

Vigilante Terror in Fontana

THE TRAGIC STORY OF
O'DAY H. SHORT AND HIS FAMILY



By

MYRA TANNER WEISS

Organizer, Los Angeles Local
Socialist Workers Party

Price 10 cents



MYRA TANNER WEISS

Published February, 1946

By the

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

LOS ANGELES LOCAL

145 South Broadway, Room 201

Los Angeles 12

Phone VAndike 7936



PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

25-00.13616 CAX-00

INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet tells the story of the fire in which my sister Helen and her family were burned to death, and of the threats they received from vigilantes less than two weeks earlier.

My brother-in-law O'Day Short wanted those threats publicized. He didn't want them hushed up and he didn't intend to submit quietly to them. He went to the newspapers with the story and he refused to give up the fight for his right to live in his home, the fight against race discrimination.

We know my sister's family was threatened. We do not know the cause of the fire which destroyed them, but, as this pamphlet makes clear, we have good reason to believe it was not accidental. We demand a full investigation of the vigilantes.

Recently two other Negro families were bombed in Chicago by vigilantes who had threatened them in the effort to oust them from an all-white west side neighborhood.

We are convinced that only through spreading the story of what happened in Fontana far and wide can we have the basis for mobilizing public opinion against vigilante terror, Jim Crow and all other forms of oppression from which minorities suffer.

For that reason I urge everyone to read this pamphlet and pass it on. We must have no more victims.

CARRIE STOKES MORRISON.

February, 1946.

Vigilante Terror in Fontana

Vigilantes are organized in Fontana, California, where multi-millionaire Henry J. Kaiser has his steel mill. "They are a tough bunch." They threatened a Negro family—O'Day H. Short, his wife and his two children—with violence. They tried to terrorize Short into moving his family out of their new home into a Negro ghetto area. Short stood his ground and refused to move. Two weeks later his home burned to the ground. His wife and children succumbed to burns. Short, himself badly burned, hovered between life and death for five weeks. Then he, too, died.

This terrible story has not been told in the capitalist press. But this story *must* be told, if people are not to live in fear of vigilante terror. The facts must be shouted from the housetops as a lesson and a warning.

This story of terror and death in Fontana has deep social and political significance. The tragedy of the Short family is one of numerous incidents in an unchecked wave of terror against racial, religious, and national minorities and against the labor movement.

ROOT OF RACE HATRED TRACED TO THE SOCIAL CRISIS

The growth of race prejudice and race hate; acts of violence against minorities and against the labor movement; the growth of vigilante and fascist organizations—all are rooted in the profound social crisis. The end of the so-called "war for democracy"—in reality a war between robber imperialists—brought with it vast cut-backs in production. The

war boom was over. The post-war boom is now on. But who believes in the possibility of long prosperity? Millions face the prospect of unemployment. The workers, caught in the vise of rising prices and falling wages, have embarked on a titanic struggle to maintain their living standard. Big Business has countered with a drive to break the labor movement and compel the workers to accept a lower living standard. In this drive Big Business has at its command the wealth of the nation and a government which it controls. As an additional weapon, Big Business seeks to divide the workers, to pit one section against another, to foster and promote racial animosities, to set race against race, thereby weakening the entire working class. It uses vigilante and other fascist-type formations to terrorize minorities and labor organizations. The Fontana case is part of the general picture.

With the end of the war, the fascist demagogue, Gerald L. K. Smith, went on a national tour. He was not campaigning in order to foment the racial animosities which are part of fascism's stock-in-trade. Capitalism has already done that with its Jim-Crow system of segregation in housing, in jobs, in the government, in the army and navy. Smith has been campaigning to organize the vigilante, race-hating elements—for use first against the minorities, later to attack the organized labor movement. Recognizing this as his aim, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations organized a struggle against Smith.

