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Niz Clatz

P.S. This comprises  
the entire UMWA  
file on Heron.

DISTRICT 12

HERMAN MCGONRE

June 22, 1922

This file contains material on massacre and also  
has correspondence regarding subsequent litigation  
and settlement of claims against UMWA from 1922-24

# Herrin massacre

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The **Herrin Massacre** took place in June 1922 in Herrin, Illinois. Three union miners (Jordie Henderson, Joseph Pitkewicius and one other) were killed in a strike-related confrontation on June 21. The following day, 19 of of fifty strikebreakers and union guards were killed, many of them in a brutal way. A twentieth victim from the non-union group would later be killed, bringing the death count to twenty-three.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

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## Historical background

On April 1, 1922 the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) began a nationwide strike. W. J. Lester, the owner of the Southern Illinois Coal Company, operated a strip mine about halfway between Herrin and Marion, Illinois. Lester at first complied with the strike. He had only recently opened the mine, and massive startup debts made him negotiate with the UMWA to allow his mine to remain open, as long as no coal was shipped out. Under the agreement, some United Mine Workers members were allowed to continue working during the strike. Lester told an associate that local union leaders were friendly with him; however, he was warned this did not mean he had any control over the ordinary members.<sup>[3]</sup>

By June, Lester's miners had dug out nearly 60,000 tons of coal. Strike-driven shortages had raised coal prices, and Lester would make a \$250,000 profit if he sold his coal. He decided to violate the agreement he had made. When the UMWA members working for him objected, he fired all of his union workers.<sup>[4]</sup> Lester brought in mine guards and 50 strikebreakers, vilified as "scabs", recruited by employment agencies in Chicago. On June 16, 1922, he shipped out sixteen railroad cars filled with coal. Testimony later revealed that his mine guards possessed machine guns. They aggressively searched passers-by, and "they frighten women, they boast and are hard-boiled."<sup>[5]</sup>



## Escalation

Lester, responding to a reporter's questions, said his steam shovel operators and the railroad workers were members of their respective unions.

John L. Lewis, president of the UMWA, responded in a telegram on June 20. He called the Steam Shovelmen's Union an "outlaw organization" which also provided strikebreakers elsewhere. UMWA members, he said, "are justified in treating this crowd as an outlaw organization and in viewing its members in the same light as they do any other common strikebreakers."

There was confusion and disagreement between Lewis and William J. Tracy, representative of District No. 1, International Brotherhood of Steam Shovel and Dredgemen (IBSSD). Lewis in his widely publicized statement said that two representatives of the UMWA had contacted the IBSSD, but "have failed to secure any satisfaction."<sup>[6]</sup> He did note that the Steam Shovel union had been suspended from the American Federation of Labor, which the United Mine Workers also belonged to. Lewis claimed that the IBSSD was likewise strikebreaking in Ohio. Tracy responded that though he had sent four individuals to the site when requested, they turned away when they saw the guards. He stated that no one from his organization was working in Herrin.<sup>[7]</sup> Tracy also criticized the UMWA for not communicating adequately about the situation.<sup>[8]</sup> It is unclear if Lester was telling the truth, or if he had contacted the IBSSD to disguise the use of non-union workers. To Lewis, it didn't matter. Lester's workers were not UMWA members, and the UMWA claimed sole jurisdiction over all coal miners.

Lewis' message was printed in newspapers, and miners throughout the region decided to take action. Early in the morning on June 21, a truck carrying Lester's guards and strikebreakers was ambushed near Carbondale, Illinois on its way to his mine. Three men were wounded and six others jumped into the river.<sup>[9][10]</sup> Later in the day several hundred miners rallied in the Herrin cemetery. Lewis' message was read to the crowd, enraging them further. The union miners marched into Herrin and looted the hardware store of its firearms and ammunition. At about 3:30 p.m., they surrounded Lester's mine. Lester's guards opened fire, killing two of the UMWA members and mortally wounding a third.<sup>[11][12]</sup>

## The Siege

The mine superintendent, C.K. McDowell, called Col. Hunter to tell him the mine was surrounded and being fired upon. McDowell said he could not reach Sheriff Thaxton, and pleaded for troops. Col. Hunter called Thaxton's deputy and told him to ask the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General for troops and to move out to the mine with as many men as possible to stop the attack and break up the mob action.

Thaxton's men did nothing. Col. Hunter contacted the Adjutant General himself and convinced him to mobilize troops. Lester, who had left the area several days before, was contacted by phone in Chicago. Realizing the gravity of the situation, he agreed to close the mine for the remainder of the nationwide UMWA strike. Col. Hunter and a citizen's group laid out a plan to get a truce in place—telephoning McDowell to tell him raise a white flag, and asking the UMWA sub-district vice president, Fox Hughes, to go out to the site and do the same. The means of getting the strikebreakers safely out of the mine would be worked out later.

McDowell later reported by phone that the shooting had died down, and Col. Hunter and the citizen's group were optimistic that a disaster was going to be avoided. The National Guard troops were not needed after all, they decided.

Hughes went to the mine with a white flag, but never took it out and raised it. He later claimed to never have seen McDowell raise a white flag, so he decided Lester's men hadn't lived up to their part of the truce. He went home and took no further action, explaining later that he found out his boss in the UMWA leadership, Hugh Willis, was now involved and therefore concluded his role in the drama was finished.

During the evening more and more union supporters gathered guns and ammunition, and made their way to the strip mine. McDowell was to have called Col. Hunter when the truce took effect. When the call didn't come, Col. Hunter tried to telephone the mine, but he found the phone lines were dead. No law enforcement personnel went to the mine. No government officials accompanied Hughes to check if the white flags were raised; and no troops were ever activated by the Guard despite repeated signs that Thaxton and his men could not be counted on to act. No action was taken to enforce a truce.

Late in the evening of June 21, Sheriff Thaxton reluctantly agreed to go to the mine to make sure the truce was carried out and that the strikebreakers were given safe passage out of the county. Despite urgings that he go immediately, he insisted he needed rest and that it could wait until morning. Thaxton promised to meet Hunter and Major Davis of the Carbondale National Guard unit at the sheriff's office at 6 a.m. the next day. That evening, Hugh Willis, the local UMWA leader, spoke to union supporters in Herrin. During his speech Willis said of the strikebreakers: "God damn them, they ought to have known better than to come down here; but now that they're here, let them take what's coming to them."

Gunfire continued throughout the night, and the mob began destroying mine equipment to prevent the mine from reopening. They used hammers, shovels, and dynamite to wreck the draglines and bulldozers while keeping the scabs pinned down inside coal cars and behind barricades.

## Surrender

The strikebreakers finally sent out a mine guard, Bernard Jones, with an apron tied to a broomstick. Jones told the mob that the men were ready to surrender if their safety would be guaranteed. Someone said, "Come on out and we'll get you out of the county." The strikebreakers came out, and the striking miners began to march them toward Herrin, five miles away.

After walking about a half mile, the group found more men waiting for them at Crenshaw Crossing. One of these men shouted out, "The only way to free the county of strikebreakers is to kill them all off and stop the breed!" The mob grew more agitated and violent as they turned west and continued along. Some struck the strikebreakers with the butts of their guns.

## The Chase and Massacre

A half mile past Crenshaw Crossing at Moake Crossing, McDowell was bloodied and limping, unable to go any further. The man who'd spoken earlier said "I'm going to kill you and use you for bait to catch the other men." He and another man grabbed McDowell and walked off down a side road. Shots rang out, and everyone



else continued towards Herrin. A farmer later found McDowell's body. He'd been shot four times: twice in the stomach, and once each in the chest and head by the mob.

A car pulled up to the procession, and a man came out whom some of the strikebreakers overheard being called "Hugh Willis" and "the president." According to the accounts of surviving captives, he said, "Listen, don't you go killing these fellows on a public highway. There are too many women and children and witnesses around to do that. Take them over in the woods and give it to them. Kill all you can."

The prisoners were taken off the road into the woods, where they reached a barbed wire fence. The strikebreakers were told to run for their lives. One man shouted, "Let's see how fast you can run between here and Chicago, you damned gutter-bums!" The mob opened fire behind the strikebreakers as they ran. Many of the captives were caught up in the fence and shot to death. Others, making it over the fence but not knowing where they were, ran through Harrison's Woods toward Herrin, still a mile north. One strikebreaker caught inside the woods was hanged and three others were shot to death at his feet. The assistant superintendent of the mine, was alive but unconscious. One of the union men noticed that he was still alive and shot him in the head. The chase continued on into the morning of the 22nd.

Six men were recaptured and ordered to remove their shirts and shoes. They were then told to crawl to Herrin Cemetery. By noon a crowd of about 1,000 spectators had gathered at the cemetery. They watched as the strikebreakers were roped together and men took turns beating and shooting them. The men that were tied up were also urinated upon. Those who were still alive at the end had their throats cut by a man wielding a pocketknife. Other townspeople came out to look at and taunt the dead and dying along the route to the cemetery. One reporter tried to give one of the dying men some water and was told that if he gave the man water, "he wouldn't live to see the next day".

## Aftermath

Sheriff Thaxton had failed to meet Col. Hunter and Major Davis at his office at 6 a.m. as promised; he finally showed up at 8 a.m. By then Hunter and Davis had already heard rumors of the violence against the strikebreakers. When the three finally arrived at the mine, what remained of the operation was in flames, and they learned the mob had left three hours earlier.

When they retraced the steps of the mob, they found the grisly evidence of the dead, dying, and wounded. Those that weren't dead were taken to Dr. J. Taylor Black's Herrin Hospital. But 19 of the 50 strikebreakers died during the massacre. Two union miners had been shot and killed during the siege of the strip mine, bringing the total number of victims to 21.

The dead strikebreakers were laid out in the Dillard Building in downtown Herrin, and most of the town turned out to look at them. Some gazed quietly, others cursed and spit on the bodies. 16 of the 19 strikebreakers killed in the action were later buried in the potter's field area of Herrin Cemetery.

Thousands attended the funerals of the two union miners who died during the siege.

The nation reacted to the massacre with disgust. One newspaper editorial said "Herrin, Illinois should be ostracized. Shut off from all communication with the outside world and the people there left to soak in the

blood they have spilled." President Warren Harding called it a "shocking crime, barbarity, butchery, rot and madness." Others also compared the people of Herrin to the alleged behaviour of German troops in World War I

Lester, whose double-dealing set the tragic events into motion, made a significant profit when the union bought his mine at "a handsome price" in order to avoid lawsuits.<sup>[13]</sup>

## The Trials

At first, the inquest held by the coroner concluded that all the strikebreakers were killed by unknown individuals, and stated that "the deaths of the decedents were due to the acts direct and indirect of the officials of the Southern Illinois Coal Company." They recommended that the company and its officers be investigated in order to affix appropriate responsibility on them. It was obvious the victims could not gain justice in Herrin.

Two trials were held, the first on November 7, 1922, and the second in the winter of 1923. Only six men were ever indicted for the massacre, and both trials ended in acquittals for all the defendants. The prosecution gave up and dismissed the remaining indictments. Otis Clark was the first man to be tried on a total of 214 charges. Two years later, Clark would be shot and killed. Another of the accused would die in a mine accident.

A Williamson County Grand Jury investigating the incident faulted the Southern Illinois Coal Company for introducing strike breakers and armed guards, and for committing illegal activities such as closing public highways. It criticized the state administration for refusing to take necessary measures once the trouble had begun.<sup>[14]</sup> Herbert David Croly of the *New Republic* criticized the state of Illinois for allowing the Illinois Chamber of Commerce to fund the investigation.<sup>[15]</sup> Croly described the retaliation for the deaths of two strikers (the third had been mortally wounded) "atrocious", but noted that while the perpetrators were likely to escape punishment, those who harmed strikers—such as Hamrock after Ludlow, or Wheeler after Bisbee—likewise frequently escaped justice.<sup>[16]</sup> Croly noted that the local government<sup>[16]</sup> was sympathetic to the union, as was public sentiment, and under such circumstances, the union had a responsibility to police its own members.<sup>[17]</sup>

## See also

- List of massacres in Illinois

## Sources

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- <http://www.webcitation.org/query?url=http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/7847/massacre.htm&date=2009-10-25+07:30:13>
- Bloody Williamson: A Chapter in American Lawlessness* (<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0252062337>)



## "The Herrin massacre: A fair and impartial statement of all the facts ; the trial, evidence, verdict."

- Song written by folksinger, Jerry Swan in 2006, titled, "The Herrin Massacre"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOoidOP5xXI>

## External links

- Columbus Museum of Art ([http://artandsocialissues.cmaohio.org/web-content/pages/econ\\_cadmus.html](http://artandsocialissues.cmaohio.org/web-content/pages/econ_cadmus.html)) Web page on *The Herrin Massacre*, a painting by Paul Cadmus (click on picture for larger version of painting)

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- ↑ Briton Hadden, Henry Robinson Luce, *Time Inc.*, December 30,1922, page 21
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- ↑ New York Times, June 24, 1922
- ↑ New York Times, June 23, 1922
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- ↑ Herbert David Croly, *The new republic*, Volume 32, The Republic Pub. Co., 1922, page 132
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Categories: Conflicts in 1922 | Miners' labor disputes | Labor disputes in the United States

United Mine Workers of America | 1922 in the United States | Protest-related deaths

Labor-related political violence in the United States

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# Herrin massacre

The **Herrin massacre** took place in June 1922 in Herrin, Illinois, in a coal mining area during a strike by the United Mineworkers of America (UMWA). Although the owner of the mine originally agreed with the union to observe the strike, when the price of coal went up, he hired non-union workers, or "scabs", to produce and ship out coal, as he had high debt in start-up costs.

Enraged that the owner had disregarded their agreement, on June 21, union miners shot at the strikebreakers going to work, where the mine had armed guards. When striking union members armed themselves and laid siege to the mine, the owner's guards shot and killed three union miners (Jordie Henderson, Joseph Pitkewicius, and one other) in an exchange of gunfire.

The next day, union miners killed 19 of 50 strikebreakers and mine guards, many of them brutally. A twentieth victim from the non-union group was later murdered, bringing the death total to 23.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

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## Herrin massacre

Part of the Coal Wars



The upper photograph shows the remains of a supply house that was dynamited and burned, while the lower shows the remains of an oil house, near which two of the striking workers were shot and killed.

<b>Date</b>	1922
<b>Location</b>	Herrin, Illinois, U.S.
<b>Parties to the civil conflict</b>	
Striking coal miners United Mine Workers	Southern Illinois Coal Company; Strikebreakers
<b>Lead figures</b>	
John L. Lewis;	C.K. McDowell
<b>Casualties</b>	
<b>Deaths:</b> 3 killed	<b>Deaths:</b> 19
<b>Arrests:</b>	



- 10 Sources

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## Historical background

On April 1, 1922 the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) began a nationwide strike. W. J. Lester, owner of the Southern Illinois Coal Company, operated a strip mine about halfway between Herrin and Marion, Illinois. Lester at first complied with the strike. He had only recently opened the mine, and massive startup debts made him negotiate with the UMWA to allow his mine to remain open, as long as no coal was shipped out. Under the agreement, some United Mine Workers members were allowed to continue working during the strike. Lester told an associate that local union leaders were friendly with him; however, he was warned this did not mean he had any control over the ordinary members.<sup>[3]</sup>

By June, Lester's miners had dug out nearly 60,000 tons of coal. Strike-driven shortages drove up demand and the price of coal, and Lester would make a \$250,000 profit if he sold his coal. He decided to violate the agreement he had made with the union. When the UMWA members working for him objected, he fired all the union workers.<sup>[4]</sup>

Lester brought in mine guards and 50 strikebreakers, who were vilified as "scabs" by the union men. They had been recruited by employment agencies in Chicago. On June 16, 1922, he shipped out sixteen railroad cars filled with coal. Testimony later revealed that his mine guards possessed machine guns. They aggressively searched passers-by, and "they frighten women, they boast and are hard-boiled."<sup>[5]</sup>

## Escalation

Lester, responding to a reporter's questions, said his steam shovel operators and the railroad workers were members of their respective unions. John L. Lewis, president of the UMWA, responded in a telegram on June 20. He called the Steam Shovelmen's Union an "outlaw organization" that also provided strikebreakers elsewhere. UMWA members, he said, "are justified in treating this crowd as an outlaw organization and in viewing its members in the same light as they do any other common strikebreakers."

