

# Tenn. Negroes Bail Out 12 Heroes

By HARRY RAYMOND

COLUMBIA, Tenn., March 8.—I stood in the rain outside the Red Brock County Jail here at midnight as the last 13 of 101 Negroes arrested during the successful fighting off of a lynching last week, walked out on bond. Emerging first from the side door was tall James T. Bellofont, he still had on part of the U. S. Army uniform he wore with honor fighting the Nazis on many fronts in Europe.

This handsome, bronze-faced war veteran still in his twenties, was being released on \$5,000 cash bail, charged with attempt to commit murder. He never had laid a violent hand on anybody in this community. He was arrested and held incommunicado a week after police illegally searched his home and took from it a machine gun he brought back from Europe as a war trophy.

It was not against the Tennessee law for the ex-soldier to own this gun. It was well known in the community he possessed it. In fact, Sheriff J. J. Underwood had seen it and admired it along with a second trophy, a German pistol, when the young Negro brought them back from the war. Bellofont then gave the pistol to the Sheriff as a present.

## HALF WERE VETS

Filing out of the jail behind Bellofont were 12 other young Negroes, at least six of them war veterans. Eight face the same charge as Bellofont—attempt to murder—and four, out on \$250 bail each, are charged with possessing weapons.

Here was the beginning of a mass frameup aimed at the body of the finest citizens in this community. Released earlier on bail and facing similar charges before an all-white grand jury are James Morton and James Martin, business men and the Rev. Calvin Lockridge, Baptist pastor.

Another defendant is Louis Miles Jr., 25, a veteran with three years and six months war service in the Signal Corps. He spent 22 months in military operations in France, Luxembourg and Germany.

## WASN'T EVEN THERE

Miles was visiting friends outside Columbia when a mob of armed white men, the local police, then state patrolmen sought to lynch Jimmy Stephenson, Negro Navy veteran, because he struck a white man in defense of his mother.

He was not present when a couple of blasts of bird shot scattered policemen who came down to the colored district to get young Stephenson. Yet Miles was held for eight days before he was released on \$5,000 bond on an attempt to murder charge.

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## Cuban Paper Protests Tennessee Terror

HAVANA, March 8.—The newspaper Hoy, official organ of the Cuban Confederation of Workers, has reprinted the Daily Worker dispatches on the Tennessee terror and appealed to its readers in the following words:

"Let us all unite crying out against these terrible events. Let us raise our voices in protest so that justice be done to the citizens of Columbia, Tenn., who now face the tyranny and hate of an hysterical and deadly mob."

While in jail this veteran was slugged. He saw uniformed policemen or state guardsmen knock other Negroes down in the prison. One, he said, was knocked unconscious by a blackjack because he had his hat on. It was during this time two Negro prisoners were shot to death in the county jail.

## A NEW KIND OF MAN

Bail for release of the thirteen—\$46,000 cash—was put up in the Sheriff's office by local Negroes. Maurice Weaver, militant NAACP attorney and Navy veteran offered full financial sources of the NAACP for bail. But these wonderful local Negro people here, insisting on being in the forefront of the fight for justice, went down to the community and brought in their own cash bond.

"These are the new Negroes of the South," said Z. Alexander Looby, fighting Negro attorney on the case from Nashville. "The Booker T. Washington Negroes are becoming a thing of the past. The modern Negro has fought for democracy abroad and he is determined to get it at home. The new Negro is the DuBois Negro, the Langston Hughes Negro."

Attorney Looby, the man who walks rather than ride a Jimcrow bus, the man who valiantly stands up and fights for his people, is himself the highest example of his new Negro.

## Southerners Insist U. S. Act on Columbia

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 8.—The Southern Conference for Human Welfare, in a telegram to Attorney General Tom Clark, scored the report by federal district attorney Horace Frierson that "no federal civil right statutes were violated" in Columbia, Tenn.

"Prior to such statement," the telegram said, "homes in the Negro section were invaded, the business area physically destroyed and about United Packinghouse Workers.