UNBRIDLED CAMPAIGN OF TERROR SHOWN IN LONG LIST OF INCIDENTS

Now unchecked terror is the order of the day. Not the least guilty are the government officials themselves. Victims have been so numerous that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called a mass meeting in Los Angeles to protest against police brutality toward Negroes and the refusal of the authorities to punish these guardians of "law and order" for their inhuman crimes.

A Negro, Mitchell H. Mason, was shot and killed by a Long Beach police officer, in a traffic argument, without provocation. The officer was exonerated. A long list of Los Angeles police crimes was published in a local Negro paper. The following are but three examples:

"CALVIN WILKERSON, 34-year-old discharged veteran, arrested as he entered a downtown office building; handcuffed, beaten by one of the arresting officers as he was taken to the station. After questioning at the Burglar Detail, he was released without charges."

"ARMOND BRANDFORD, Jr., 19-year-old high school student, arrested one Saturday afternoon as he left the Coliseum after a track meet. He was handcuffed, put in a squad car, and choked by one of the officers. At Lincoln Heights jail he was booked on a 'vag lewd' charge. About 5 a.m. the following day he was taken from his cell to the shower room by two officers who beat him. When released that morning on bail he had a black eye and bruises. When tried in court he was found NOT GUILTY."

"HARVEY BLANKS, 32, discharged veteran, arrested while on his way home from work about 4 a.m., booked at the University station on 'suspicion of burglary.' He was released three days later and charges were dropped. Blanks reports that while being questioned, he was forced to remove his shirt and face the wall while officers beat him with a hard instrument and burned his back with what he believes were lighted cigarettes. (A doctor's statement confirmed his back injury from blows and burning.) Blanks also reports that he had more than \$100 on his person when arrested, but only \$19 was returned to him upon his release."

Terror is directed not only against Negroes, although they are usually the victims. James Tarentino, editor of the Hollywood *Nite Life* magazine, after printing editorials against Gerald L. K. Smith, received numerous anonymous threats to frighten him into silence. As his wife was walking home late on December 29, 1945, with her 21-month-old son, three men

stepped up to her from a limousine. One stuck a gun in the baby's back, saying:

"You'd better get in the car. Evidently your husband thinks we're kidding. Tell him to stop writing that stuff against Gerald L. K. Smith. This is only a sample." The mother and child were forced into the car, beaten, and thrown out on a quiet road several miles away.

An attempt was made to assassinate the leader of the striking Hollywood unions, Herbert Sorrell. No news of any arrests has as yet appeared.

For over a year vigilantes have been getting unhampered practice in terrorizing Japanese-Americans, burning their homes, firing bullets at them, and threatening people who have employed them. Only after an unpardonable delay did organized labor protest against this unrestrained campaign of terror against a helpless minority. The authorities did virtually nothing to apprehend or punish the terrorists.

THIS IS THE STORY OF VIGILANTE TERROR IN FONTANA

Now an entire Negro family in Fontana has been burned to death. We believe that this was murder perpetrated by the vigilantes. Let us tell the full story, for as yet the capitalist newspapers, those organs of "public enlightenment," have kept silent.

O'Day H. Short, a Negro resident of Los Angeles for about 25 years, was forced to look for a new home for his family because of the housing shortage. To give his two children, Barry and Carol Ann, the security of their own home, and space in which to play and grow healthy, he bought a lot in Fontana, 50 miles from Los Angeles in San Bernardino county.

As he constructed his home, and after he had brought his family to live there, he was visited by two deputy sheriffs,

"Tex" Cornelison and Joe Glines. They told Short that he was "out of bounds" and that to avoid "disagreeableness" he should move his family to the other side of Baseline, which is a segregated Negro area. There was no "legal" basis for their visits. The deputies told Short of complaints against his living there. (When questioned later as to who made the complaints, Deputy Sheriff Joe Glines said that he didn't get the complaints from any particular person. He just heard them on the street.) The visits and warnings of these two deputy sheriffs are recorded in the sheriff's office at San Bernardino.