There was confusion and disagreement between Lewis and William J. Tracy, representative of District No. 1, International Brotherhood of Steam Shovel and Dredgemen (IBSSD). In a widely publicized statement, Lewis said that two representatives of the UMWA had contacted the IBSSD, but "have failed to secure any satisfaction."<sup>[6]</sup> He did note that the Steam Shovel union had been suspended from the American Federation of Labor, to which the United Mine Workers also belonged. Lewis claimed that the IBSSD was also strikebreaking in Ohio. Tracy responded that though he had sent four individuals to the site when requested, they turned away when they saw the guards. He said that no one from his organization was working in Herrin.<sup>[7]</sup> Tracy also criticized the UMWA for not communicating adequately about the situation.<sup>[6]</sup>

It is unclear if Lester was telling the truth, or if he had contacted the IBSSD to disguise the use of non-union workers. To Lewis, it did not matter. Lester's workers were not UMWA members, and the UMWA claimed sole jurisdiction over all coal miners.

Lewis' message was printed in newspapers, and miners throughout the region decided to take action. Early in the morning on June 21, a truck carrying Lester's guards and strikebreakers was ambushed near Carbondale, Illinois on its way to his mine. Three men were wounded and six others jumped into the river.<sup>[2][8]</sup> Later in the day several hundred miners rallied in the Herrin cemetery. Lewis' message was read to the crowd, enraging them further.

The union miners marched into Herrin and looted the hardware store of its firearms and ammunition. At about 3:30 p.m., they surrounded Lester's mine. Lester's guards opened fire, killing two of the UMWA members and mortally wounding a third.<sup>[4][9]</sup>

## Siege

The mine superintendent, C.K. McDowell, called National Guard Col. Hunter to tell him the mine was surrounded and being fired upon. McDowell said he could not reach County Sheriff Thaxton, and pleaded for troops. Col. Hunter called Thaxton's deputy and told him to ask the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General for troops and to move out to the mine with as many men as possible to stop the attack and break up the mob action.

Thaxton's men did nothing. Hunter contacted the adjutant general himself and convinced him to mobilize troops. Lester, who had left the area several days earlier, was reached by phone in Chicago. Realizing the gravity of the situation, he agreed to close the mine for the remainder of the nationwide UMWA strike. Hunter and a citizens' group laid out a plan to get a truce in place — telephoning McDowell to tell him to raise a white flag, and asking the UMWA sub-district vice president, Fox Hughes, to go to the mine and do the same. The method of getting the strikebreakers safely out of the mine was to be worked out later.

McDowell later reported by phone that the shooting had died down, and Hunter and the citizens' group were optimistic that a disaster would be avoided. They decided the National Guard troops were not needed after all. Hughes went to the mine with a white flag, but he never took it out or raised it. He later said he had not seen McDowell raise a white flag, so he decided Lester's men had not lived up to the bargain. He went home and did nothing, later claiming he learned that his boss in the UMWA leadership, Hugh Willis, was now involved and decided his role was finished.

During the evening, more union supporters stole guns and ammunition, and made their way to the strip mine. McDowell was to have called Hunter when the truce took effect. When he, Col. Hunter tried to telephone the mine, he found the phone lines had been cut. No law enforcement officers went to the mine, no government officials accompanied Hughes to ensure the white flags were raised, and no troops were activated by the National Guard despite repeated signs that Thaxton could not be counted on to act. No action was taken to enforce a truce.



Late in the evening of June 21, Sheriff Thaxton reluctantly agreed to go to the mine to ensure the truce was carried out and the strikebreakers were given safe passage. Despite being urged to go immediately, he claimed he needed to rest. Thaxton promised to meet Hunter and Major Davis of the Carbondale National Guard company at the sheriff's office at 6 a.m. the following morning. That evening, Hugh Willis, the local UMWA leader, spoke to union supporters in Herrin. Willis said of the strikebreakers: "God damn them, they ought to have known better than to come down here; but now that they're here, let them take what's coming to them." Gunfire continued throughout the night, and the mob began destroying equipment to prevent the mine from reopening. They used hammers, shovels, and dynamite to wreck the draglines and bulldozers, while keeping the strikebreakers pinned down inside coal cars and behind barricades.

## Surrender

The strikebreakers sent out a mine guard, Bernard Jones, with an apron tied to a broomstick. Jones told the mob the men would surrender if their safety would be guaranteed. He was told, "Come on out and we'll get you out of the county." The strikebreakers did as they were told, and the union miners began marching them to Herrin, five miles away. After about a half mile, the strikebreakers encountered more men waiting for them at Crenshaw Crossing. One of them shouted, "The only way to free the county of strikebreakers is to kill them all off and stop the breed!" The mob grew more agitated and violent as they continued on. Some struck the strikebreakers with the butts of their rifles and shotguns.

## The chase and massacre

By about half mile past Crenshaw Crossing at Moake Crossing, McDowell was already bloodied and limping, unable to walk any further. A union man told him, "I'm going to kill you and use you for bait to catch the other men." He and another man grabbed McDowell and led him down a side road. Gunshots were heard, and the rest continued towards Herrin. A farmer later discovered McDowell's body. He had been shot four times – twice in the stomach, and once each in the chest and head. A car drove up to the procession, and a man came out whom some said they overheard being called "Hugh Willis" and "the president." According to the accounts of surviving captives, Willis said, "Listen, don't you go killing these fellows on a public highway. There are too many women and children and witnesses around to do that. Take them over in the woods and give it to them. Kill all you can."

The breakers were taken into the woods, where they reached a barbed wire fence. They were then told to run for their lives. A union man shouted, "Let's see how fast you can run between here and Chicago, you damned gutter-bums!" The mob opened fire as they ran. Many were caught in the fence and shot dead. Others, making it over the fence but not knowing where they were, ran through Harrison's Woods toward Herrin, a mile further north. One strikebreaker was caught and hanged and three more were shot to death at his feet. The assistant superintendent of the mine was still alive but unconscious. A union man noticed and shot him in the head. The chase continued into the morning of the 22nd.

Six breakers were recaptured and ordered to remove their shirts and shoes. They were then told to crawl to Herrin Cemetery.<sup>[10]</sup> By noon a crowd of about 1,000 spectators had gathered at the cemetery. They watched as the strikebreakers were roped together and men took turns beating and shooting them. They were also urinated

upon. Those still alive at the end had their throats cut by a union man with a pocketknife. Townspeople came to watch and taunt the dead and dying along the route to the cemetery. A reporter tried to give a dying man some water and was told that if he did, "he wouldn't live to see the next day."

## Aftermath

Sheriff Thaxton had failed to meet Col. Hunter and Major Davis at his office at 6 a.m. as promised; he finally showed up at 8 a.m. By then Hunter and Davis had already heard rumors of the violence against the strikebreakers. When the three finally arrived at the mine, what remained of the operation was in flames, and they learned the mob had left three hours earlier.

When they retraced the steps of the mob, they found the grisly evidence of the dead, dying, and wounded. Those with injuries were taken to Dr. J. Taylor Black's Herrin Hospital. In total, 19 of the 50 strikebreakers died during the massacre, and another was murdered shortly after. Three union miners had been shot and killed during the siege of the strip mine, bringing the total number of victims to 21.

The dead strikebreakers were laid out in the Dillard Building in downtown Herrin, and most of the town turned out to look at them. Some gazed quietly, others cursed and spat on the bodies. 16 of the 19 strikebreakers killed in the action were later buried in the potter's field area of Herrin Cemetery.<sup>[11][12]</sup> Thousands attended the funerals of the three union miners who died during the siege.

The nation reacted to the massacre with disgust. One newspaper editorial said "Herrin, Illinois should be ostracized. Shut off from all communication with the outside world and the people there left to soak in the blood they have spilled." President Warren Harding called it a "shocking crime, barbarity, butchery, rot and madness." Others also compared the people of Herrin to the alleged behavior of German troops during World War I.

Lester, whose double-dealing set the tragic events into motion, made a significant profit when the union bought his mine at "a handsome price" in order to avoid lawsuits.<sup>[4]</sup>

## The trials

At first, the inquest held by the coroner concluded that all the strikebreakers were killed by unknown individuals, and stated that "the deaths of the decedents were due to the acts direct and indirect of the officials of the Southern Illinois Coal Company." They recommended that the company and its officers be investigated in order to affix appropriate responsibility on them. Two trials were held, the first on November 7, 1922, and the second in the winter of 1923. Only six men were ever indicted for the massacre, and the first two trials ended in acquittals for all the defendants. The prosecution gave up and dismissed the remaining indictments. Otis Clark was the first man to be tried on a total of 214 charges. Two years later, Clark was shot and killed. Another of the accused died in a mine accident.

A Williamson County grand jury investigating the incident faulted the Southern Illinois Coal Company for introducing strike breakers and armed guards, and for committing illegal activities such as closing public highways. It criticized the state administration for refusing to take necessary measures once the trouble had

begun.<sup>[13]</sup> Herbert David Croly of *The New Republic* criticized the state of Illinois for allowing the Illinois Chamber of Commerce to fund the investigation.<sup>[13]</sup>

Croly described the retaliation for the deaths of two strikers (the third had been mortally wounded) "atrocious", but noted that while the perpetrators were likely to escape punishment, those who harmed strikers—such as Hamrock after Ludlow, or Wheeler after Bisbee—likewise frequently escaped justice.<sup>[14]</sup> Croly noted that the local government was sympathetic to the union, as was public sentiment, and under such circumstances, the union had a responsibility to police its own members.<sup>[13]</sup>

## See also

- List of massacres in the United States
- Murder of workers in labor disputes in the United States
- List of incidents of civil unrest in the United States

## References

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## External links

- Columbus Museum of Art ([http://artandsocialissues.cmaohio.org/web-content/pages/econ\\_cadmus.html](http://artandsocialissues.cmaohio.org/web-content/pages/econ_cadmus.html)) Web page on *The Herrin Massacre*, a painting by Paul Cadmus (click on picture for larger version of painting)
- *The Herrin Conspiracy* (<https://archive.org/details/herrinconspiracy00nati>), pamphlet by the National Coal Association, on the Internet Archive
- *The Other Side of Herrin* (<https://archive.org/details/otherasideofherri00illi>), pamphlet by Illinois Mine Workers, summary of opening statement in the first Herrin case by Angus W. Kerr, chief defense counsel for the Illinois Mine Workers, on the Internet Archive

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Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Herrin\\_massacre&oldid=799644435](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Herrin_massacre&oldid=799644435)"

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ED AT INGALLS BLDG. CORNE th & VINE STS., CINCINNATI, OHIO.

1922 JUN 18 AM 11 04

B71A 96 11. EXTRA BLUE HERRIN ILL 945A 18

JOHN L LEWIS

2255

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF U M W OF A CINCINNATI OHIO

IS THERE AN AGREEMENT BY THE A F OF L THAT THE STEAM SHOVEL MENS UNION HAVE RIGHT TO MAN SHOVELS STRIP AND LOAD COAL SOME HERE CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE JURISDICTION GRANTED BY MINING DEPARTMENT OF A F OF L J W TRACY CHICAGO DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE INTERNATIONAL STEAM SHOVEL UNION FURNISHING MEN LOAD COAL THIS DISTRICT WE DO NOT BELIEVE AGREEMENT TO EXIST WIRE ANSWER AT ONCE AFTER INVESTIGATING IF AGREEMENT EXISTS HAVE AUTHORITIES STOP THEIR MEN SCABBING ON UNION

1922 JUN 18 AM 11 04

B71A SHEET TWO

COAL MINER AT ONCE

WM J SNEED PRESIDENT OF SUB DIST NO 10 U M OF A.

Cincinnati, Ohio, June 19, 1922.

Mr. William Sneed, President,  
Sub-District 10, District 12,  
United Mine Workers of America,  
Herrin, Illinois.

Your wire eighteenth. Steamshovelmen's union was suspended from affiliation with American Federation of Labor some years ago. It was also ordered suspended from the mining department of the American Federation of Labor at the Atlantic City convention. We now find that this outlaw organization is permitting its members to act as strikebreakers at numerous strip pits. In Ohio this organization is furnishing steamshovel ~~xxx~~ engineers to work under armed guards with strikebreakers. It is not true that any form of agreement exists by and between this organization and the mining department ~~xxxx~~ or any other branch of the American Federation of Labor permitting them to work under such circumstances. We have <sup>through</sup> representatives officially taken this question up with the officers of the steamshovelmen's union and have failed to secure any satisfaction. Representatives of our organization are justified in treating this crowd as an outlaw organization and in viewing its members in the same light as they do any other common strikebreaker.

John L. Lewis.

ED AT INGALLS BLDG. CORNE th & VINE STS., CINCINNATI, OHIO.

1922 JUN 18 AM 11 04

B71A 96 11. EXTRA BLUE HERRIN ILL 945A 18

JOHN L LEWIS

2255

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF U M W OF A CINCINNATI OHIO

IS THERE AN AGREEMENT BY THE A F OF L THAT THE STEAM SHOVEL MENS UNION HAVE RIGHT TO MAN SHOVELS STRIP AND LOAD COAL SOME HERE CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE JURISDICTION GRANTED BY MINING DEPARTMENT OF A F OF L J W TRACY CHICAGO DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE INTERNATIONAL STEAM SHOVEL UNION FURNISHING MEN LOAD COAL THIS DISTRICT WE DO NOT BELIEVE AGREEMENT TO EXIST WIRE ANSWER AT ONCE AFTER INVESTIGATING IF AGREEMENT EXISTS HAVE AUTHORITIES STOP THEIR MEN SCABBING ON UNION

1922 JUN 18 AM 11 04

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Mr. William Sneed, President,  
Sub-District 10, District 12,  
United Mine Workers of America,  
Herrin, Illinois.

Your wire eighteenth. Steamshovelmen's union was suspended from affiliation with American Federation of Labor some years ago. It was also ordered suspended from the mining department of the American Federation of Labor at the Atlantic City convention. We now find that this outlaw organization is permitting its members to act as strikebreakers at numerous strip pits. In Ohio this organization is furnishing steamshovel ~~men~~ engineers to work under armed guards with strikebreakers. It is not true that any form of agreement exists by and between this organization and the mining department ~~striking~~ or any other branch of the American Federation of Labor permitting them to work under such circumstances. We have <sup>through</sup> representatives officially taken this question up with the officers of the steamshovelmen's union and have failed to secure any satisfaction. Representatives of our organization are justified in treating this crowd as an outlaw organization and in viewing its members in the same light as they do any other common strikebreaker.

John L. Lewis.