100 Negroes seized and held incommunicado. Since that statement by Frierson, law enforcement men shot and killed two Negroes and wounded a third while they were in custody. We urge complete investigation with prosecution of violations under Federal Statutes."

CAMDEN, N. J., March 8.—The CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Local 80, representing 6,000 members today urged President Truman to intervene to prevent further loss of life and violations of civil liberties of Negro citizens in Columbia.

## Chicago Plans Action On Tennessee Terror

CHICAGO, March 8.—Funds for the defense of the imprisoned Negroes of Columbia were being raised here today by the newly-organized Columbia Emergency Defense Committee of Chicago.

Co-chairmen Ira Latimer and Irene McCoy Gaines announced that the committee is preparing to send a large delegation to Washington and Columbia.

Meanwhile, the committee announced a protest mass meeting to be held next Monday night, March 11, 8 p.m. at Wendell Phillips High School.

Speakers will include: Oscar Brown, of the NAACP; Gerald Fielde, secretary-treasurer of the CIO United Farm Equipment Workers; Elmer Henderson, of the FEPC; William L. Patterson, of the Communist Party; Rev. Lewis McGee, A.M.E. Methodist Council; and Herb March, district president of the CIO. All Negroes arrested and charged with offense during the lynch terror in Columbia, Tenn., will be given legal defense, Walter White announced yesterday.

White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), has just returned from Columbia.

# Canadian Fighter Tells How It's Done

By ARNOLD SROOG

In 1935 Dorise Nielsen lived on relief with her husband and her three children on a farm in north Saskatchewan, Canada's bleak northern frontier.

Five years later she was a United Progressive member of Canada's House of Commons. Today she is here as a fraternal delegate to attend the organizing session of the Congress of American Women.

When Mrs. Nielsen landed from England at the age of 22 she had little idea of what was in store for her. She took a job teaching in north Saskatchewan.

"We were 50 miles from the nearest doctor," she told us. "Even today some localities are 20 and 30 miles from the nearest telephone. It's the kind of country that makes you or breaks you."

She taught a mixed group of children—Indians, Canadian farm kids, Hungarian immigrants.

"They taught me more than I taught them," she said. "It was a marvelous experience."

By 1935 the world depression had driven life in that farm area to the brink of starvation. Mrs. Nielsen and her family, five people, were forced to live on \$12.15 a month—