Subsequently, J. Sutherland, the real estate broker who sold the lot to Short, visited the latter and delivered the following threat:

VIGILANTES GIVE WARNING THAT THEY ARE A "TOUGH BUNCH"

"Short, the vigilante committee had a meeting on your case last night. They are a tough bunch to deal with. If I were you, I'd get my family off this property at once."

That was early Monday afternoon, December 3, 1945. Short asked Sutherland if this threat meant violence if he did not comply. Sutherland answered "Yes."

Instead of abandoning his carefully made plans for his family and, with fear in his heart, searching once more for a home, as some might understandably do, Short went to his attorney for advice. He also reported the threats to the F.B.I.

What might one expect the authorities to do when a man and his family are threatened with violent and illegal action? We might answer this question by imagining what would happen if Henry J. Kaiser, owner of the steel mill in Fontana, were threatened. First, all the daily papers would publicize the threat, thus making perpetration of the crime

hazardous and difficult. The two deputy sheriffs who delivered the threat would be removed from office. Sutherland would be arrested as a party to a criminal conspiracy and made to reveal the identity of his fellow-conspirators. The steel magnate would be furnished guards at government expense and probably before the day was over he would be safe, with all the conspirators behind bars.

But Short was not Kaiser. He didn't make millions out of the blood, agony and tears of the second world war. He was just an obscure member of the persecuted Negro minority. So the capitalist press was silent. The deputy sheriffs continued in office. Sutherland was not disturbed. The vigilantes could proceed with their plans unhindered. The only aid Short was given, if we can call it that, was the advice by the F.B.I. to report any further developments.

However, O'Day H. Short didn't rely on the authorities alone, and this is what kept the subsequent events from escaping public attention as merely a tragic accident. He told the full story of the threats to the *Los Angeles Sentinel*, a Negro newspaper, and this paper told the story in its December 6 issue under a banner headline.

THE DEATH OF A FAMILY

Ten days later, on Sunday evening, December 16, disaster struck. Two young white boys in the vicinity saw the Short home surrounded by flames. They heard an explosion. The whole house was quickly ablaze. They ran to give aid. Neighbors heard the explosion and ran to help. The Short children were screaming; their mother was trying to quiet their cries. The two boys took the family to the hospital. The little girl Carol Ann, aged 7, was the first to die. Barry, aged 9, died during the night. By morning their mother, Mrs. Helen Short, was dead. Short himself died five weeks later.

Not until Tuesday morning, December 18, did the daily papers report the fire and then only in a brief item: "Three killed when home accidentally burns in Fontana." On what

was this report of an "accident" based? Two deputy sheriffs issued a statement that the fire was an accident, alleging that Short had said so in a moment of consciousness. These two deputy sheriffs were "Tex" Cornelison and Joe Glines, the pair who had previously delivered threats to the Short family.

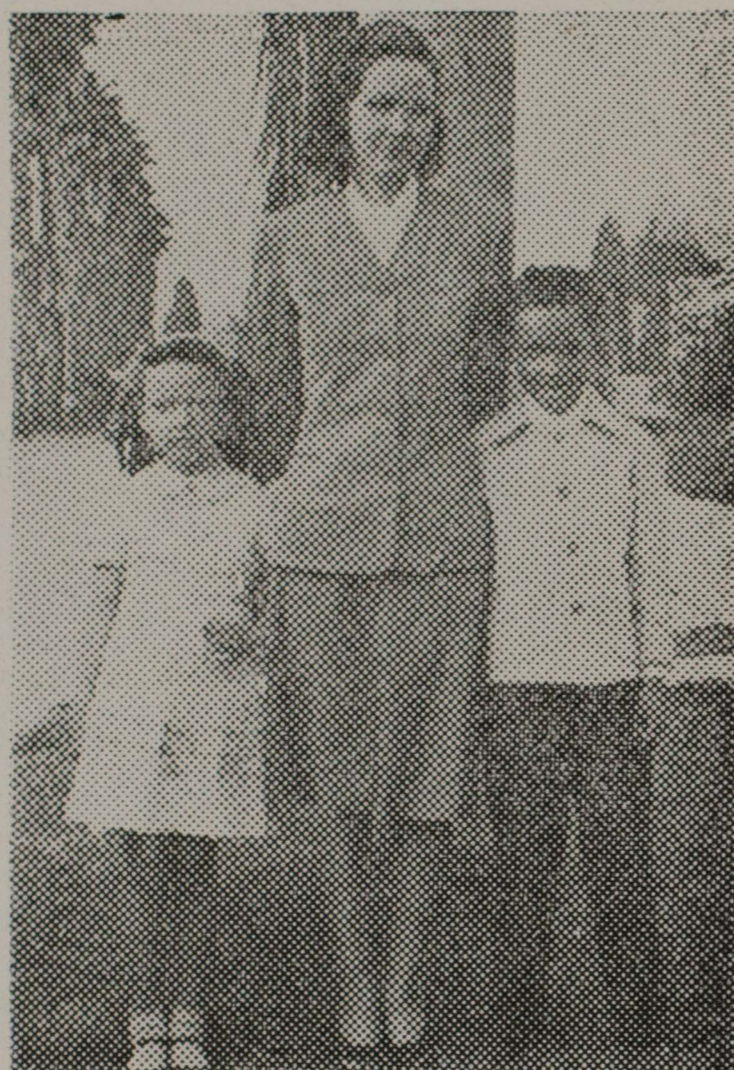
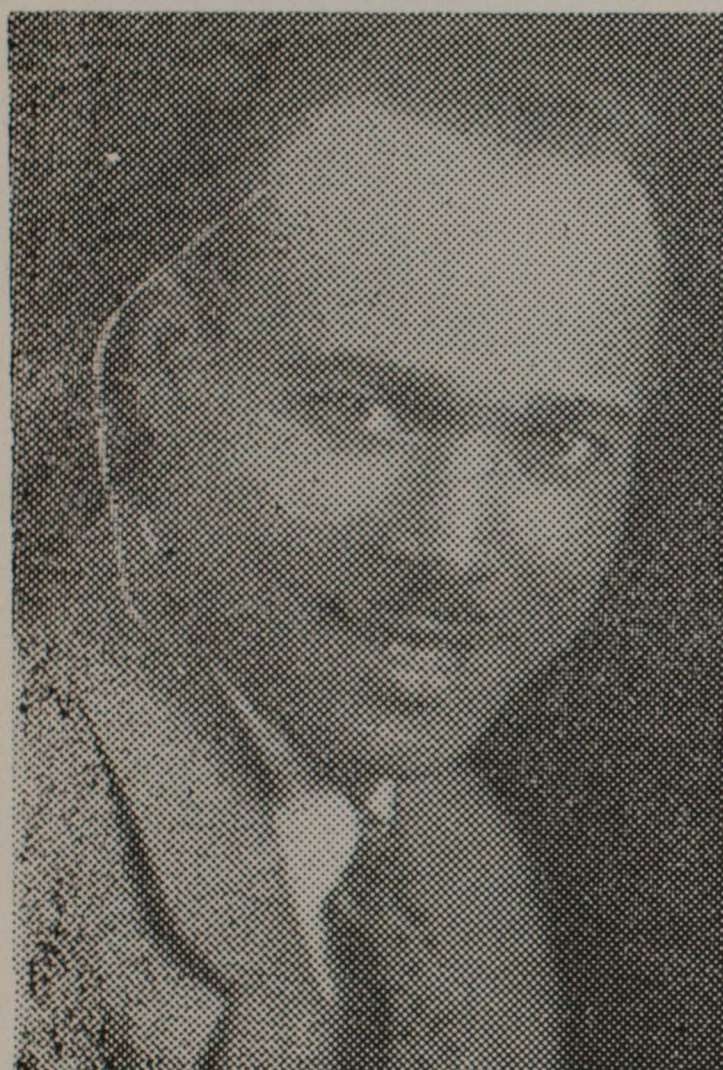


THE SHORT CHILDREN—ANN, 7, AND BARRY, 9
(Photo, courtesy of the Los Angeles Sentinel)

Mrs. Carrie Morrison, sister of Helen Short, reported at a Los Angeles meeting called by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that she had asked for an inquest into the death of the family. The County Coroner resisted any inquiry on the ground that the fire was obviously

an accident. It was only under persistent pressure that an inquest was called.

Many of the Negro newspapers, calling attention to the vigilante threats, demanded an investigation. They called on State Attorney General Robert Kenny to intervene. Only then did the District Attorney of San Bernardino County, Jerome B. Kavanaugh, and the Coroner in Rialto, schedule an inquest.



O'DAY H. SHORT, LEFT, AND HELEN SHORT WITH BARRY AND ANN
(Photos, Courtesy of The Los Angeles Sentinel)

The first session was opened by the San Bernardino District Attorney on December 22. He revealed where he stood by correcting himself when referring to the vigilantes and calling them a "pressure group," thereby giving a coat of whitewash to an organization whose name is notoriously linked with reactionary deeds of violence. After preliminaries, the inquest was postponed to permit further "investigation." When it resumed the following Thursday the small hall was crowded. All were anxious to know the results of the District Attorney's "investigation."

After identification of the bodies, and a report of the autopsy, District Attorney Kavanaugh read a transcript of a conversation he had had with Short in the hospital. Bear in mind that Short was so critically ill he hadn't even been told that his family were dead for fear the shock would kill him. This is what Kavanaugh read:

"On Saturday, Dec. 22, I requested the company of John D. Lee, President of the N.A.A.C.P., to interview Short. I arranged with a shorthand reporter to take the interview. I told Mr. Short that we came to ask a few questions and would try to be brief. . . . What we are anxious to determine is whether or not the fire was caused by malicious persons or was an accident. If caused by persons with malicious intent we will prosecute them. On the other hand, if the explosion of the lamp was an accident then we will abide by that situation. Can you tell us the cause of the fire?"

"Short stated that he did not want to make any statement.

"The District Attorney explained that he wanted to investigate the deaths.

"KAVANAUGH asks again for a statement.

"SHORT: I do not see why I should be compelled to lie on a sick bed and give information.

"DISTRICT ATTORNEY: It has been published in the newspapers that the explosion from a coal oil lamp caused the fire.

"SHORT: Well, as I say, I do not believe I am compelled to make any legal statement one way or the other.

"D.A.: You are not compelled, but if you know any information it is entirely optional for you to give it. Our purpose in coming out here was not to upset you but to find out the facts. We want to know if it was arson or accident and you alone have the information. . . .

"SHORT: I am not competent to give any reply—until I can be given the proper legal advice and not before. I am

here on my bed sick, my hair burned off my head, my legs twisted under me. You have no respect for my position. All you want to do is get the information you are looking for. . . .

"D.A.: Your attorney will not be able to get out here until tomorrow. . . . Does he know how the fire started?"

"SHORT: I cannot speak for myself now at this time. I am incompetent. I feel that I am incompetent. I do not mean to be foolish. In the morning the girls here ask me questions and a little later I do not remember the answers I gave them.

"D.A.: I am not trying to take unfair advantage of you, but to see that justice is done and to know if a criminal act was committed.

"SHORT: The statement has no doubt been made by any number of persons and everyone here asked how did it happen and I have given my opinion that it was an explosion.

"D.A.: Was it an accident?"

"SHORT: I am not confining myself to any statement until I have had time.

"D.A.: Your statement is that it was an explosion of a lamp or stove?"

"SHORT: Yes.

"D.A.: Have you made any statements that the house was set on fire?"

"SHORT: It does not seem to be the proper time to go into all these details now.

"D.A.: Is there anybody that you have in mind as being a suspect?"

"SHORT again states he is incompetent to answer.

"D.A.: Do you think the fire was caused by an accident?"

"SHORT: As far as I am concerned—sure."

Thus, by high pressure questioning, the District Attorney succeeded in wresting from the mortally injured Short the one statement he was interested in getting: that the Fontana fire was an *ACCIDENT*.

SHORT'S REAL OPINION REGARDING ORIGIN OF THE FIRE

But what is the true worth of this "admission" extracted under pressure? Short had previously stated and reiterated that he was too ill to testify. But the District Attorney still persisted. It was obviously in order to end the interrogation and get rid of this heartless official that Short finally said, with an obvious tinge of sarcasm: "Sure—it was an accident." Later, however, when his condition had temporarily improved, Short freely expressed to representatives of the NAACP and to Paul T. Wolfe, arson expert engaged by the NAACP, his conviction that the fire was an incendiary act of the vigilantes.

Neighbors were called to the witness stand and testified to hearing an explosion, seeing the fire and running to help. Then Fire Chief Reeves of Fontana and Deputy Fire Marshall Corey, were called. And here we see a neat legal trick pulled by the District Attorney. When asked if they had made an examination of the ruins of the house to determine the cause of the fire, they stated that they had, and were unable to come to any conclusion on the basis of that examination. But they said they had opinions based on what they had heard principally from the two deputy sheriffs, Cornelison and Glines, who had delivered the vigilante threats to Short before the fire. The District Attorney asked them to piece together the whole story, their investigations and the reports they had heard—and then what conclusion did they reach? The answer: that it was an *ACCIDENT*.

Next, J. Robert Smith, editor and publisher of the *Tri-County Bulletin*, a San Bernardino Negro newspaper which had demanded an investigation, was called to the stand. He was asked what he knew about the fire and when he tried to speak of the vigilante threats, the District Attorney rudely interrupted to tell him that he wasn't interested in any "rumors" passed out "six months" ago. Thus silenced, Smith handed the Coroner a lamp which was said to have exploded in Short's house. It was small, and though made of a cheap metal which

would surely have at least bent had it exploded, was intact except for the glass. This was the only piece of material evidence submitted at the inquest, and here is how it was received:

HOW THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES "INVESTIGATED" THE FIRE

"MR. SMITH: I have the lantern here. I picked it up on the scene Monday morning in the presence of Mrs. Parsons. I felt it was a very valuable piece of evidence and should not be left on the scene, and since the police department and fire department did not see fit to protect it, I as a private citizen did. It was located more or less in the center of the ruins.

"CORONER: Did you notify the law enforcement office?

"SMITH: The Attorney General's office was notified about it on Tuesday evening, and Thursday evening the deputies also knew of it—and that any time the law enforcement agencies wanted it, they could have it."

Though all that week an investigation was supposed to be going on, none of the investigators had even bothered to obtain the much-discussed lamp!

Despite protests of Smith and others, the District Attorney and Coroner would permit no testimony about the vigilante threats. Finally, bursting with indignation, Marion Downs, sister of Helen Short, rose from her seat in the audience: "Why wasn't there an investigation of the murder of these people?" In reply, the District Attorney told Mrs. Downs to take the witness stand:

"D.A.: You referred to the murder of three people.

"MRS. DOWNS: I will tell you about the threats.

"D.A.: Tell us about the murder. Tell us what you know about the murder.

"MRS. DOWNS: I will tell you about the threats."

But they wouldn't let her speak.

VERDICT RUSHED WITHOUT HEARING TESTIMONY OF SOLE SURVIVOR

The inquest was closed and a verdict rendered: Death due to shock caused by fire of unknown origin. A man still lived, a victim and most vital witness of the fire. Yet instead of continuing the inquest, awaiting his possible recovery, so that he might have his day in court, the inquest was closed. The interview the District Attorney had with Short could not possibly serve as legal evidence by the witness's own statement of incompetency. Why the haste to close the inquest?