1922 JUN 24 AM 11 34

A23ND 152 BLUE

INDIANAPOLIS IND 1016A 24

JOHN L LEWIS

1428

GIBSON HOTEL CINCINNATI OHIO

RICE MILLER ILLINOIS COAL OPERATORS ASSOCIATION W K KAVANAUGH  
 ASSOCIATION FIFTH AND NINTH DISTRICTS H C ADAMS CENTRAL ILLINOIS  
 COAL OPERATORS ASSOCIATION WIRED YOU JOINTLY FROM CHICAGO QUOTE WI  
 ADVISE YOU THAT EMPLOYEES OF NUMEROUS MEMBERS OUR ASSOCIATION ON  
 POSTS OF DUTY-PROTECTING PROPERTY OF MEMBERS IN WILLIAMSON FRANKLIN  
 AND PERRY COUNTIES ILLINOIS HAVE BEEN DRIVEN FROM THEIR POSTS OF DUTY  
 AND THEIR LIVES THREATENED BY MOBS COMPRISED OF MEMBERS

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION



# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT INGALLS BLDG., CORNER 4th & VINE STS., CINCINNATI, OHIO.

1922 JUN 24 AM 11

A23ND SHEET 2  
 OF UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA STOP PROPERTY OF SUCH MEMBERS IS  
 BEING GREATLY DAMAGED AND BUSINESS OF OUR MEMBERS DESTROYED THEREBY  
 WE HEREBY NOTIFY YOU THAT OUR MEMBERS AND THESE ASSOCIATIONS WILL  
 HOLD YOU PERSONALLY AND THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA  
 RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL DAMAGES WHICH MAY RESULT FROM ILLEGAL  
 AND VIOLENT ACTS OF MEMBERS OF UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA  
 UNQUOTE PEABODY COAL COMPANY CHICAGO WIRE YOU SAME MESSAGE IN REGARD  
 TO THEIR PROPERTY IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY  
 C CROMER.

RECEIVED AT 21-23 N. MERIDIA.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. ALWAYS OPEN

1922 JUN 23

1922 JUN 23 PM 5 12

C391CH 142 29 EXTRA

MC CHICAGO ILL. 503P 23

JOHN L LEWIS

PREST UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMA INDIANAPOLIS IND  
 WE ADVISE YOU THAT EMPLOYES OF NUMEROUS MEMBERS OF OUR  
 ASSOCIATION ON POSTS OF DUTY PROTECTING PROPERTY OF MEMBERS IN  
 WILLIAMSON FRANKLIN AND PERRY COUNTIES ILLINOIS HAVE BEEN DRIVEN  
 FROM THEIR POSTS OF DUTY AND THEIR LIVES THREATENED BY MOBS  
 COMPRISED OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA THE  
 PROPERTY OF SUCH MEMBERS IS BEING GREATLY DAMAGED AND THE BUSINESS  
 OF OUR MEMBERS DESTROYED THEREBY WE HEREBY NOTIFY.

DA 845P DA 850P DA 855P

DA 9P OK FCR

DA 5 10P

DA 5 30P

Handwritten notes and stamps:  
 MISS CARR OUT OF NO ONE TO RECEIVE TELEGRAMS UNTIL MONDAY PLEASE 930P FCR  
 DA 6 55P  
 DA 7 10P  
 DA 7 40P

Night Letter	N L
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	

# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Night Message	N M
Night Letter	N L
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	

RECEIVED AT

1922 JUN 22 AM 11 57

'B26OND DPR'  
 PD ST LOUIS MO VIA INDIANAPOLIS IND 22

JOHN L LEWIS

1407

GIBSON HOTEL CINCINNATI OHIO

'PLEASE WIRE OUR EXPENSE TEXT YOUR MESSAGE TO UNION MINERS HERRIN ILL  
 THAT PRECEDED OUTBREAK THAT PLACE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON  
 POST DISPATCH.'

*6/22/1922  
 Same message as to St. Louis Star  
 C.L.L.*

RECEIVED AT 21-23 N. MERIDIAN ST., INDIANAPOLIS

22 JUN 25 PM 5 54

C391CH SHEET 2

'YOU THAT OUR MEMBERS AND THESE ASSOCIATIONS WILL HOLD YOU PERSONALLY  
 AND THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL  
 DAMAGES WHICH MAY RESULT FROM THE ILLEGAL AND VIOLENT ACTS OF THE  
 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS COAL OPERATORS ASSN BY RICE MILLER PRESIDENT COAL

OPERATORS ASSN OF 5TH AND 9TH DISTRICTS BY W K KAVANAUGH

PRESIDENT CENTRAL ILLINOIS COAL OPERATORS ASSN BY H C ADAMS PRESIDENT.

DA 850P    DA 855P    DA 9P  
 DA 845P    OK FCR

*Da 540P  
 Da 530P 22P  
 WA 630P    WA 635P    WA 640P    WA 645P  
 FER*



**Three Nonunion Workers  
Lynched by Union Sympathizers Who Storm Pit**

**CROWD DENIES WATER  
TO DYING IN STREET**

**Dead Scattered Over Area of 15  
Miles—Captives Dragged  
Behind Autos**

Herrin, Ill., June 22.—A checkup at noon today, made by the Associated Press, showed 26 known dead and indication that the total would be more than 30 in the battle between striking union miners and employees of the strip mines of the Southern Illinois Coal company near here.

**Three Miners Hanged**

Bodies were spread over an area 15 miles square, some of them riddled with bullets, others beaten to death and three hanging by ropes from trees. An Associated Press correspondent made 10 ineffectual attempts today finally persuaded a taxicab driver to take him through the scene of the fight. The strip mine had been fired and a freight train on a siding also was burning, while miners looted several cars of food supplies.

**Deny Water to Dying**

Out in a road near the mine, six men tied together and terribly mangled by bullets and clubs, lay in a scorching sun while hundreds of men and women laughed at their pleas for water made in the name of God.

One of the men, his face bloody and one shoulder shot away apparently was within a few minutes of death.

"Please, boys, give me a drink," he moaned.

A laugh from the hundreds of spectators was the only reply.

The correspondent rushed to a house for water and when he returned he was faced by a sword, quickly drawn pistols and told to keep away.

**Men Dragged Behind Autos**

When the man begged again for water, "for God's sake," a young woman with a baby in her arms, placed her foot on the mangled body and said: "I'll see you in hell before you get any water."

The men apparently had been dragged down a rock road behind an automobile. Their clothes were torn and pieces of gravel were imbedded in their mangled flesh.

**Nonunionists Declared Massacred**

The bodies of 16 nonunion men were found in a woods near the strip mine, six miles east of here. A man named McDowell, foreman at the mine, was beaten to death, and the other 14, exclusive of the man hanged, were shot to death. It was stated the men were massacred when they attempted to escape after being taken prisoner by the union forces.

The dead nonunion men were reported to have been among 44 prisoners captured at the strip mine. Four others were found riddled with bullets, and are not expected to recover. What became of the other 24 could not be learned.

**Shot Down Trying to Flee**

There were several thousand men and boys present when the 16 nonunion men were killed at 9 a.m. The 44 men were taken prisoner at the camp herded in front of the captors and when they reached a point about half way between the mine and Herrin where they passed through a woods, the killing began.

Strikers declared the prisoners by an apparently prearranged signal, made a dash to escape and that they were pursued and killed.

The three dead union miners were killed in last night's fighting.

**Man Hunt Continues**

Four of the 16 bodies of strikebreakers were found at the foot of the tree from which the body of the man hanged was suspended. The bodies of the other 11 dead and four wounded were scattered through the woods.

The man hunt was continuing over a wide area. Six men later were captured and taken in the direction of the mine.

**Union Sympathizers Storm Mine**

The union sympathizers stormed the camp before daybreak, but found no employees of the strip mine in their tents, and departed.

They returned after daybreak and found the men hiding behind steam shovels and other paraphernalia, the reports said. The mine employees thereupon were lined up, and some were marched into the woods and lynched, according to the reports.

Persons who canvassed the woods say "bodies are scattered all over."

**Battle Resumed Early Today.**

Sounds of occasional shots were heard early today from the direction of the mining camp near here where striking union miners surround the camp in which approximately 100 nonunion workers were quartered.

Unverified reports were that more than 12 men were killed in the pitched fight late yesterday at the mining camp, in an explosion between Carterville and May, near the scene of the trouble, and in an attack on a truck carrying nonunion men to the mine, which occurred near Carbondale. It was impossible to verify these reports because of confusion at the camp.

6/22/1922

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Telegram	
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	
Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired: OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM	

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Receiver's No.

Check

Time Filed

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Cincinnati, Ohio, June 22, 1922.

The St. Louis Star,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Your message to President Lewis received. He is traveling today and I am unable to reach him by wire. Matter will be brought to his attention earliest possible moment.

Oral L. Garrison, Secretary.

Chg. room 616.

RECEIVED BY

B87ND 46 3 EXTRA  
FY ST LOUIS MO VIA INDIANAPOLIS IND 22

JOHN L LEWIS

1140

GIBSON HOTEL CINCINNATI OHIO

PLEASE RUSH WIRE OUR EXPENSE TEXT YOUR TELEGRAM TO HERRIN

ILLINOIS MINERS YESTERDAY IN WHICH YOU ARE QUOTED AS TERMING STRIP  
MINE UNION SHOVELMEN COMMON STRIKE BREAKERS TOP ALSO INCLUDE ANY  
STATEMENT YOU CARE TO MAKE ABOUT THE MINE WAR AT HERRIN STOP

THE ST LOUIS STAR.

IB  
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nb  
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22 AM 9 16

STATEMENT BY JOHN L. LEWIS, PRESIDENT, UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA  
JUNE 23, 1922.

The United Mine Workers of America is not to any degree responsible for the unfortunate occurrence at Herrin, Illinois. The organization has never encouraged and does not condone lawlessness of any character. The officers of the organization are shocked and greatly deplore this tragedy. We are not, however, unmindful of the fact that sinister influences have for some time been at work among our membership to incite and inflame the spirit of violence. The ranks of the strikers are infested with thousands of detectives and Secret Service operatives whose employment by coal companies depends upon their ability to provoke violence and disturb public tranquility. We have frequently called attention to this fact before Investigating Committees of Congress and have cited innumerable instances where outrages and murders have been committed by these irresponsible and lawless agents of the coal operators.

It is not true, as alleged, that the telegram from me addressed to State Senator William J. Sneed had any reference or connection with the disturbance at Herrin. A reading of the telegram, which has already been published, will conclusively show that it merely referred to the trade union status of the members of the Steamshovelmen's union who were working in strip pit operations throughout the country. The activities of the members of the Steamshovelmen's union had caused them to be definitely placed in the category of strike breakers and I so stated in my telegram of the 19th instant in reply to the inquiry wired me by Senator Sneed. Aside from being President of the Sub-District organization of Mine Workers in Williamson County, Mr. Sneed is a member of the Illinois State Senate and a member of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Illinois, now in session, and is regarded as one of the foremost citizens of Southern Illinois. His public statements bearing upon this matter should be given thoughtful consideration by the public. In the meantime, I am taking steps to secure full and complete information upon the entire subject matter.



message requests a reply. May we have it, please?

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Telegram	
Day Letter	B
Night Message	N
Night Letter	N

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (numbers) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

N. MERIDIAN ST., INDIANAPOLIS, IND. ALWAYS OPEN

C373CH. 38 BLUE 2 EXTRA

1922 JUN 23 10 06

NE CHICAGO, ILLS. 342P. 23

JOHN L LEWIS      1205

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMN. INDIANAPOLIS, IND  
 METROPOLITAN. PRESS ALREADY FALSIFYING RECORD. IN. HERRIN RIOT  
 STORY WILL YOUR ORGANIZATION DONATE FIVE. HUNDRED. DOLLARS. TOWARD  
 FUND. TO SEND. TOM. TIPPETT STAFF CORRESPONDENT. TO. HERRIN. IMMEDIATELY  
 WE SHOULD. HAVE MAN ON GROUND NOW WIRE. ANSWER  
 E J COSTELLO FEDERATED. PRESS.

MISS CARR UT CITY NO ONE IN DA 640P DA 645P DA 7P. OK FCR  
 CITY RECEIVE UNTIL PROBABLY MONDAY MORNING LEASE HOLD DA 845P DA 850P DA 855P DA 9P OK FB  
 930P FCR

Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired: OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM

# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Time Filed

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to


Cincinnati, Ohio, June 24, 1922.

Mr. E. J. Costello,  
 c/o Federated Press,  
 Chicago, Illinois.

Concerning your wire all available money being utilized to purchase food for hungry people engaged in strike and am therefore not able to take advantage of your ~~offer~~ offer.

John L. Lewis.

Chg. room 344.



**CROWD JEERS' AS  
WOUNDED MEN BEG  
VAINLY FOR WATER**

HERRIN, Ill., June 2.—Out in a road near the mine, six men tied together and all wounded by bullets and blows, lay in a scorching sun, while hundreds of men and women laughed at their pleas for water. One of the men, his face bloody and one shoulder shot away, apparently was within a few minutes of death.

"Please boys, give me a drink," he moaned. A laugh from the hundreds of spectators was the only reply. The correspondent rushed to a house for water and when he returned he was faced by a sword and quickly drawn pistols and told to keep away.

When the man begged again for water "for God's sake," a young woman with a baby in her arms, placed her foot on the mangled body and said: "I'll see you in hell before you get any water."

The men apparently had been dragged down a rock road behind an automobile. Their clothes were torn and pieces of gravel were imbedded in their mangled flesh.

HOTEL  
**Edward**

EUROPEAN PLAN

"INDIANAPOLIS MOST POPULAR HOTEL."

J. EDW. KRAUSE, President & Manager.

Indianapolis, Ind.

June 24-22

Your telegram certainly showed up the type of men you are leading. As an ex-service man - I would rather "shoulder arms" again - to fight - a greater evil to this country than the Kaiser ever was - a body of men mostly foreigners who laugh at our laws & the dirty bo-hunks. *Edw. Krause*  
1000 Mill

COPY LFL.

*For Mr. Lewis*

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

20 SW 56 8 EXTRA BLUE

UD NEW YORK NY 126P JUN 23 1922

SAML. GOMPERS

CINCINNATI OHIO

THE FEROCIOUS AND INHUMAN ATROCITIES PERPETRATED IN ILLINOIS  
DEMAND YOUR UNQUALIFIED CONDEMNATION WHATEVER THE PROVOCATION  
AND WHOEVER WAS RESPONSIBLE LABOR WILL SUFFER IRREPARABLE  
INJURY UNLESS YOU IMMEDIATELY TAKE OFFICIAL ACTION AND GUARANTEE  
TO PUNISH THE OFFENDERS I SPEAK AS ONE WHOSE SYMPATHY AND  
FRIENDSHIP FOR LABOR IS UNQUESTIONABLE.

J. A. H. HOPKINS EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN  
OF THE COMMITTEE OF 48

131P

*No answer  
has been  
made by  
Mr. Gompers.*



Raleigh Hotel,  
Washington, D. C.,  
June 26, 1922.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, President,  
American Federation of Labor,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I thank you for your courtesy in having handed me  
while in Cincinnati a copy of the telegram from Mr.  
J. A. H. Hopkins, Executive Chairman of the Committee  
of 48, under date of June 23rd, dealing with the tragedy  
at Herrin, Illinois, to which your office had made no  
reply.

Sincerely yours,

President.

L:G

June 29, 1922

## SNED'S STATEMENT BLAMES COMPANY FOR MURDERS

WERE OFFERED EVERY CONCEIVABLE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PEACE WITH CITIZENS.

