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### What is the I.L.D.?

KAARTE-EDLUND BRANCH

*International Labor Defense*

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# WHAT IS THE I. L. D. ?

ON JUNE 28, 1925, DELEGATES REPRESENTING TRADE UNIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, FRATERNAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, MET TOGETHER IN CHICAGO AND ESTABLISHED THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE.

NECESSITY DICTATED THE DATE ON WHICH THE I. L. D. WAS BORN. THE ONSLAUGHT OF TERROR AND PERSECUTION AGAINST THE WORKING CLASS AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT ITS CAUSE, HAD REACHED A POINT WHERE THE SPORADIC ISOLATED DEFENSE COMMITTEES OF THE PAST WERE NO LONGER ADEQUATE TO MEET THE PROBLEMS OF THE DAY. THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT FELT THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT, NATIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATION, EVER READY TO COME TO THE AID OF THOSE WHO WERE VICTIMIZED FOR THEIR ACTIVITY IN ITS RANKS,\*\*EVER READY TO RALLY THE SUPPORT OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS TO PROVIDE DEFENSE TO POLITICAL PRISONERS AND RELIEF TO THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN FROM WHOM THEY HAD BEEN TORN AWAY.

DURING THE TEN YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE THE I. L. D. HAS MADE HEROIC EFFORTS TO FILL THIS NEED. FROM THE FIRST DAY OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE I. L. D. PICKED UP THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM FOR CLASS WAR VETERANS WHO, BY 1925, HAD SPENT MANY YEARS BEHIND PRISON BARS -- TOM MOONEY, J. B. MCNAMARA, MATT SCHMIDT, THE CENTRALIA PRISONERS.

IN 1926 IT ORGANIZED THE DEFENSE OF THE TEXTILE STRIKERS IN PASSAIC, N. J., SMASHING THROUGH AN UNPRECEDENTED HULL OF POLICE TERROR. IT RALLIED MILLIONS TO THE DEFENSE OF SACCO AND VANZETTI IN THOSE LAST TRAGIC MONTHS BEFORE THEY WERE MURDERED BY MASSACHUSETTS.

1927 SAW TREMENDOUS DEFENSE CAMPAIGNS IN BEHALF OF THE 663 NEW BEDFORD TEXTILE STRIKERS, COLORADO COAL MINERS, AGAINST THE DEPORTATION OF SEVERAL OUTSTANDING LEADERS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN WORKERS.

1928 WAS MARKED BY ACTIVITIES IN DEFENSE OF THE STRIKING MINERS IN PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO AND WEST VIRGINIA -- FIGHTING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE ARRESTED PICKETS.

1929 BROUGHT ONE OF THE FIRST GREAT INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS OF THE I. L. D. IN DEFENSE OF THE LEADERS OF THE GASTONIA, N. C. TEXTILE STRIKE, HELD FOR THE MURDER OF CHIEF OF POLICE, ADERELT, WHO WAS KILLED BY ONE OF HIS OWN DRUNKEN POLICEMEN DURING A BRUTAL RAID ON THE STRIKERS' TENT COLONY.

1930 SAW THE BEGINNING OF THE LARGE SCALE DEFENSE OF THE MOUNTING MILLIONS OF UNEMPLOYED WHOSE CRY FOR BREAD WAS MET BY BULLETS AND JAIL SENTENCES.

1931 USHERED IN PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THE I. L. D. CAMPAIGNS -- THE SCOTTSBORO CASE, WHICH BEGAN IN SLEEPY SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA AND HAS CIRCLED THE GLOBE IN THE FOUR YEAR BATTLE AGAINST LYNCH RULE AND ITS GREEDY THIRST FOR THE LIVES OF NINE INNOCENT NEGRO BOYS.

1932 WAS FILLED WITH LESS SPECTACULAR BUT EQUALLY VITAL DEFENSE AND RELIEF ACTIVITIES.

1933 WAS MARKED BY THE BEGINNINGS OF THE NEW DEAL TERROR AND PERSECUTION AGAINST AMERICAN LABOR RESISTING STARVATION AND FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE. IT ALSO BROUGHT THE CASE OF ANGELO HERNDON.

SINCE 1934 EVENTS HAVE MOVED SO THICK AND FAST THEY HAVE ALMOST TELESCOPED EACH OTHER. HILLSBORO, SACRAMENTO CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM CASES, THE WEST COAST GENERAL STRIKE, TOLEDO, MINNEAPOLIS, THE GENERAL TEXTILE STRIKE, SCOTTSBORO AND HERNDON, BURLINGTON, GALLUP,\*\*A DEPORTATION DELIRIUM. THE LIST OF VICTIMS GROWS LONGER, BUT THE UNITED FRONT OF BATTLE BECOMES BROADER AT THE SAME TIME.

JUNE 21, 1935, (JUST SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE TENTH YEAR OF THE I. L. D.) USHERED IN THE NOW NOTORIOUS POLICE MURDERS AND WHOLESALE ARRESTS OF THE LUMBER STRIKERS IN EUREKA, WHICH MARKED ANOTHER ONSLAUGHT OF TERROR AND PERSECUTION AGAINST WORKERS. THE I. L. D. IMMEDIATELY CAME TO THE AID OF THE ARRESTED STRIKERS -- OBTAINED LEO GALLAGHER AND GEORGE ANDERSON TO DEFEND THEM -- HAD BAIL REDUCED -- AIDED IN OBTAINING BAIL -- ARRANGED PROTEST MEETINGS AND PUBLICIZED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY THE UNWARRANTED POLICE ATTACK AGAINST UNARMED WORKERS AND THE MURDER OF WILLIAM KAARTE AND HAROLD EDLUND.

THE I. L. D. IS A MASS ORGANIZATION WITH BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, HAVING A MEMBERSHIP TOTALING OVER 16,000,000 DUES PAYING MEMBERS OF ALL POLITICAL, FRATERNAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND ALL RACES. IT FIGHTS FOR THE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS AND ASSEMBLY FOR WORKERS, AND FOR THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE, STRIKE AND PICKET: TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND TO ORGANIZE FOR SELF-DEFENSE. IT PUBLISHES AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, "THE LABOR DEFENDER", AND UTILIZES THE ENTIRE LABOR PRESS FOR PUBLICITY AND FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF MASS SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAM.

ORGANIZE AGAINST THE SUPPRESSION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS AND AGAINST VIGILANTE TERROR!

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE!