

STRIKE IN KENTUCKY IS LIKENED TO WAR: INVESTIGATOR WHO WAS JAILED ...

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Investigator Who Was Jailed
Says Mine Owners Terrorize
Men and Control Justice.

FEARS LEADERS' EXECUTION

Urges Congregational Group to
Protest—Budenz Sees Silk In-
dustry's Peace Threatened,

The coal strife in Harlan County, Ky., "is war," with all the weapons of war, including starvation, being used against the miners by the opera-

tors, who control the administration of justice in the county, Arnold Johnson, a young representative of the American Civil Liberties Union who investigated the situation there, said yesterday.

Mr. Johnson, who spent seven weeks in Harlan County as a free man and then thirty-seven days in jail, having been released on Sept. 12, spoke during a discussion of the economic crisis and possible solutions under the auspices of the department of social relations of the Congressional Education Society at the Russell Sage Foundation Building.

He recited a history of terrorism, including evictions, kidnappings, beatings and killings which he charged to the operators, and said that hand-picked grand juries had brought, with one exception, no indictments in any of these cases.

The group of labor leaders indicted on various charges, including murder, had been indicted "because they were labor leaders," he said.

"I am not convinced that a single man in jail there is guilty of the charge against him," Mr. Johnson declared. "They were framed because they were labor leaders and they must be saved, first because so-

ciety cannot afford to lose such leadership as they have shown, and second because they are innocent."

He said he believed the men held on charges of murder would "go to the chair if the prosecution has its way and if the outside world does not take aggressive action in supporting their defense and demanding their release."

He said he believed the indictment of Theodore Dreiser on a morals charge had been made to discredit anything he or those who investigated with him might say on conditions in Harlan County and that the indictment on charges of criminal syndicalism had been made to hold the threat of extradition over him to prevent any report on the situation. "It proves what he went down to prove," he said.

Louis Budenz, managing editor of Labor Age and leader of the American Federation of Labor strike in the Paterson silk mills, asserted that while the strike there had been won by the workers, conditions were worse than ever in the silk industry and employers were trying to break agreements made as a result of the strike.