The following is a statement of Wm. J. Sned, of Herrin, state Senator from this district and also sub-district president of the the United Mine Workers. Senator Sned was called from Springfield late last week because of the strip mine trouble. The senator is also a member of the Constitutional Convention which is now in session.

What happened at the Southern Illinois Coal Company's strip mine six miles south of Herrin, was so out of keeping with the harmony and peace that has reigned so completely for twenty years in Williamson County, that it is not only a shock to her citizens but to the entire State of Illinois. Every sincere honest trade unionist regrets it as well as every other citizen of our great commonwealth. The miners union is against physical force in the adjustment of disputes; for more than twenty years the United Mine Workers have dealt jointly without the use of violence with the coal operators in this county. The great rank and file of the membership of the miners union in Williamson County have been and are considered among the best of our American citizenh. In the midst of one of the gratest of labor suspensions in the mining industry, Williamson County miners were noted for the quiet, harmonious, and peaceful attitude with which this suspension has prevailed. The question arises what and who is responsible for this great tragedy, the snuffing out of the lives of almost a score of men and the wounding and maiming of sevral more and the destruction of thousands of dollars worth of property? Mr. Lester is quoted as having said that, "The miners here are nothing but 'bolsheviki' and that the County is without semblance of law. State tro and county officials seem powerless to cope with the situation."

He says that he did his best to have Governor Small send troops, telling the Governor that hell would break loose down there unless action was taken. Again it may be asked who is responsible for the detaining of such a condition as described by Mr. Lester, what are the facts that led up to what Mr. Lester termed the necessity for troops? The Southern Illinois Coal Company operated their mine for about a year under a labor contract with the miners union,, when the present suspension came on he asked permission to strip coal stating that it would not be the policy of the company to load coal until an agreement was entered into by and between the coal operators and miners. He adhered to this policy until about the middle of June, when his men were informed that they would be expected to load coal or accept their money. The men refused to load coal in violation of the policy adopted by their International Policy Committee and were discharged. Men were imported to load this coal, with them guards and gun men. These guards were given high powered rifles and side arms which they flourished when intercepting and intimidating citizens who traveled the public highway, both night and day.

Many were those who were held up by these guards at the point of a gun, some of them complained of being slapped in the face while guns were held on them and thy were told to "stick 'em up," one guard telling his victim that he "eats 'em alive." This was so common that the sheriff and States Attorney were appealed to by citizens. Sheriff Thaxton and deputis and States Attorney Duty went to the office of the Southern Illinois Coal Company and when they got out of their automobile were told by the chief guard to get back in their car that they were on private property. They asked to see Supt. McDowell and again were told to get in their car until Supt. could be brought to them, this they refused to do proclaiming their rights as American citizens telling guards who thy were. When Supt. McDowell appeared, after a confrence the superintendent agreed to see that guards were kept off of the public highway and that they would not display guns. The following day a representative

of the Chicago Tribune was told at the point of a gun to get off of this property. Two of the gun men wearing badges which stated that they were State Constables. He informed that this was a Chicago organization and that he was Lieutenant in this organization; they told him that made no difference, to "beat it." He left their property.

Citizens appealed to me asking that I investigate this matter and report same to the Governor. As there is no such State Department, in company with two newspapermen, I went to the county seat, met the sheriff and requested him to go with me and assist in ascertaining if these guards were impersonating State officers. Col. Hunter, representing Adjutant General's office, having been sent to Marion to investigate trouble growing out of intimidation, accompanied us to the coal company's property. On arriving there, we were shown into the company office where we discussed this matter and were told that there were two members of the State Constabulatory there who had badges as charged, but would not be permitted to wear them. While there we saw a vast amount of ammunition, both for shot gun and high powered rifles. One newspaper man asked if there wasn't a law curtailing the amount of ammunition that might be kept on property by private individuals. He was told by Supt. McDowell that this was kept for shooting ducks. The sheriff, Col. Hunter and myself requested that the company co-operate in every way possible to keep down trouble. Prior to this time, an adjoining company of which Mr. Lester is a stockholder, got orders to discharge all of these men, which was done, the company bringing the night crew from the Southern Illinois Coal Company's plant to take their places. The men' discharged complained to the miners' officials insisting that they be reinstated. The officials took this matter up with Mr. Ctiger the Supt. and he informed us that he had to obey orders and as he only expected to construction work, that the U. M. W. of A. had no jurisdiction, but admitted that morally, the men discarg ed were entitled to the construction work. It was rumored that A. B. McLaren of Marion, was associated with Mr. Lester in these properties.

that the coal operators were assisting Mr. Lester in testing out the possibility of employing non-union men; that United States Steel Trust were also assisting him for the purpose of that if he were successful that they would open the mines in Illinois on a non-union basis, forcing the miners to accept the wage scale for 1917, and no check-off agreement, with the knowledge of these facts I personally went to some of Mr. Lester's friends in Marion, telling them that I understood he contemplated running his mine on a non-union basis, asking them to intercede with him not to do this as there was a possibility of breeding serious trouble.

I was told that Mr. Lester and associates had discussed this matter and they had said they were going to work the strip mine on this basis and if they had any trouble it was said, that they would have the troops sent in as they could get them if necessary and that they would cost them nothing. After some discussion of this matter, I was told that Mr. Lester had concluded that it was too serious a matter to take on non-union men and load coal to work that he had decided not to attempt it, however, he immediately began loading coal. In discussing the matter of employees with Supt. McDowell, he informed me that all men employed outside of the guards were members of the

Steamshovel Men's Union, that therefore these men had been refused jurisdiction over stripping coal and that they now sought to retaliate by taking advantage of the suspension and that they expected to take from the U. M. W. of A. jurisdiction over all strip mines everywhere. On this information, I immediately wired President Gompers, International President Lewis and State resident Farrington.

Mr. Lewis' was the only reply received to my telegram at that time. Mr. Lester and Mr. McDowell having stated that U. M. W. of A. had no jurisdiction over this work. Mr. Lester quoted by press to the effect that Steamshovel Men's Union was in good standing with A. F. of L. I felt that Mr. Lewis' telegram should be given to the press also. Immediately after this was done, incendiaries immediately stated that mass meetings were called and Lewis' telegram read by men who made inflammatory speeches, urging mob violence. This is untrue. Mr. Lewis' telegram in no way or manner was read to a mass meeting or was it construed to the effect by the men in an inflammatory way, being considered only as a matter of information, pointing out the status of the Steamshovel Men's Union with the A. F. of L., in reply to Mr. Lester's statement carried by the press. Mr. Lewis' telegram com-

ing when it did, when men had been asking permission to talk to the men employed by the Southern Illinois Coal Company, walking on to this property in several instances with hands raised above their heads and unarmed, were chased off at the point of a rifle or automatic, and later a union miner shot and killed five hundred yards away from this property on public highway by an armed guard was taken advantage of by the press and otherwise to try to make it appear that this telegram was responsible for the gathering of miners who were accused of attacking the men who were loading the coal for the Southern Illinois Coal Company, which had been previously be members of the miners union under contract, and with the understanding that same would not be loaded until an agreement had been consummated by and between the coal operators and miners. In my judgement as well as that of every other citizen who understands what Mr. Lester proposed or rather what he did do in surrounding his property with imported gun men and men imported for the purpose of loading the coal stripped under the above circumstances, lies the blame for this whole horrible affair, not only is this company responsible for these men who lost their lives, but they are also solely responsible for the stigma and black smirch that has so unfortunately fastened itself upon the citizens of Williamson County and the City of Herrin, by importing hired men who cared nothing for the peace and tranquility of an honored community, who used every device apparently at their command to precipitate trouble.

It is a well known fact by hundreds of our best citizens that the sheriff and his deputies; the State's Attorney, Col. Hunter and many influential citizens did everything humanly possible co-operating together to ward off this great crime that has been committed against Williamson County and her citizens, as well as tarnishing the fair name of the great state of Illinois. And in the language said to have been used by Mr. Lester, his company should be made to pay and pay dearly for this outrage even to the extent of taxing them for the next ten years and making it impossible for him to ever again attempt to fasten onto any community such as has come to Williamson County through his efforts and to which every American citizen should and does resent.

The miner officials knowing Mr. McLaren personally, having dealt with him for years, felt that if he was associated with Mr. Lester that we could prevail upon him to reinstate the old crew of men where Mr. Stiger was superintendent. Accordingly, we went to Marion, made an investigation and found that Mr. McLaren was in no manner connected nor did he own any stock in either of these properties, therefore, he could not intercede or adjust the dispute that existed. Along with this controversy rumors and statements were being made by the press and from other sources among the miners in this county, that the coal operators would try to open their mines with non-union labor if it was not for the miners Qualification Act, which provides that before a man can enter the mines to dig coal he must have had two years experience at the face of the coal and pass examination. Some of the operators contending that this boy appointed by the governor, was a member of the miners union and controlled by them, therefore, it was impossible for the operators to employ non-union men in the mines as they could not qualify under these circumstances or they might attempt to open their mines.



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
<small>If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.</small>	

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
<small>If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.</small>	

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D414CH NPR

OB CHICAGO ILL 25

1922 JUN 25 PM 7 12

JOHN L LEWIS 2002 .

PRESIDENT UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA PLEASE LOCATE THROUGH WILLIAM GREEN SECTY U M U A AND DELIVER TONIGHT INDIANAPOLIS IND RECEIVED AUTHORITY INFORMATION AT HERRIN NEWSPAPERMEN OF CHICAGO TIPPED OFF TWELVE DAYS AGO BY HONNOLD THAT OPERATORS INTENDED MAKE TEST CASE AT STRIP MINE AND CLEAN OUT SOM MINERS SEVERAL WENT THERE ON THAT INFORMATION THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DEMAND CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION PLEASE WIRE STATEMENT FOR NEWYORK TRIBUNE PRESS RATE COLLECT CARE GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL REGARDS

DA 740P FBB

DA 748P

GILMAN PARKER

*Can*  
 16A F&K  
 OQY  
 WC COUNTER AM

*7391P  
846P*

1922 JUN 25 PM 11 43

*DA 759P  
7810P*

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Telegram	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Message	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Check
Time Filled

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Chicago, Ill., June 27, 1922.

Ellis Searles,  
Raleigh Hotel,  
Washington, D. C.

Names are Don Ewing Associated Press and Ralph McCanna Chicago Tribune who went there several days before killings. That in itself is enough. - See my first edition story Saturday morning first part of column two. Informant quoted is Ewing. Please give me scoop statement if Lewis acts care Great Northern Hotel. Advisable you regard source this information as confidential.

Parker.

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Washington, D. C., June 26, 1922.

Mr. Gilman Parker,  
c/o Great Northern Hotel,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Lewis showed me your telegram. He hesitates to act in the matter without more definite information. Can you wire me Raleigh Hotel names of some newspaper men who went to Herrin in response to tip that was given them by Honnold. This information might afford grounds for action.

Ellis Searles.

Chg. United Mine Workers.

# United Mine Workers of America

JOHN L. LEWIS  
PRESIDENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Raleigh Hotel,  
Washington, D. C.,  
July 12, 1922.

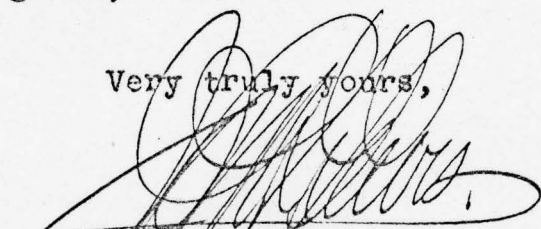
Mr. Earl E. Houck,  
1112 Merchants Bank Bldg.,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Houck:

I am enclosing, herewith, copies of telegraphic correspondence between myself and Mr. Searles and Mr. Gilman Parker, Staff Correspondent of the New York Tribune. Mr. Parker is rather sympathetic in his attitude toward our organization and its aspirations and presumably does not want to be known in the matter as it might affect his newspaper standing. It seems to me, however, that it might be well for you to look into the matter and to at least interview those representatives of the Chicago Tribune and Associated Press who went to Herrin upon receipt of information from Dr. Honnold. It might be possible for you to secure from them statements or affidavits which would be of later value to us in case civil procedures are entered against our organization. I would also be glad to have you take this matter up with Mr. Warrum and acquaint him with the contents of this correspondence and secure his advice thereon.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

  
President.



St. L.  
Harrin

Copy of Letter Sent by  
A. M. Cagle, President, National Coal Association  
To  
Governor Len Small of Illinois.

---

July 28, 1922.

Honorable Len Small,  
Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Sir:

Thirty-five days have elapsed since the massacre of more than twenty and the seriously wounding and mutilating of thirty-three men who were at work in the strip mine of the Southern Illinois Coal Company near Herrin in Williamson County by an attacking force of union miners numbering several thousand. The men attacked had surrendered under a flag of truce with the pledge from the union mine officials that they should be given safe conduct out of the county. Instead they were marched to a woods, lined up in front of a barbed wire fence and treacherously shot down.

So far not a single arrest has been made in connection with this crime against the law and against humanity. The local authorities, according to the best information obtainable, have done little or nothing and have excused their inaction with the statement that Williamson County is so highly unionized that it would be impossible at this time to convene any tribunal which would consider the affair in an impartial way. The impression also seems to be gaining ground that the state authorities are failing to show that determination necessary to discover and punish those responsible for this outrage. This wholesale murder by members of the United Mine Workers organization was an attack not only upon the inalienable right of a man to work, but it was a most vicious attack upon every industry, upon every community, even upon the Government itself.

The safety of every home in this country is imperilled if such a crime is to go unchallenged and unpunished. Such murders have been flaunted by the international officers of the United Mine Workers as an example of what may be expected in other parts of the country if the operators and American public do not bend the knee and bow the head in humiliation subservience to their arrogant domination.

The enclosed report of an investigation conducted by the National Coal Association shows that this massacre was the result of a conspiracy on the part of the officials of the United Mine Workers of America to stop the operation of the strip mine by men not belonging to the Mine Workers Union; that the conspirators prevented Deputy Sheriffs being sworn in and militia being mobilized; that the conspirators incited and inflamed their followers with the telegram sent by John L. Lewis, international president

of the miners organization, to State Senator William J. Sneed, sub-district president, in which Lewis declared the workers at the strip mine should be treated as common strike breakers.

The facts of the massacre and atrocities stand undisputed. The facts of the conspiracy can be ascertained by determined action. Radical and unprincipled trade unionism cannot be allowed to make a mockery of our laws and Government and we respectfully urge that you throw all the forces of the State of Illinois into a proper and thorough investigation of the Herrin massacre, so that the conspirators and assassins will be promptly brought to justice. The entire resources of this Association are at your service.

Respectfully submitted by order of the  
Board of Directors, National Coal Association.

A.M. OGLE, PRESIDENT.

# UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

DISTRICT No. 18

W. A. SHERMAN, PRESIDENT  
 WILLIAM RYAN, VICE-PRESIDENT  
 ROBT. PEACOCK, SEC.-TREASURER  
 ROBT. LIVETT, INTER. BOARD MEMBER

OFFICES:

408-409 BEVERIDGE BUILDING  
**CALGARY**  
 ALBERTA

Box 1844, Calgary, Alberta,  
 September 30th, 1922.

