

NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
FOR THE DEFENSE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

ROOM 337, ST. DENIS BLDG., 11th ST. & B'WAY, NEW YORK CITY

THEODORE DREISER,  
CHAIRMAN  
LINCOLN STEFFENS  
SHERWOOD ANDERSON  
JOHN DOS PASSOS  
TREASURER  
MELVIN P. LEVY  
SECRETARY  
ADELAIDE G. WALKER  
ASS'T SEC'Y

Phone: STuyvesant 9-5439

January, 1932.

Harry Elmer Barnes  
William Rose Benet  
Prof. Franz Boas  
Lester Cohen  
Eleanor Copenhaver  
Malcolm Cowley  
Bruce Crawford  
Edward Dahlberg  
Floyd Dell  
Adolph Dehn  
Edgard Fraley  
Waldo Frank  
Hugo Gellert  
Lydia Gibson  
Murray Godwin  
Eugene Gordon  
C. Hartley Grattan  
Paul Green  
Horace Gregory  
Julius Heiman  
Josephine Herbst  
Langston Hughes  
Grace Hutchins  
Maxwell Hyde  
Leon Kahn  
Yereth Kahn  
Alfred Kreymborg  
Suzanne LaFollette  
Pierre Loving  
Louis Lozowick  
George Maurer  
Claude McKay  
Edna St. Vincent Millay  
Dr. Henry Neumann  
Samuel Ornitz  
Joseph Pass  
Frank Palmer  
Paul Peters  
Burton Rascoe  
Lola Ridge  
James Rorty  
Edwin Seaver  
Upton Sinclair  
Bernhard J. Stern  
Ruth Stout  
William Monroe Trotter  
Mary Heaton Vorse  
Charles R. Walker  
Webb Waldron  
Eric Walrond  
Walter Wilson  
Ella Winter  
Carl Zigrosser  
Marguerite Zorach  
William Zorach

Dear Friend:

On January 17, eight Negro boys go before the Supreme Court of the State of Alabama to make what may be a final fight for their lives. The outlines of their case--the infamous Scottsboro affair--must be familiar to you.

Last spring nine Negro youths, the youngest then only 13 years of age and the oldest less than 20, were taken from a freight car and charged with the rape of two white girls, travelling in men's clothing and in the company of seven white men. The Negro lads were tried in the Scottsboro courthouse before a picked jury. Outside, an armed mob of 10,000 demanded their death, and when the verdict of guilty for eight of them was delivered, bands hired by local merchants marched through the streets, leading a lynch-mad carnival.

We are convinced of the innocence of these boys. Their trial was a ghastly farce, during which the final verdict was not for one moment in doubt.

Through the efforts of the International Labor Defense, --the only organization defending the boys-- and against the most stubborn opposition an appeal for a new trial has been secured. To fair-minded persons everywhere, the outcome of this appeal is of the gravest importance. To insure success thousands of dollars must be raised immediately. The fees for the single item of briefing, are more than twelve-hundred dollars. An investigation to bring out new and conclusive evidence must be undertaken. The whereabouts of the only eye-witness of the affair, whose testimony was suppressed at the original trial, and who has since vanished, must be discovered. Sworn affidavits of other witnesses must be obtained.

The need is urgent. We must raise the necessary sum among our friends and the friends of these boys throughout the country. We ask you to aid us--to send us now, in the enclosed envelope, the most you can sacrifice.

Sincerely,

*Sherwood Anderson*  
Sherwood Anderson