Sutherland, the real estate broker who delivered the vigilante threat to Short, was present at the inquest. He was neither invited nor compelled to say what he knew. Sutherland knew when the vigilantes met and what they discussed: "The vigilante committee had a meeting on your case last night." Sutherland knew a great deal more: "They are a tough bunch to deal with." How did he know they were tough? Had they done something in the past to demonstrate their toughness? Is Sutherland one of their gang? Where was he on the day of the fire? Where were the vigilantes? These, and a host of other important and *pertinent* questions were never asked and remain still unanswered.

What then, about State Attorney General Robert Kenny? The local authorities have covered up for the vigilantes. But will Kenny, representing the State of California, see that the vigilantes are dragged to the light so that the truth about the Fontana tragedy may be established? Kenny had a representative at the inquest, his own deputy. If so authorized, the deputy could have made an independent investigation. At the very least he could have questioned the witnesses more closely, or interfered to permit Short's relatives and friends to speak, or called Sutherland to the stand and questioned him. In a word, he could have prevented the legal farce that was allowed to pass for an inquest. Instead, Kenny's deputy did nothing except give further legal sanctification to the proceedings by his official presence—and silence.

And the F.B.I.? Wasn't there at least indicated a conspiracy to deprive a man of his constitutional rights by intimidation and violence? Yet these federal agents haven't yet entered the case though they have been urged to do so.

SIGNIFICANT FACTS UNCOVERED BY ARSON EXPERT

An arson expert was sent to the scene, not by the authorities, but by a private organization. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People appointed a committee of five to investigate and this committee hired an arson expert, Paul T. Wolfe, who has had nearly 25 years of experience with the Los Angeles Arson Bureau and was former chief investigator for the Los Angeles Fire Department. He made a thorough examination of the ruins, including a chemical analysis of specimens taken from the scene of the fire.

In an interview with the Los Angeles *Sentinel*, he reported that "*some highly inflammable or explosive substance other than kerosene was present. How a substance of that character got there is unknown. But it was definitely present.*" He further stated that in all his experience he had never heard of kerosene causing an explosion such as that which occurred at the Short home—an explosion which blew out the walls of the house.

Wolfe's report, a copy of which was sent to District Attorney Kavanaugh and State Attorney General Kenny, stated the following: "The specimens indicated an extremely high degree of heat—in the neighborhood of some 1600 degrees fahrenheit to 1700, but I found no evidence of any oils. . . . My analysis shows kerosene in considerable quantities. . . . This kerosene was found in the southeast corner of the living room, and in the northeast corner of the same room in the earth underneath."

In answer to a statement made by one of the fire officials

at the inquest, Wolfe's report also declares: "Statements I have seen in which it was stated kerosene will explode at 40 degrees fahrenheit are positively erroneous, as kerosene does not become volatile or throw off inflammable gas until in the neighborhood of 177 degrees fahrenheit."

FACTS POINT TO COMMISSION OF A HORRIBLE CRIME

On the basis of Wolfe's report, the N.A.A.C.P. committee demanded of Kavanaugh, the Grand Jury of San Bernardino, and Kenny a grand jury investigation, declaring their conviction that the fire was not an accident. They are right. The facts recounted here justify at the very least a *STRONG SUSPICION* that a horrible crime was committed at Fontana, a revolting, inhuman crime. The facts also point to a *STRONG SUSPICION* that the local authorities are conniving with the perpetrators to prevent the truth from becoming known.

On January 21, O'Day H. Short died. With his death an entire family has been wiped out. The vigilantes of Fontana must feel keen satisfaction that this Negro family has thus been removed from too close contact with their white "superiors." Even keener must be their satisfaction that the authorities have so far effectively prevented their role in the Fontana tragedy—whatever it may have been—from being fully revealed. Henceforth they will feel that they can threaten, and act upon their threats, with impunity. They will terrorize not only oppressed minorities, but, gathering strength, they will serve Big Business in its drive to smash the organized labor movement.

That is why it is so important and so urgent to demand and keep on demanding a full investigation of the Fontana tragedy. That is why all those concerned for human rights, all those who stand for the protection and defense of oppressed minorities, must back with the utmost vigor the demand of the NAACP for a grand jury investigation of the Fontana events.