Mr. John L. Lewis, President,  
 United Mine Workers of America,  
 Merchants Bank Bldg.,  
 Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I wish to draw your attention to a certain matter which we believe will be to the interest of the organization and the men who are now under arrest in connection with the Herrin, Illinois, mine fray during the recent strike. A certain person by the name of Richard McClellan visited our office today who informs us he is the father of one of the special police who proceeded to Herrin for the purpose of protecting the companies' properties and he is one of the two living witnesses to give evidence against the miners in the coming trial. He is of the opinion that if he could meet his son personally, who is now under separate guard in Chicago, he would be able to persuade him to leave there and return to Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. McClellan has letters in his possession showing that he was an active member of the Carpenter's Labor Organization in the United States and by the accounts we have received sympathized with the miners during the recent strike.

The proposition he has put up is that he proceed to the States in an endeavour to get his son back with him thereby preventing him from giving evidence and the only recompense he expects is transportation, salary and expenses.

If you think it worth while to interview him I would ask you wire me immediately where you wish him to proceed to.

Trusting you will give this matter your immediate attention I am,

Yours fraternally,

*R. Peacock*  
 Dist. 18-United Mine Workers of America



Herrin

# THE HERRIN CONSPIRACY



Herrin's heinous crime is a challenge to America, the Mother of us all—of the newcomer to her household no less than of the native born. It is a challenge that must be met now. It is a challenge that must be met standing.—Boston (Mass.) *Transcript*, June 28, 1922.

An even more vital reason for prompt action is seen in the temper of the men, which carries with it a threat that the atrocities committed in Illinois this week will be repeated in other mining fields.—St. Joseph (Mo.) *Press*, June 24, 1922.

Until this coal mine butchery is legally avenged Americans can no longer boast that in the United States the Constitution is supreme.—*The Sun*, New York, July 6, 1922.

Issued by

**The National Coal Association**

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## THE HERRIN CONSPIRACY

A comprehensive story of the slaughter  
as presented by investigators  
and eye-witnesses

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IN a wooded grove midway between the mining towns of Herrin and Marion in Williamson County, Ill., a crime was committed on the morning of Thursday, June 22, that stirred the indignation and aroused the horror of America as had not been done since the stories of war atrocities committed by the Huns ceased coming across the ocean.

Nearly fifty men—the exact number is uncertain—who shortly before had been taken out under a flag of truce from the strip mine of the Southern Illinois Coal Company a few miles away and who had been promised that they would be furnished safe escort to the railroad station whence they could entrain for their homes, were lined up in front of a barbed wire fence, and hemmed in by union miners in military formation.

Scarcely before a plea of mercy could be made, shotguns, rifles and revolvers in the hands of 500 men arrayed in a semi-circle about the miserable group, poured a storm of lead into the bodies of the captives. Many fell at the first volley. Some got through the fence only to be shot down in flight. Others escaped the fusillade to fall victims later to a savage man hunt that harried the fugitives for hours through the surrounding countryside. Some of the dead were mutilated, the dying were kicked and beaten, the captured were tortured and then slain.

When the ghastly work was over, nineteen of those who were working in the mine were dead, several died later of the

34 who were wounded and a number are still unaccounted for. Such was the outrage committed in a union district upon men who were merely exercising the universal law of the right to labor and who had been employed by William J. Lester, president of the coal company, to operate the strip mine from which the members of the United Mine Workers of America had walked out.

### **An Attack on Government**

This organized murder of American citizens was the result of the determination of a branch of the United Mine Workers of America to maintain as an absolute stronghold the supremacy of the Miners' Union in Williamson County over and above the law of the State and the law of the Nation.

It was anarchy; it was the placing of the aim of the union as the supreme law of Williamson County. It was a vicious attack upon the fundamental principles upon which our Government was founded. The right of any American to do his work, a basic principle of our Constitution which guarantees liberty and protection, is an issue far above any question between the United Mine Workers and operators, and it concerns not only the coal miners and coal operators, but every man and woman in this country. It concerns every industry, every home.

What does this uprising mean? It is the concern of every citizen of the land. Every American must view this crime with the utmost concern, for the issue involves the very foundations of our Government. What happened in Williamson County may happen in almost any community in the country, if every effort is not put forth to bring the assassins to justice. Indeed, it was the boast

of the organized band who committed this murder that in Williamson County, at least, America would be shown that the law of the union reigned supreme.

These murders grew out of what has every appearance—from the bare facts collected—of a well-organized conspiracy to stop the operation of the strip mine. The investigation indicates that the conspiracy was developed over a period of four or five days during which the sentiment of the members of the mine workers' union in Williamson County was intensively developed against the strip mine workers. Plans for the attack were carefully laid. Then the assault began. This assault was interrupted by a truce arranged in accordance with the wishes of the officials of the United Mine Workers of America, and the County officials acquiesced, as did the owner of the mine who agreed that no attempt would be made to reopen the mine during the strike.

The facts relating to the whole affair have been assembled here in order to give a picture of the situation in Williamson County and a comprehensive story of what happened.

### **A Union Stronghold**

Williamson County, Illinois, which has a population of 61,038, is in one of the most strongly unionized centers of America. Marion, the county seat, has a population of 9,582, and Herrin, a population of 10,986. It is conservatively estimated that 85 per cent of the residents of the County are miners or connected with them by family ties or otherwise, and reflecting unionized labor sentiment. All business conducted in the County is dependent to a vital degree upon the patronage of the mining element. The mining vote elects or defeats candidates for public office.



Many of the public officials holding elective office are miners, have been miners, or are in strong sympathy with union labor whose strength is such that, without question, it is its vote that elects or defeats any candidate for local or county office.

The most outstanding local figure in the events leading up to the massacre, is Sheriff Melvin Thaxton, who persistently refused to swear his deputies or to call for the Illinois National Guard, as he was urged to do repeatedly by Col. S. N. Hunter, representing Adjutant General Carlo Black of Illinois, for three days before the surrender and butchery of the strip miners. Col. Hunter had arrived in Marion on June 18 to keep an eye on the situation. The Sheriff is an examiner, and was elected by the mining vote, and is now a candidate for county treasurer.

There is ample testimony that Sheriff Thaxton is physically not a coward. In times past he has been cool, courageous and vigilant in supporting the law. Single-handed he stopped thirteen prisoners in a jail-breaking attempt two years ago. He has to his credit successful intervention in a number of attempted lynchings.

### **The Judge and the Mob**

County Judge Hartwell draws a picture of the mob which shows its caliber when met by a determined spirit. A crowd went to the Judge's home. They demanded that he deliver over to them his collection of firearms. He dared the young fellows to come and get them, at the same time directing his wife to load as he fired. The mob faded away.

Prominent also in the three days preceding the attack on the mine was State Senator William J. Sneed, president of

the Sub-District of the United Mine Workers of America—a resident of Herrin. He appears to be the leading politician of the County, insofar as the labor vote is concerned. The labor vote, which in a previous election had been led by Sneed in the interests of another political faction, was reversed under Sneed's control and support thrown to Len Small, successful candidate for Governor.

The State's Attorney of Williamson County is Delos L. Duty, whose family has been slightly identified with union miner interests. Duty, who was elected by miners' votes, is on record as expressing very serious doubt of his ability to convict mob conspirators, leaders and members of the mob. "To get a jury not imbued with the ideas of the labor unions will be impossible, I believe," he said, and added, "the killing was un-human beyond words."

### **Brundage Infers Conspiracy**

Edward J. Brundage, Attorney General of Illinois, views the Herrin massacre as "murder in cold blood after the strip miners had surrendered." That the Attorney General believes a conspiracy existed is the inference to be drawn from his statement that "the riot was not spontaneous; the mob gathered from several counties at a central spot."

William M. McCown of Marion, the Coroner of Williamson County, was a union miner and is admittedly a union sympathizer.

The principal business of Williamson County is digging coal from deep mines, of which there are thirty-two. There are also four strip mines where huge shovels scrape the earth from thick veins of coal which run near the surface. Other shovels then lift this coal into cars. It

was against the strip mine, owned by the Southern Illinois Coal Company, of which William J. Lester is president, that members of the United Mine Workers of America directed an attack. As an operator Mr. Lester played a lone hand, and was not a member of any coal operators' association.

### Strip Shovels Continue Work

When the deep mines were closed by the U. M. W. of A. strike April 1, last, the stripping shovel at the Lester mine did not cease operations. The stripping shovel was kept at work, meantime, and no objection was made by the strikers as long as no attempt to mine coal was made. Men manning this shovel, or rather the crews operating it, were members of the Steam Shovel Men's Union, an organization not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

About June 10 Lester made preparation actually to dig and load coal and additional men, some of whom were rated as track layers and others as guards, were put on the property. This development was instantly resented by the union miners, and the question arose as to the status of the men employed at the strip mine. There was also the openly voiced feeling of resentment that armed guards were on duty at these strip mines.

As early as June 13, it became manifest that a plot against the mine was brewing. Robert Tracy, of Chicago, a locomotive engineer, reported to the mine for duty, and in examining the engine firebox found ten sticks of dynamite and two cans of powder therein. Two days later, says Tracy, picketing of the mine began.

The Sheriff and State's Attorney and U. M. W. of A. officials protested to Mr.

Lester and his superintendent, C. K. McDowell, against the employment of these armed guards; said that they were trespassing on public property and holding up traffic. The strip mine people were told that they were courting destruction, if they continued to dig coal. There is on record the statement that McDowell declared that if any guards were outside the mine boundary they were disobeying his instructions. It was also said by some who conferred with him that he promised to disarm the guards, but this is not verified.

There was talk of boycotting stores which were supplying the men with provisions, and the union miners also were sent to watch railroad stations where additional workmen for the strip mine might arrive. Col. Hunter notes that two of these workers, detaining at Marion, were intercepted by union miners and ordered away, and did leave.

### The Telegram from Lewis

There was discussion among the strikers as to the status of the strip mine workers. On June 18, Senator Sneed wired John L. Lewis, International President of the U. M. W. of A., asking for an official ruling on the status of the strip mine workers. Sneed received the following reply:

Indianapolis, Ind.

June 19, 1922.

William J. Sneed,  
Pres. Sub-District 10  
District 12, U. M. W. of A.

Your wire of eighteenth, Steam Shovel Men's Union was suspended from affiliation with American Federation of Labor some years ago. It was also ordered suspended from the mining department of the American Federation of Labor at the

Atlantic City convention. We now find that this outlaw organization is permitting its members to act as strike breakers at numerous strip pits in Ohio. This organization is furnishing steam shovel engineers to work under armed guards with strike breakers. It is not true that any form of agreement exists by and between this organization and the mining department or any other branch of the American Federation of Labor permitting them to work under such circumstances. We have, through representatives, officially taken this question up with the officers of the Steam Shovel Men's Union and have failed to secure any satisfaction. *Representatives of our organization are justified in treating this crowd as an outlaw organization and in viewing its members in the same light as they do any other common strike breakers.*

(Signed) JOHN L. LEWIS.

#### Published in Local Press

On Tuesday, June 20, this telegram was printed in the *Marion Daily Republican* as that paper's leading news article. It was given similar treatment the same day in the *Herrin Journal*. There is every reason to believe that the contents of this telegram became known to practically all of the union miners and their sympathizers over the whole of the coal field on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The first mass meeting that the miners held after the receipt of the telegram to discuss a program of action against the strip mine workers, it is related by Col. Hunter, was held early Tuesday afternoon, June 20. He was informed that the miners were in session at the Sunnyside Mine. Col. Hunter avers that he went to the office of State Senator Sneed and

told the latter of the meeting, whereupon Sneed replied:

"I know about it. There is no cause for alarm."

Col. Hunter says that a little later he told Sheriff Thaxton of this miners' mass meeting and asked the Sheriff to send a deputy, who resided in Herrin, to the meeting and ascertain what was going on. The Sheriff promised to do this, Col. Hunter says. There seems to exist a strong probability that some definite action against operations at the strip mine was agreed upon at this Tuesday mass meeting.

The next day another meeting took place. Of what was done at this meeting and of the effect actually had on the minds of the miners and their friends, the *Marion Daily Republican* of June 22, said:

#### Meeting in Cemetery

"An indignation meeting was held in the cemetery in Herrin on Wednesday morning, June 21, at which time the feeling was running high, and the telegram of John L. Lewis calling these shovel men common strike breakers, was read. Soon afterwards a mob raided three hardware stores in Herrin, obtaining a few guns and rifles and 5,000 rounds of ammunition of all kinds."

Walter M. Sims, editor of the *Christopher Progress*, published in a mining town fourteen miles from Herrin, wrote in his publication:

"The trouble (the massacre) followed after an indignation meeting was held just outside of Herrin on a road to the mine Wednesday morning following the publication of a telegram from John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, which stated that the workmen at the strip mine who are members of the



Shovel Men's Union were 'common strike breakers.'"

Writing from Herrin, Thoreau Cronyn said in the *New York Herald* of July 12:

"A veteran of Williamson County to whom the correspondent showed the copy of this (Lewis') telegram, pushed his spectacles up on his forehead after reading it and said:

"'Everybody down here knows how the union miners felt about this and how certain words inflame them. I should not say that the word outlaw riled them so much, but when Lewis officially told them that those fellows out at the Lester mine were to be treated like any other strike breakers, I should say that it was about the same thing as saying: 'Hike out there to the mine and clean 'em out.'"

Prominent business men of Marion and Herrin say that when they heard the men on the streets and in business places talking excitedly about the message from Lewis that they felt certain a violent outbreak was but hours distant.

Out of these meetings meantime the conspiracy to stop the operation of the mine had been developed. The initial move to invest the strip mine has all the earmarks of an organized effort and it resulted in the first open act of hostility.

#### The First Hostile Act

On Wednesday morning, June 21, at eight o'clock, say the union miners entrusted with keeping any more men from reaching the strip mine, additional workmen were unloaded from the Chicago train at Carbondale, Illinois, about fourteen miles from the mine. These men were put into a mine truck which was followed by a mine automobile. There were eleven men in the two machines. At a

point three miles east of Carbondale, men in a strange automobile preceding the truck fired shots into the air, as if by pre-arranged signal. Immediately, shot gun firing was directed from underbrush along the roadside.

Some of the eleven strip mine workers were wounded seriously and others fled, followed by volleys of shot gun firing. "Mark" Delaney, who was in charge of the strip mine party, made his way back to Carbondale and telephoned to Supt. McDowell at the mine, relating how these two automobile loads of men had been fired on and stating that some of them had been wounded and taken to the Carbondale hospital.

#### Events Known to Officials

All these events had not escaped the ears and eyes of state, city and county officials. Col. Hunter, after visiting the mine, talking to the Sheriff, State's Attorney, and other city and county officials in Marion and Herrin had concluded as early as Monday, June 19th; that "the local officers were in sympathy with the belligerent miners, but had agreed to maintain order." He stated further, however, that he had no confidence in the Sheriff's avowed intention or his ability to cope with the situation and protect the men. He made this report by telephone shortly before noon on Monday to the Adjutant-General.

Hunter told the Adjutant-General that the Sheriff had promised to protect property and life at the mines. The Colonel advised the Adjutant-General to have two companies of the Illinois National Guard, one at Salem and one at Cairo, notified to be in readiness to entrain for Marion on an hour's notice. These two companies could have been in Marion within four hours.

### The Sheriff's Inaction

The Adjutant-General told Col. Hunter at this time to "lay down" (bear down) on the Sheriff and have him do his full duty in the way of securing an extra force of deputies. That afternoon the Colonel asked the Sheriff what he was doing to get more deputies and also informed him that the two companies of troops were ready to respond to any request the Sheriff would make. The Sheriff said that he felt his regular force of deputies was sufficient for the present, and that for Col. Hunter to tell the Adjutant-General, "Troops would not be needed to put down trouble at the mines."

