

Scottsboro Verdict Affects the Basic Rights of Negroes

By HARRY HAYWOOD

The decision of the U. S. Supreme Court to review the cases of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris brings sharply before that court the burning question of jury rights for the Negro people.

The white ruling-class says to the Negroes: "You are not fit to take part in political life. You may not vote. You may not hold office. You may not sit on juries. White men may sit in judgment on you, but you may not sit in judgment on either white men or members of your own race." This denial of the fundamental right to sit

on juries has become, along with the denial of the right to vote, the symbol of the political status of the Negro people, particularly in the South.

The first appeal of the Scottsboro boys to the Supreme Court also raised the jury question. But the court managed to side-step that particular issue, although it was forced by the world-wide outcry against the Scottsboro frame-up to reverse the lynch-decision against the boys,

The basic issue raised in the second Scottsboro appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court is precisely this question

of the right of the Negro people to serve on juries. The International Labor Defense demands that the verdicts against Patterson and Norris be reversed, and gives as its basic argument the fact that there was not a single Negro on the jury that convicted them, or on the grand jury that indicted them, and that the barring of Negroes from juries in that county is a systematic practice.

The Supreme Court must now answer this question, and it must be made to give the right answer. It must be made to reverse the death sentences against the boys, and it must be forced to admit the constitutional right of

the Negro people to serve on juries. It can be made to give the right answers by the storm of protest from every corner of world.

Thus, with the decision on the Scottsboro case, there is bound up the most fundamental rights of the Negro people. Such a fight deserves the heartiest support and cooperation of every Negro, of every militant white worker, of every honest intellectual. To continue the fight, to lay the necessary papers before the Supreme Court, funds are urgently needed. Rush these funds to the International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.