1943 the 18 began to serve their prison terms. On August 2 of this year, President Roosevelt received petitions for their pardon backed by organizations representing over 3,000,000 workers.

**THE VITAL ISSUES IN THIS CASE CONCERN YOU!**

The 18 are in prison not for anything they did but solely because of their beliefs and trade union activities.

They are the first to be convicted under the Smith "Gag" Act.

Their case sets a dangerous precedent which threatens the cherished democratic rights of every American.

The Smith "Gag" Act is an infamous legal weapon in the hands of reaction which can now be used against other trade unionists and minority groups.

**I'LL HELP IN THE FIGHT!**

**JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman**  
Civil Rights Defense Committee  
160 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Here is my contribution of \$..... for the  
**MINNEAPOLIS PRISONERS PARDON & RELIEF  
FUND.**

Name .....

Address .....

City & State.....

I am writing to the President asking for a full pardon.

**JOIN THE MILLIONS OF  
WORKERS WHO DEMAND  
FREEDOM FOR THE 18**

**Help our Committee in this impor-  
tant labor and civil liberties fight by  
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