Later in the evening Col. Hunter reported to the Adjutant-General that the Sheriff had not sworn in more deputies and did not anticipate the use of troops. Col. Hunter got after the Sheriff again on Tuesday morning in regard to securing additional deputies. The Sheriff replied that the wild talk was dying down, and Col. Hunter asked him if this was not a result of the wide-spread rumor that two regiments of troops were headed for Marion. The Colonel declared that this report was out and did have a noticeably quieting effect on the streets until night-fall when there was a resurgence of excitement, and anger attained new heights.

The Colonel talked to miners on the street, found they were at the breaking point and went again to consult with the Sheriff. He reports that he "demanded of the Sheriff that he swear in a large force of deputies, including business men" and was informed by the Sheriff that he "had the situation well in hand," to which Col. Hunter replied:

"Swear in deputies or ask for troops."

Wednesday morning, the day before the massacre, found events moving swiftly

toward inevitable disaster. State Senator Sneed, who had gone to Springfield on official business on Tuesday evening, was not available to advise with the Sheriff the next morning. When Col. Hunter stepped out on the street early on June 21 and found the whole countryside was literally boiling with excitement he immediately went to the Sheriff's office to see if that official had not finally been stirred into action, since it was absolutely clear that a mob of unprecedented size was being gathered to wreak vengeance.

### Calling of Troops Urged

Col. Hunter found the Sheriff quite placid, with no new deputies and uttering his stereotyped expression: "I have the situation well in hand." Col. Hunter grew emphatic in urging the Sheriff to make a request for troops. This was done in the presence of State's Attorney Duty. The Sheriff said that he had no idea of calling for troops and Duty offered the Sheriff the advice that, "If I were a Sheriff I would not call for troops under any circumstances." To Col. Hunter, Duty said that he had full confidence in Sheriff Thaxton. Col. Hunter hurried away from the Sheriff's office, resolved to lay his case before the business men of Marion. He got C. R. Edrington, secretary of the Greater Marion Association, and informed the latter that the Sheriff had absolutely balked at swearing in deputies or making a request for troops.

The Colonel and Edrington agreed that something ought to be done immediately. They decided that the best move would be to get a committee of reputable business men, mine owners and union miners to visit the strip mine and ask the men there to suspend operations. By telephone they summoned A. B. McLaren, a

wealthy and influential business man of Marion; Ralph Mitchell, General Superintendent of the Earnest Coal Company and W. H. Rix, a union mine worker official. This conference had hardly assembled before the news was flashed about the attack on the strip mine truck near Carbondale. The five men at the conference decided to do all they could to have a larger meeting of business men in the evening.

Edrington continued for some hours to telephone to responsible people asking them to attend the contemplated evening conference. Between messages he received reports that armed men were coming into the Herrin district from far away points. The business men in touch with Edrington told him that they had this same information. Edrington and Hunter again tried to locate Sheriff Thaxton to apprise him of what the business men's committee was attempting to accomplish, and to tell him that a concerted assault on the strip mine was in prospect, but the Sheriff had gone, it was said, to investigate the shooting at Carbondale.

### Raids on Stores Begun

Beginning about one o'clock and continuing for a couple of hours telephone messages were received at the offices of the Greater Marion Association relating how hardware stores had been raided in Herrin for guns and ammunition.

Alarm was immediately spread in Marion advising merchants dealing in firearms to conceal their stock. Two places in Marion did not get this warning and were raided. One small band of would-be looters, called upon Edrington as head of the local American Legion Post, to deliver to them several rifles belonging to members of the Post. Edrington re-

fused, explaining that there was no ammunition available for the guns.

### The Afternoon Battle

On Wednesday at 1:37 p. m. Col. Hunter telephoned to Adjutant-General Black reporting the attack on the truck and the looting of three stores in Herrin. Col. Hunter also told the Sheriff's office about the stores being looted and was informed by a deputy sheriff that this was the office's first word of the occurrence.

In the meantime the organized armed force of union miners, following the meeting in the cemetery near Herrin, had moved a couple of miles east and was ready to launch the attack on the strip mine. Attackers deployed over a front several hundred yards long and put the mine under heavy fire at about 3:00 o'clock. At 3:15 Supt. McDowell called the Greater Marion Association's office and informed Col. Hunter that a battle was on in full swing and that five hundred shots had been fired by both sides. McDowell said that the miners had marched up close to the mine and had gone under cover. McDowell requested Col. Hunter to inform the Sheriff of the battle. At the Sheriff's office Deputy Storm reported the Sheriff still absent.

"I instructed Storm to call on all available deputies and proceed to the mine to disperse the mob and to remain there until the Sheriff returned," says Col. Hunter, who added that he asked Storm to get the Sheriff by telephone and tell him that he ought by all means to put in a request for troops. Storm's reply was that they "could handle the situation."

Adjutant-General Black was told of the latest situation by telephone and his advice to Hunter was to "see that the Sheriff gets on the job." Hunter got the



Sheriff's office on the wire again and was informed by whoever answered the telephone that Deputy Storm was enroute with deputies to the mine. That Storm or deputies went to the mine is unverified. A few minutes later Supt. McDowell called from the mine to tell Col. Hunter that the mob had gotten bigger and to inquire if Sheriff Thaxton had been located. Hunter told McDowell that he had been informed by the Sheriff's office that the deputies were on the way to the mine.

### A Survivor's Story

Engineman Tracy, in his account of how he saw the Wednesday afternoon battle start, gives his opinion that the shots fired at his locomotive, at that time quite a distance from the mine, were the opening ones of the attack. Hardly had he reached camp before bullets began to rain in from a house and from nearby clumps of trees and embankments. McDowell grabbed a gun and gave Tracy one. He mounted a ridge and began shooting.

Under oath, Bernard Jones, a mine guard, says he saw union scouts in the woods June 20th, and that the following afternoon bullets began to whip up the earth near him. He and three companions mounted an elevation and made the attackers retreat to a white farm house five hundred yards distant.

At 3:50 p. m. Assistant Mine Superintendent John E. Shoemaker, brother-in-law to W. J. Lester, telephoned that fire from the defenders had struck down at least two union miners in the attacking party. McDowell took the telephone again and inquired if the Sheriff had been found and had made a request for troops. All Hunter could tell McDowell was that he was still trying to locate the Sheriff.

At 4:14 p. m., when Col. Hunter got McDowell on the wire and found the battle was still raging and no sheriff and no deputies could be found to intervene, McDowell put his case in Hunter's hands and asked for advice. Immediately Col. Hunter suggested that a truce be effected and outlined terms. McDowell agreed and Hunter told him that he would act at once.

### The Truce

While Col. Hunter was trying to locate union mine workers' officials relative to the truce, he got word from Mr. McLaren and C. F. Hamilton, business partner of Lester, that they had told Lester that the mine was under heavy fire and he said he would close it, and that he would try to get a telephone message through to McDowell to this effect. McDowell's agreement to accept a truce was put before Fox Hughes, Sub-District Vice-President and ranking U. M. W. of A. official on the spot. Hunter asked Hughes if he thought he could get the attacking party to agree to a truce on the terms as outlined to McDowell and Hughes replied that he thought this arrangement would be agreeable to the union miners who were attacking.

"I told Hughes I would instruct McDowell to put up a white flag of truce when he saw the union miner officials approaching under their white flag of truce," Col. Hunter says. The Colonel then asserts that Hughes told him that he (Hughes) and Hugh Willis and William G. Davis (the latter secretary and treasurer of the miners' union)—these are three of the best known and most prominent U. M. W. of A. officials in Williamson County—would go to the mine under their white flag of truce.

Hunter immediately advised McDowell

that the U. M. W. of A. officials had agreed to the truce and were headed for the mine. He then got Hughes on the wire again and told the latter of what he had just telephoned to McDowell. Hugh Willis and Davis soon thereafter appeared at the mine under their flag of truce and the firing stopped, they later reported to Hunter. McDowell telephoned to Hunter that the flags of truce were flying and that gun-fire had ceased.

A short time later, Hughes and Willis reached the office of State's Attorney Duty at Marion, and called Hunter and his Aide, Major R. W. Davis, to Duty's office. Sheriff Thaxton was there. "Hughes and Willis announced to the meeting that both sides at the mines had flags up and there was no firing," says Colonel Hunter.

### The White Flag

Engineman Tracy's version of how the truce was established and firing brought to an end late Wednesday afternoon is substantially as follows: he stayed on the elevated point using his rifle until Superintendent McDowell went up to him and said to him, "The Union President is there and I am going to have a conference to stop the firing." Tracy did cease shooting and says that "A. P. Finley, the time keeper, got out a white sheet and sent it by a man named Jones to Tracy, who hung it up on the wires." Tracy estimates he was shot at about fifty times while he was hanging the sheet up, but that this firing died away and he crawled down and out of danger.

Tracy makes this peculiar comment, "then it developed the miners' president had not appeared after all," and he adds that there was sniping all through the night. He said he could hear the attack-

ers drilling in the field surrounding the mine and that the commands "squads right" and "squads left" came clearly to his ears.

### The Terms

At the Wednesday evening meeting in State's Attorney Duty's office, where Col. Hunter and Maj. Davis went in response to a telephone call from Fox Hughes and Hugh Willis, Sheriff Thaxton also being present, Col. Hunter says he repeated the statement that responsible business men of Marion who had talked over long distance telephone to the owner of the strip mine, had given him (Col. Hunter) positive and reliable assurance that the mine would be abandoned and closed so long as the U. M. W. of A. strike lasted. The Colonel asserts that there was a clear understanding of all the terms of the truce, which both sides had accepted. The Colonel says these terms were understood by everybody at this meeting to be as follows:

- (1) Both sides to hoist flags of truce and cease firing.
- (2) The men in the strip mine to be afforded protection in getting out of the County and that the mine property be not damaged.
- (3) The mine to be closed for the duration of the U. M. W. of A. strike.

Hughes and Willis left the conference. Turning to Sheriff Thaxton, Col. Hunter asked him point blank if he felt sure he could hold up his end of the truce agreement and the Sheriff then stated that he had "deputies at the mine who could handle the situation, and that he felt certain the truce would be observed and the trouble ended."

shouted they would take us on a train and let us go back home."

### Prisoners Throw Up Hands

Tracy says that all rifles were laid down and shells put between cars and that all the prisoners put their hands over their heads and walked out into the open. This was in accordance with instructions given by the attacking miners and repeated by McDowell and Shoemaker, as an order to the strip miners, Tracy avers. The attackers came hurrying up from all directions, some of them firing their guns. They yelled in exultation.

"A man who acted like a leader shouted at them to quit firing at us," Tracy goes on. "He was a little heavy set fellow about forty or forty-five years old, weighed about 170 pounds, dark complected and dressed in a dark suit. He waved a big automatic pistol and yelled 'Now you ought to use judgment, there is no use getting excited or starting any trouble whatever. I am a leader of this bunch. Listen to me and we will take them down the road.'

"A mob yelled him down and some of them told him if he didn't shut up they would shoot him. They said they were going to kill the whole bunch."

The march smacked very much of military discipline, and although there were at least 3,000 men mostly armed in the crowd around the prisoners, those in charge were able to secure obedience to their orders.

Tracy describes how ill treatment of the prisoners was kept up as they marched along but the violence was not desperate except in the case of McDowell. He was made an immediate target for blows which were not long in bringing about his death.

### Jones's Story

Another account of the surrender and start of the march from the mine is given under oath by Bernard Jones, the mine guard who was quoted above. Jones says of the Thursday morning events:

"The white sheet (the flag of truce on the wires) was taken down because the mob yelled 'Take that damned flag down.' We knew there would be a battle."

The prisoners felt they were in a trap and some of them were panic stricken, Jones asserts. McDowell said "Somebody ought to go talk to the attackers." Jones says that he went out with an apron tied to a broom and told the victors that the strip mine workers were ready to surrender provided they were given the assurance of being allowed to walk out unmolested. Jones says he called out, "I want to talk to you" and that a leader answered. Jones describes this leader as being 24 or 25 years old, weight 160, 5 feet 9, with sharp, freckled face, light haired and totting a rifle. This leader, Jones asserts, agreed to the proposition of letting them out unmolested provided "you come out unarmed, with your hands up in the air."

McDowell overheard this promise, says Jones, with the result that "we were all formed in line, hands up, and walked west on the railroad tracks 150 yards to where the union men were congregated. The prisoners were covered with rifles and pistols by their captors who rushed up close and searched them for weapons."

Jones estimated that there were 3,000 armed men in the crowd to which they surrendered. He said the victors began slapping the prisoners who were marched two abreast down the railway tracks. About 200 yards had been covered when the prisoners were told to take their hands down and their hats off. McDowell was



struck and kicked. When the prisoners were forced to go on a trot McDowell was unable to keep up because of his peg leg and he fell two or three times. The treatment of McDowell soon became so brutal that he could go no further.

### The Murder of McDowell

Tracy describes the killing of McDowell in more detail. The procession had gotten to a place called Crenshaw Crossing and the prisoners were being beaten pretty generally when a new leader appeared, and was hailed as "Tom" or "Bill." Tracy describes him thus: "A big fellow, 50, stout, weight 190, 5 feet 10, with a week's growth of beard, rawboned, dressed roughly, wearing blue overalls and felt hat." This leader singled out McDowell and said to the latter that he had put Howat in jail in Kansas but would never put anybody else in jail.

This leader began beating McDowell over the head with a .45 caliber automatic pistol and kept it up for about 200 yards when he took McDowell out of line and knocked him down with a heavy blow on the side of the head. Tracy said he saw some six or eight women, some of them carrying babies in their arms, kick McDowell. Tracy did not see this particular leader any more. The captives were nearing the place where the ghastly job was to be done and the leaders, selected for this work, began to spread their instructions to the armed strikers, as the following versions of survivors show:

Halt to the march was called, says Jones, by "a gray haired man, weight 190 to 195, aged 45 or 50, so gray he was white, stubby mustache, in overalls, waving a .45 caliber Colt who shouted: 'I want to shoot all the \* \* \*'"

Jones says the reply made to this gray

haired man was "We will take care of them when we get to Herrin." The march was continued about a quarter of a mile further up the road when another fellow stepped in and made a speech, Jones says, about what should be done "to us on account of his beloved union brothers being bumped off the day before or being killed." Under oath Jones declares: "The speaker said 'Boys I will show you what to do with them.'"

This speaker is described by Jones as 5 feet 9 or 10 inches, weight 190, dark hair, dark complexion, dressed in dark clothes and carrying a revolver. One young fellow in the crowd shouted to the speaker "Listen, buddy, don't rush things, don't go too fast."

To this the new leader replied: "To Hell. You don't know nothing, you have been here only a day or so, I have been here for years, I have lost my sleep 4 or 5 nights watching those scabs and I am going to see them taken care of."

But the march was continued until the procession drew very close to the power plant where a halt again was called. Jones describes how, at this point there came up from the rear a "heavy built man, dark complexion, dark haired, wearing a Fedora hat," who talked to the miners at the head of the line and asked who had operated the machine gun. This question was put to the prisoners, who said they didn't know.

Tracy remarks that it was at this point a man "who all the strip miners said was an officer of the Miners' Local appeared in an automobile, drew the mob leader aside and after talking to him pointed to the woods."