This is not the concern of the Negro people alone. It is the concern above all, of the organized labor movement. If the vigilantes and other fascist-like scum are permitted a free hand in threatening and planning violence against racial minorities, it will not be long before union halls, union meetings, picket lines and demonstrations become targets for their attack.

MASS PRESSURE IS NEEDED TO REVEAL FULL TRUTH

Organized mass pressure must be brought to bear on the authorities to force them to act in the Fontana case. Some union leaders who follow the Communist Party (Stalinist) line, and a number of liberals, are trying to muster support to elect State Attorney General Robert Kenny as the next Governor of California. But if Kenny is, as they claim, a "friend of labor," why did he permit two whole months to pass before investigating the Fontana case, which so vitally concerns the labor movement? The answer is that Kenny is a capitalist politician, just like all the other capitalist politicians, concerned with the interests of the capitalists, not with the interests of the workers. Moreover, Kenny, being an ambitious politician, dares not arouse the enmity of the vigilantes whose organizations are scattered throughout California and which control large blocks of votes. Kenny can no more challenge the vigilantes than Roosevelt or Truman could offend the "Solid Democratic South." Only great mass pressure—the pressure of organized labor and its genuine friends and supporters—will compel Kenny to carry through a close investigation to the very end.

In the Fontana case we have seen the government authorities, local and national, fail to give the Short family the protection it was entitled to demand—protection against threatened violence. Next we see the authorities covering up for the vigilantes who made the threat and preventing an investigation which would establish the connection, if any, between that threat and the disastrous fire which brought agonizing death to four innocent people.

STATE PROTECTS MURDEROUS GANGS OF CAPITALIST REACTION

Class-conscious workers know that the state is the instrument of the capitalist ruling class, serving its needs and interests. In the tragedy of the Short family this truth is demonstrated most vividly. Here the guardians of "law and order" shed all pretense of standing impartially above the classes. The government and its agencies stand as a protecting wall to the capitalist exploiters and their murderous gangs.

Can we rely on such a government to stop vigilantism? Can we expect Big Business to halt with its left hand what its right hand is doing?

Labor must have its own representative body, responsible to all the exploited and oppressed, to investigate the evidence and pass judgment on the Fontana case.

Only in this way can we frustrate the official whitewash. The International Association of Machinists Lodge 727-B at Lockheed and the Los Angeles Cloak Joint Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union have elected committees to investigate. Long Beach Ford Local 406 of the United Automobile Workers and the District Auto Council have passed resolutions calling for full investigations. These examples must be copied.

Lastly, we must make absolutely certain that no more victims fall to vigilante, fascist, or any other kind of capitalist-inspired terror. The moment a life is threatened, labor defense must be supplied. A united defense organization of all minorities (Mexicans, Jews, Negroes, Filipinos, Japanese-Americans) and the powerful unions, A. F. of L., C.I.O. and Railroad Brotherhoods, must be organized. Such a defense organization could be based on the present system of flying squads developed by the unions in strikes. The very existence of such a defense organization would deter the secret conspirators.

Thus the task is three-fold:

1. *MASS PRESSURE TO FORCE ACTION BY THE
AUTHORITIES.*

2. A BROAD LABOR COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT ITS OWN INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO PREVENT A WHITEWASH.

3. DEFENSE ORGANIZATION TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER VIGILANTE VIOLENCE.

HELP THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY TO FIGHT VIGILANTISM!

In publishing this pamphlet, the Socialist Workers Party is taking the first essential step—making the facts known. From the beginning, the Socialist Workers Party has conducted a campaign to arouse the whole labor movement to action. We have issued an appeal to all working class parties, urging united action to stop the vigilantes. We have sought to get action by the unions.

You can help by telling the story of Fontana to neighbors and friends. You can present resolutions in any organization of which you are a member. You can fight for the only program which will end race hatred and vigilantism for all time—by joining the Socialist Workers Party and enlisting in the struggle for Socialism.

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