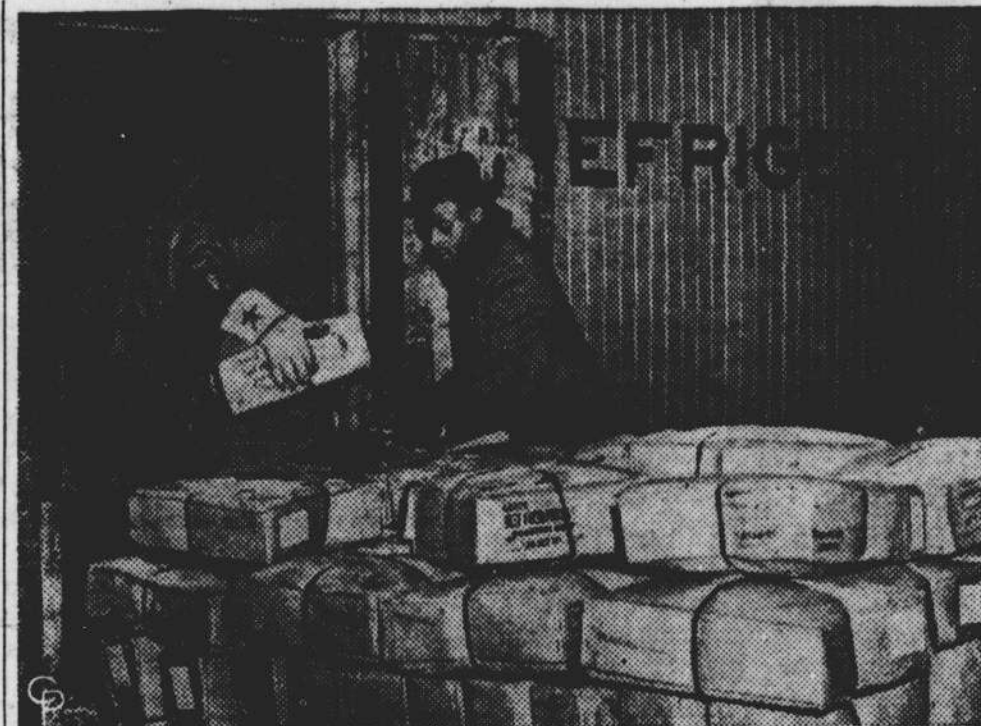


DORISE NIELSEN

their relief allotment.

"That was when I got active in politics. I began to talk with the local farm women and after a while we had a fairly good movement going."

She came into contact with the Canadian Commonwealth Federation (CCF) and by 1938 was elected to its provincial committee. She



**French Won't 'Beef' at This:** Hungry people of France, their country's food stocks gutted by the loot era of the Nazi occupation, will get the 4,400,000 pounds of frozen beef being loaded by stevedores at a marine terminal in Baltimore. The beef will be shipped to France under sponsorship of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation organization.

# GREEK VOTE MARCH 31 MEANS CIVIL WAR, OFFICIALS WARN

ATHENS, March 8 (UP).—Second Deputy Premier Emmanuel J. Tsouderos and Merchant Marine Minister John Reltekis today announced their opposition to a general election March 31, but Premier Themistocles Sophoulis rejected Tsouderos' offer to resign.

Tsouderos wrote Sophoulis that he would abstain from the election on

the ground that election of a new national legislature would not guarantee normality under present circumstances.

Reltekis said that if the elections were held with left-wing parties abstaining, as they have threatened to do, the result would be a civil war leading to international complications.

# Former Stars & Stripes Editors Denounce Generals, Censorship

The Stars and Stripes Mediterranean Association, composed of former staff members of the Army newspaper, yesterday protested to Secretary of War Robert Patterson the recent censorship edict of Mediterranean Commander Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee.

The former Stars and Stripes staffers said they were "shocked" by Lee's action in assuming censorship of soldiers' letters to the paper.

"We would like to ask where Gen. Lee gets the right to set himself up as a final authority on what political matters shall be discussed openly by men in uniform on any Army paper," the association's telegram to Patterson said.

"We do not believe," it said, "that the generals have the right to abridge the practice of free and honest journalism."

## CIO Urges Appeal Of Quinn Whitewash

The City CIO yesterday called on Superintendent of Schools John E. Wade to take immediate action in appealing the May Quinn whitewash decision.

The CIO Council, representing 600,000 members, also urged support for the Hulan Jack bill (Assembly Introductory 404) in the State Legislature, providing for an elected city Board of Education.

soon got into trouble with the CCF's Social Democratic leadership. Her ideas of unity of all working people, including Communists, were opposed by the CCF.

Mrs. Nielsen, however, kept plugging her program of unity and as a result was expelled from the CCF in 1939. Nothing daunted, she continued her organizational work and ran for the House of Commons from her home constituency. Running on a unity slate called the United Progressives, she was elected and took her seat in 1940. Her term expired last year.

Two years ago she joined the Labor Progressive Party (Canada's

Communists) at its national convention. She is at present its legislative secretary and a member of its central executive committee.

She has just returned from a six-week tour on Canada's housing crisis. One million people are affected out of Canada's population of 11,000,000-12,000,000. It is estimated, she said, that Canada needs now housing amounting to from 80,000 to 100,000 units annually for the next 25 years.

She hopes to pick up some facts about the organization of women in the U. S. while she is here. When she goes home she'll do her best to change some of the facts about organization of Canadian women.

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