### The Massacre

Tracy says this man in the automobile then drove away while the leader led the

column into the woods and commanded that "every fellow that has got a rifle come forward; you fellows that ain't got no rifles stay back." Tracy estimated that about 500 men, carrying pistols, rifles, shot guns, and all kinds of weapons followed the prisoners into the woods. The leader lined the strip miners up at a barbed wire fence and shouted "when I give the command every fellow fire."

At this order there was a rush among the armed men to get close up in front. Tracy says he could "hear the guns cock as they pulled up." Then came the order to run. Tracy ducked under the fence and fled at top speed, turning only to look back and see men fall while their pursuers reloaded and shot into them again.

Jones remembers someone saying, just before the massacre took place:

"Listen men, I want to talk to you. We can't take these men to Herrin but it will be all right to take them out into the woods and field and start them on the run and then all of you can get a shot at them."

This plan prevailed. After a while, Jones says, the order to fire came from the "leader and the rest of them, all of them." Jones heard them shout "come on you and start to run for that fence and field." It is Jones' opinion that several shots were fired before anybody started to run.

#### From Eye Witnesses

Two *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* reporters seated in an automobile pulled up at the edge of a road, saw the cavalcade pass. They wrote as follows: "The advanced guard rattling by in scores of flivvers had screeched the news 'We got 'em. They're

coming.' And they came, the limping mine superintendent blinking and trying to ward off further blows." Others were about as much battered.

A semi-official account of what happened after the prisoners had passed a point where the two newspaper men saw them is as follows:

#### The Slaughter at the Fence

The first desperate violence to the prisoners came after fresh bands of men from Zeigler and other points had joined the mob marching the prisoners toward Herrin.

Approaching the power plant, a young chap, about five feet seven tall, to whom recognition was given as leader, halted the prisoners and their escorts. He gave orders for the column to move to the right which would take the prisoners off the road and put them into the woods back of the power house.

At a point immediately in the rear of the power house and not more than 250 feet distant from it, the prisoners were halted about twenty feet from a four-strand barbed wire fence. The prisoners, 46 or 47 of them, were lined up as targets. The 500 armed men were arranged in two squads, forming a shallow "V" or semi-circle. This boxed the prisoners in and gave them no opportunity to get away from the gun-fire except through the barbed wire. The command was given, and the dead and wounded began to drop and a "rabbit" hunt with men as the game ensued. Many who got through the wire were killed and others wounded. Some of the wounded were mutilated after

they had been brought down to earth by bullets.

### Reporter Sees Mutilated Victims

The first newspaper man to arrive on the scene, in the woods, J. E. Hendricks, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* had been held up an hour in Herrin by a crowd which had told him that what was going on was the town's own business and was nothing for the newspapers. Finally he got free enough to follow a crowd streaming from Herrin to a woods on the edge of town. Arriving at the scene of the massacre, he saw several of the prisoners with throats cut and one man hanging to a tree. At another point where it appeared at least six men had been taken into a cemetery, and three killed and three wounded, their clothing showed they had been dragged over the ground, after having been tied with rope. In the far distance men could be seen running, pursued by little groups of other men, much as rabbits running from hounds.

Another account, given by a man who went unarmed with the mob, says:

"I saw one man shot with a shot gun which tore a hole in him where you could see his heart and it was shot half in two. One fellow begged me to help him. I told him if I saw anyone looking for him I wouldn't show them where he was, but that was all I could do for him. He just begged me not to shoot him. He said the other man told five of them that they would turn them loose if they could run through fire and they said they would. The other four were killed and he was shot twice, but not bad."

### Stories of Slaughter

The Associated Press correspondent whose accounts of the massacre atrocities made the nation shudder with horror and caused Congressman Dennison to attempt denial on the floor of the House, underwent gun-fire and more than once risked his life to witness the concluding phases of the massacre. This man is a veteran reporter from the Chicago office of the Associated Press.

Arriving in Marion at 8 o'clock on the morning of the butchery he was rushed by automobile to the mine where he saw Col. Hunter and others making futile effort to check the work of the firebugs and looters. He was told that the strip miners had surrendered and hearing gunfire coming from the direction they had taken, he jumped back in his auto and went in pursuit of the marchers. This was just about the moment when the shooting at the barbed wire was taking place.

Some ten minutes drive from the mine, the hired chauffeur refused to go further because a crowd of armed men could be seen on a knoll near the road. The A. P. man proceeded on foot. He found several jeering six of the victims, three of whom yet exhibited signs of life. All had ropes around their necks. He heard one of the wounded men beg piteously for a drink of water. At this, he hurried to a house 100 yards distant, picked up a small pail partly filled with water and ran back toward the spot.

He was stopped by a large man of the mountaineer type who pulled a pistol from his holster and commanded "keep back there, don't come around these fellows." Others in the crowd drew pistols and menaced him. The leader was of distinctive appearance, weight about 200, age about 45, height six feet two, raw-



boned, much sunburned, light hair, a clearly American type. He wore faded blue overalls and shirt and spoke slowly, but without a Southern drawl. The brim of his black slouch hat was covered with dust, as though he had been with the marchers from the start.

Two of the three wounded men continued to plead for water. "Give me a drink before I die," said one of them. At this a comely woman of 24 years apparelled neatly in a light flowered cloth dress and carrying an infant of a year in her arms, put her foot on the body of the suppliant and exclaimed: "I'll see you in hell before you get any water."

### The Man Hunt

The Associated Press correspondent was then ordered to "move along." As he neared the woodland massacre scene he saw three men jump from hiding places about 100 yards distant and run for their lives. Some 200 yards from the running men there appeared a group of pursuers who fired as they leaped forward. Ten seconds later another band began shooting at the fleeing prisoners. The Associated Press man was caught in a cross fire with bullets whizzing past him from two points. As he raced for safety he turned to see one of the three prisoners fall. What happened further to the fallen man or his companions the Associated Press man could not see.

Getting into the woods where the butchery had reached its height, the Associated Press correspondent came upon a man strung up to the stub of a broken tree limb. Lying on the ground a few feet distant were two other men, each with a rope around his neck. It did not appear they had been hanged but both were dead of bullet wounds.

The woods were swarming with men armed with pistols and shot guns. Two men carried sawed off riot guns. The Associated Press correspondent, at a point about 100 yards distant from the hanged man, stopped beside a wounded man who was writhing in agony and asking for a drink: "I wish I was dead" he muttered. A half dozen times he said this.

### Pleas for Mercy Bring Kicks

Instead of exciting pity, the man's dying words seemed to make the men standing around him angrier than before. They cursed and kicked him. Apparently irritated beyond control, a man of foreign type, stockily built, about five feet seven in height, with high cheek bones, a long flowing mustache and chin that came to a sharp point opened a pocket knife and with the exclamation, "I'll make you dead" plunged the blade into the helpless prisoner's throat.

Although it was thought for a time that six of the prisoners had been cut out of line and tied together and then shot down before the procession reached the power house woods, the best account of this incident now has it that the six were stragglers who had gotten through the barb wire and were rounded up, roped together and marched through the Herrin Cemetery, then marched back out of Herrin and told to run. Gun fire brought one of them down, and he pulled the others off their feet. Their pursuers then rushed up close and fired into them at a distance of four or five feet.

One of these men, Howard Hoffman, of Huntington, Indiana, lived long enough to reach the hospital where he is credited with telling Doctor Black and the nurse that his throat was cut and men jumped on him after he was down. Another one of

these men told the doctor or nurse at the Herrin Hospital how, after he had fallen, one of the men stretched his head back as far as possible so that another might easily cut his throat. This man died without his name being learned and he was buried with the other unidentified dead in the Potters Field at Herrin.

### At the Morgue

On the street in front of the morgue in Herrin, the following day, the Associated Press man, encountered the mountaineer-like man who had held him back from giving a drink to the wounded man on the knoll. Asked when the inquest would be held, the big man replied: "There don't need to be any inquest, everybody knows they're dead." The dead were first piled in a heap in a corner in the morgue. Later the clothing was removed from all the bodies and they were laid in a row and thus exposed wholly to view. Lines of men, women, boys and girls filed through the morgue and joked at the sight. Later some portions of the bodies were covered. Here and there was a body so filled with small shot that scarce a half inch square surface of the skin had escaped.

The visitors did not hesitate to gloat over the "fine" work the mob had done. One woman leading a little boy, exclaimed as she directed his attention to the lifeless bodies: "Take a look at what your papa did, kid."

Edward Miller, 1545 North Clark St., Chicago, told a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reporter that he and another of the strip mine men escaped wounded into a barn where they were located by man hunters who fired bullets into both of them, killing Miller's companion.

Robert McLennon, Jr., of 525 N. La

Salle St., Chicago, told the same reporter that the cool-headed miners who were escorting the prisoners were outnumbered from the start by miners who wanted to kill. The leaders counseled against violence until the woods were reached, said McLennon.

Fred Bernard of Chicago, escaped by turning left when, as he says, the leader of the mob gave the command to "turn right." He was fired upon and fell unhurt. Pursuers ran up to him. He told them he had a union card in his pocket. He finally proved he was an Elk and was given assistance in escaping.

Sherman Holman, one of the wounded survivors, declares he fell wounded along side Assistant Superintendent John E. Shoemaker and describes how pursuers came up and remarked "the \* \* \* is still breathing, anybody got a shell?" and that Shoemaker was then shot through the head.

### The Coroner's Jury

At the inquest held by Coroner McCown in Herrin on Sunday, June 25th, over the bodies of 21 victims of the massacre, no effort was made to establish the identity of any of the men who killed the unarmed prisoners. "Parties unknown" did the killing according to the verdict.

### The Verdict

About twenty-five witnesses were examined by the jury and the following verdict was returned:

"In the matter of inquisition over the bodies of deceased held at Herrin, Illinois, on the 25th day of June A. D. 1922, we, the undersigned jurors, find that they came to their deaths by gun shot wounds by the hands of parties

unknown on the 22nd day of June A. D. 1922.

"We, the undersigned jurors, find from the evidence that the deaths of decedents were due to the act, direct and indirect, of the officials of the Southern Illinois Coal Company. We recommend that an investigation be conducted for the purpose of fixing the blame personally on the individuals responsible."

The record also says that one man was burned with a hot iron; that a hot iron was used to mutilate the dead. It was also stated this was true by Editor Drobeck who described how the word "scab" was branded on Supt. McDowell's body.

#### **Proof of a Plot**

That the massacre was the result of an organized movement is the conclusion drawn from the following statements:

It was a seemingly well organized, remarkably sober, determined, resolute aggregation of men and boys fighting, as they put it in their own words "to preserve the unions,"

is the declaration of Colonel Hunter.

Writing in the *Williamson County Miner*, the publication owned by the U. M. W. of A. men in this field, Editor Drobeck as an eye witness, says:

At daybreak the 3,000 armed citizens (surrounding the mine) realizing that the future peace of their county was at stake, formed what has been termed by many, one of the neatest columns of troops ever seen in the vicinity, worked their way into the stronghold of the outlaws and captured those that remained alive.

Several of those that were taken from the pit alive were taken to the woods near Herrin, where later they were found dead and dying. There were no riots, merely the citizens of the county acting in the only way left them for the safety of their homes. The faces of the men who were killed in the disturbance are horrible sights. Uncouth, as all crooks must be at the beginning, they were doubly unattractive as seen after justice had triumphed and the county had again resumed its normal peace-time behavior.

Editor Sims in the *Christopher Progress* says:

The whole of Williamson and Franklin counties was in turmoil until late Thursday and on Wednesday afternoon the miners in Zeigler and West Frankfort were canvassing the business districts and homes for arms and ammunition, and we doubt whether there was much of either one left in their towns after the cars had left for the scene on Wednesday evening.

We have talked to several who were near the scene of rioting and many have reported to us that no city in the community showed their colors so much as the city of Zeigler which is located in Franklin County. At least three hundred strong men journeyed in cars from Zeigler on Wednesday evening and almost every car was loaded with men, guns and ammunition.

More than a month after the massacre scarcely a visible effort has been made to discover or punish perpetrators of the crime. The press of the country united in condemning the ghastly outrage and demanded action but none has been taken.



State and local officials have taken the position that it would be impossible to fix the responsibility because Unionism controlled Williamson County. In the meantime the bodies of the unidentified dead have been buried in Potters Field.

Shall the assassins of innocent American citizens go unpunished?

It cannot be possible that Illinois will not take further official cognizance of these infamous acts, as the first and last tribunal of the country, our American citizenship, will demand that lawlessness, murder and massacre are not and never shall be permitted to undermine the security of not only the nation's industries, but the very lives and homes of our people.

COPY.

June 25, 1924.

Mr. Harry Fishwick,  
Acting Pres. Dist. 12, U.M.W. of A.  
Mine Workers Bldg.  
Springfield, Ill.

My dear Mr. Fishwick:

I am today making final financial report of the personal injury claims arising out of the Herrin riot. I have a balance of \$350.00 remaining in the fund, I am enclosing my check made payable to you as acting President of District 12 for this amount.

As I understand it, the International Union has loaned District 12 the sum of \$108,975.00.

I am sending copy of my final report to Mr. Farrington, also copy to Mr. A. W. Kerr.

Yours truly,

EEH-LW.  
Encl.

# United Mine Workers of America

EARL E. HOUCK  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.

MERCHANTS BANK BLDG.

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

June 25, 1924.

Mr. John L. Lewis, President  
United Mine Workers of America,  
1114 Merchants Bank Bldg.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

Enclosed I am submitting final financial report of settlements of all the personal injury claims arising out of the Herrin riot of June 22, 1922.

I have worked in conjunction with Mr. A. W. Kerr, chief counsel of District 12. We have had numerous conferences with plaintiffs and attorneys for plaintiffs. Releases have been taken in all of these cases in duplicate, one set is in the hands of Mr. Kerr and one set on file in my office. The cancelled checks are on file in my office..

I am pleased to advise that the statute of limitation expired June 22nd of this year, therefore if there are any other claims they are outlawed.

The money to settle these claims has been advanced by Secretary Green for the International to District 12. There is a balance of \$350.00 on deposit but I have today mailed a check for this amount to Harry Fishwick, acting President of District 12.

Yours truly,

EEH-LW.  
Encls.



Letter sent to Mr. William Green  
Mr. Frank Farrington  
Mr. A. W. Kerr.



Herrin

1114 Merchants Bank Bldg.,  
June 30, 1924

Mr. Earl E. Houck,  
Office.

Dear Mr. Houck:

I acknowledge receipt of your note of June 25th, same being final report of settlements of all personal injury claims arising out of the Herrin Riot of June 22, 1922. I have read it with interest.

Please accept my congratulations for the splendid service you have rendered our organization in these matters.

Very truly yours,

President.

cc

Received at 18 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Ind. ALWAYS OPEN

1924 JUN 11 PM 3

AB524 106 1/70

SPRINGFIELD, ILL 11 300P

JOHN L LEWIS

1155

PRESIDENT UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA MERCHANTS BANK BLDG

INDIANAPOLIS IND

IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT FARRINGTON I RECEIVED JOINT LETTER OF MESSRS HOUCK AND KERR ADVISING PAYMENTS OF WHAT THEY THINK ARE THE LAST OF HERRIN PERSONAL INJURY CASES. I APPROVE OF THE TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT MADE BY THEM AND SUGGEST THAT IT BE HANDLED IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE OTHERS WERE BY THE INTERNATIONAL ADVANCING THE MONEY AT THIS TIME MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ME AND MAIL SAME IMMEDIATELY

Received at 18 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Ind. ALWAYS OPEN

AB524 SHEET 2/36

1924 JUN 11 PM 3 47

TO ME HERE AND I WILL IN TURN ENDORSE IT AS PRESIDENT FARRINGTON HAS WITH THE OTHERS I AM LEAVING HERE FRIDAY EVENING I UNDERSTAND MESSRS HOUCK AND KERR ARE TO MEET PARTIES IN CHICAGO SATURDAY

HARRY FISHWICK.

---

Send the following message, subject to the terms  
on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Indianapolis, Indiana,  
June 11, 1924.

Harry Fishwick, Vice President,  
District 12, U.M.W. of A.,  
Illinois Mine Workers Bldg.,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Wire received. Have authorized payment of amount suggested  
and adjustment on basis recommended by attorneys. Mr. Houck  
will arrange details.

John L. Lewis.

Charge to United Mine Workers.



FINAL REPORT OF EARL E. HOUCK ON SETTLEMENT  
OF CERTAIN CLAIMS IN HERRIN, ILLINOIS, LITIGATION.

September 19, 1923, Deposited in the Chicago Trust Company, Chicago, Illinois, check endorsed to me by Frank Farrington, President District 12, for settlement of personal injury claims arising out of Herrin matter

\$100,000.00.

Claims settled on September 20, 1923.

	Amount given to Claimant	Mr. McKiernan's Fee	Total Amt. of Claim
George Hall, Admr. Estate of Geo. Hall, Jr. and Geo. W. Walkup, Jr.	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
Eric Miller	7,500.00	2,500.00	10,000.00
Robert C. McLennon	4,500.00	1,500.00	6,000.00
Joe Sodter	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Frank N. Fuller	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Frank Schmidt	2,625.00	875.00	3,500.00
John Rogers	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Mary Kearney, Conservatrix, Est. of Thomas Fleming	3,000.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
Mike Milosh	281.25	93.75	375.00
George W. Gosman, Admr. Estate of Horatio Gosman	3,000.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
Myrtle Ritcher, Administratrix Estate of Robert Marsh	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
May M. Chiappetta, Executrix Estate of Sidney Morrison	6,750.00	2,250.00	9,000.00
William Cairns	5,625.00	1,875.00	7,500.00
Patrick Joseph O'Rourke	9,000.00	3,000.00	12,000.00
Will J. O'Rourke	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Robert Tracy	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Richard Wesch	375.00	125.00	500.00
Andrew Riber	281.25	93.75	375.00
Ed Rose	9,000.00	3,000.00	12,000.00
John Pittman	562.50	187.50	750.00
Harry T. Springer	5,625.00	1,875.00	7,500.00
Odis Lawrence	375.00	125.00	500.00
Allen P. Findlay	3,750.00	1,250.00	5,000.00
C. O. Anderson	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
David C. Miller, Admr. Estate of Arthur B. Miller	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
J. O. McKiernan, Attorney	24,250.00		
J. O. McKiernan, Attorney	1,000.00		
Check No. 28 made payable to Fred Cooper and William Walls, Investigators to be used in attempt to settle the case of Green v. Southern Illinois Coal Co. for \$2,000.00 was returned			
	98,000.00	25,250.00	98,000.00

Balance on Deposit \$2,000.00

November 14, 1923, Check endorsed to me  
By Frank Farrington, President District 12,  
deposited in Chicago Trust Co. 4,500.00  
6,500.00

Claims settled on November 14, 1923.

James Cummings	\$200.00	
Bernard J. Jones	500.00	
Charles Patterson	500.00	
Maurice T. Delaney	400.00	
John Jordan	1,000.00	
Anton Heipel	400.00	
Sherman Holman	<u>1,500.00</u>	
	4,500.00	4,500.00

Balance on Deposit 2,000.00

April 10, 1924. Check endorsed to me by  
Frank Farrington, President District 12,  
deposited in Chicago Trust Co. 475.00  
2,475.00

Claims settled on April 10, 1924.

April 9, 1924. R. J. Solfisburg, Atty.  
for attorney fees in the case of Edw.  
Green v. Southern Illinois Coal Company  
filed in the Circuit Court of Williamson  
County, Illinois \$325.00

Edward Green in full settlement of  
claim 650.00

Ernest Renaud and C. D. Jones, his  
attorney 1,500.00

2,475.00

June 14, 1924. Check endorsed to me by  
 Harry Fishwick acting President of District  
 12, deposited in Chicago Trust Co.

\$4,000.00

Claims settled June 14, 1924.

John Miller	\$1,500.00
Thomas J. McDonald	150.00
Edward L. Collins	750.00
Earl Mankins	750.00
C. E. Boyd	<u>500.00</u>

3,650.00

Balance on deposit.

\$350.00

RECAPITULATION.

September 19, 1923, Check endorsed by Frank Farrington, Pres. District 12	\$100,000.00
November 14, 1923, Check endorsed by Frank Farrington, Pres. District 12	4,500.00
April 10, 1924, Check endorsed by Frank Farrington, Pres. District 12	475.00
June 14, 1924, Check endorsed by Harry Fishwick, acting President District 12	<u>4,000.00</u>
	<u>\$108,975.00</u>

Total amount claims settled Sept. 20, 1923, including attorney fees	\$98,000.00
Total amount claims settled Nov. 14, 1923, including attorney fees	4,500.00
Total amount claims settled on April 10, 1924, including attorney fees	2,475.00
Total amount claims settled on June 14, 1924, including attorney fees	<u>3,650.00</u>

\$108,625.00

Balance on Deposit  
 June 25, 1924. Check mailed  
 to Harry Fishwick, acting  
 President District 12

350.00

350.00



Herrin

1114 Merchants Bank Bldg.,  
October 12, 1932.

Mr. Robert Peacock,  
Sec., Dist #18, U.M.W. of A.,  
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Sir and Brother:

This will reply to your letter of September 30th which I am forwarding to Mr. William Sneed, president Sub-District #10, in which Herrin, Williamson County, Illinois, is located. Mr. Sneed will doubtless communicate with you on the matter if he is interested therein. I thank you for bringing the matter to my attention.

Very truly yours,

President.

cc

Herrin

1114 Merchants Bank Bldg.,  
October 12, 1932.

Mr. Wm. J. Sneed, Jr.,  
Pres. Sub-Dist. #10, Dist. #12, U.M.W. of A.,  
Herrin, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I am enclosing herewith copy of letter received from Robert Peacock, Secretary-Treasurer of District #18, at Calgary, Alberta, Canada. If you are interested in the matter please communicate with Mr. Peacock direct.

With personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

President.

cc

## Secret Pact with Herrin

### Miners, Told

*Chi. Tribune Oct. 18*  
W. J. Lester, president of the Southern Illinois Coal company at Herrin, had obtained secret permission from the officials of the coal miners' union in Williamson county to take coal out of his strip mine last June, according to testimony developed yesterday at the hearing before Daniel J. May of the state industrial commission.

Edward J. Hargrave of the Hargrave Detective agency, who furnished guards for the mine, testified that C. K. McDowell, superintendent of the mine, had told him a week before the massacre that such permission had been granted by union officials. How this permission was obtained may be further exposed during the murder trials at Marion next month. Such sanction was repudiated by the rank and file, who killed McDowell and eighteen others at the mine.

#### Col. Hunter's Testimony.

Col. Sam N. Hunter of the adjutant general's office testified Monday that the massacre would not have taken place if McDowell had listened to his pleadings and had walked out of the mine under the truce arranged by Hunter. Col. Hunter did not explain that no protection was offered the men when they surrendered. He charged McDowell with the murder of two union men, although the Marion grand jury was not able to get any evidence on this point.

Who pays? This is the question that is agitating insurance companies at the hearing.

#### Survivors Live in Terror.

The massacre was described by survivors who still live in terror. The stamp of human savagery was fixed so deep upon their souls that they still fear the vengeance of the miners may reach into Chicago and snatch them from their homes. The aftermath of suffering, however, was incidental to the question of fixing responsibility of insurance companies. Five or six lawyers are engaged and an expensive record is being made. The points at issue are whether the Continental Casualty company, which had insured the Hargrave Secret Service, or the Aetna Insurance company, which carries the policies of the Southern Illinois Coal company, must pay.



# New York Tribune

First to Last - the Truth News Editorials Advertisements

Saturday, Nov. 4, 1922.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

I am gathering material for a full-page Sunday article on the troubles at Herrin, as viewed from the aspect of the forthcoming trials, and would very much appreciate all the data I can get on the miners' side of the affair, such as copies of newspaper controversies over it, an outline of the probable defense, and anything else you may regard as of value.

It seems to me that, in connection with presenting the miners' side, I might do well to make prominent mention of the fact that Dr. F. S. Honnold, secretary of the Illinois Coal Operators' Association, gave a "tip" to certain Chicago newspapermen, about ten days before the trouble began, that a test case was going to be made of the strip mine at Herrin, that machine guns were going to be sent there, and that "a lot of union miners were going to be cleaned out". This was related to me first-hand by Don Swing, of the Associated Press, who witnessed the trouble after acting on the "tip". Are Swing and Ralph McGanna, of the Chicago Tribune, on the miners' list of witnesses?

Can you ascertain for me whether any of the bodies were claimed, and if so, the particulars of each claim and identification?

Have you been in touch with Mary O'Reilly, of the Chicago Teachers' Union, and are her investigations concerning Herrin in such shape they can be given publication?

Please regard this letter as confidential. With best regards, I am,

Sincerely,

*William W. Parker*

Mr. John L. Lewis,  
President, United Mine Workers of America,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

*Would also like names defense counsel.*

*Rec.*

Personal.

Springfield, Ill.,  
November 9, 1923.

Mr. Gilman Parker,  
c/o N. Y. Tribune,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Parker:

This will reply to your esteemed letter of November 4th. The defense of those members of the United Mine Workers indicted as a result of the Herrin riots is entirely in the hands of the officers of District 12, United Mine Workers. The International Union is not in any way associated in their defense and has not been in touch with the parties whom you mention. It might be possible for you to secure some of the information you desire by communicating with State Senator William J. Sneed, who is also President of the Mine Workers Sub-District at Herrin, Illinois.

With personal regards and all good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

President.

L:G

Dec. 16 Rec'd  
H. M. ...

# United Mine Workers of America

JOHN L. LEWIS  
PRESIDENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

Marion, Illinois,  
December 14, 1922.

Mr. John L. Lewis, President,  
United Mine Workers of America,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I am enclosing, herewith, report on the trials up to and including December 14th. The opening statement of States Attorney Duty and the statement of Attorney Kerr are as nearly complete as I was able to hear them. Many times during his statement Mr. Kerr would lower his voice to such a degree that it was practically impossible to know what he was saying, but the statements herewith enclosed show what both sides expect to prove, which I think was what you desired principally. I would suggest that they not be published in their entirety (if you had such in mind) but a story could be written around them if desired.

I am also enclosing a complete list of witnesses who have been heard up to this time, giving their identity, place of residence and a summary of their testimony. I shall continue to send such a report each day hereafter.

Farrington and Fishwick were present the first day of the trial. One of the defendants, Otis Clark, in a very pathetic voice told me yesterday that he thought John (referring to you) would have been down to see him before this time. I did not say whether ~~would~~ or would not be here later.

The courtroom is crowded to capacity and the best

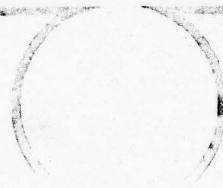




# United Mine Workers of America

JOHN L. LEWIS  
PRESIDENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

of order prevails at all times. A general expression is that the trials will be in progress at least three months. Personally I think it will consume more time than that, judging by the number of witnesses each side has summoned.

I see by the local papers that Farrington presumably has been re-elected. I was talking with Fox Hughes and he expressed the opinion that Farrington was re-elected by a large majority.

Sincerely yours,

*Oral H. Garrison*

2  
12

1114 Merchants Park Bldg.,  
June 22, 1923.

Mr. Frank Farrington,  
Pres., District #12, U.M.W. of A.,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Within the last two days, four suits have been filed against the International union in the Federal court in Indianapolis by the administrators of estates of certain men who lost their lives at Herrin. These petitions ask the recovery of civil damages in the amount of \$10,000 for each individual. Our attorneys are advised by the Clerk of the district court that his information is to the effect that a number of other suits of similar character will be filed.

I brought the matter to the attention of the International Executive Board yesterday and the Board voted to leave the entire question of our defense, and the legal strategy to be employed, in my hands.

In consideration of the many important angles of this litigation, I have asked Mr. Earl E. Houck of our Legal Department to confer with Chief Counsel Kerr of District #12 for the purpose of promoting a mutual understanding. Mr. Kerr may feel free to discuss these matters quite fully with Mr. Houck as I have every confidence in his judgment and discretion.

I will also be glad to discuss the matter with you personally later on when opportunity offers.

Very truly yours,

President.

cc

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DISTRICT NO. 12.

United  
Mine Workers of America

AFFILIATED WITH A. F. OF L.

*Springfield, Illinois.*

June 25, 1923.

Mr. John L. Lewis, President,  
United Mine Workers of America,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Sir and Brother:-

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 22nd, informing me of the suits that have been filed in Federal Court at Indianapolis against the International Union by the administrators of estates of certain men who lost their lives at the disturbance that took place at the property of the Southern Illinois Coal Company, June 22nd, 1922.

I am requesting our Chief Counsel, Mr. A. W. Kerr to cooperate with the agents of the International Union in every way possible in this connection. The agents of the International Union will find Mr. Kerr very willing to cooperate with them and I am sure his cooperation will be of value to the International Union and considering that Mr. Kerr is so thoroughly informed concerning the entire matter, I would suggest that the agents of the International Union take no definite action without conferring with him.

Yours truly,

*F. Farrington*  
President.

F/G

2  
12  
JUN 26 1923



7  
Seq. Refs.

Ambassador Hotel,  
Atlantic City, N.J.,  
July 11, 1923.

Mr. Earl E. Houck,  
1112 Merchants Bank Bldg.,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Houck:

My office advises that it has retained for you a copy of a letter written under date of July 6th by Attorney McKiernan, of Chicago, Illinois, advising that he expected to later file suit for damages for a number of other individuals alleged to have suffered injuries in the Herrin riots. This is to advise that I have made no reply to the Attorney and will leave the entire matter in your hands to be dealt with in connection with the legal representatives of District 12, as per our previous conversation.

Very truly yours,

President.

L:G

J. O. MCKIERNAN  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
19 S. La Salle St.  
Chicago.

August 16th, 1923.

Earl E. Houck, Esq.,  
Ambassador Hotel,  
Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Dear Sir: In Re: Herrin cases.

Your letter of August 13th received. Kindly accept my thanks for same.

I have finally talked to all of the claimants that I have any knowledge of, and that I have any hope to get in touch with through making inquiry of those that I heretofore represented. In addition to the amounts heretofore submitted, I complete the list as follows:

A. B. Miller Estate	\$3000.00
Hall Estate	3000.00
Eric Miller	10000.00
R. B. McLennan	10000.00
Joseph Sodter	2000.00
Frank M. Fuller	1000.00
Frank Schmidt	5000.00
John Rogers	3000.00
Thomas Fleming	5000.00
Mile Milorsh	1000.00

While the total of the claims as above and in prior letters listed amount to somewhat more than the amount that I stated, I thought the entire matter could be disposed of, you will note by checking the list that there are six or eight additional that we did not take into account when in conference. One of these in particular, Ed Rose, was very seriously injured.

As intimated in my letter of August 13th, I feel some of these claims can be settled for an amount less than that named. It occurs to me that your Organization might be willing to pay not to exceed a certain amount for releases from all parties, and I am confident if you will give me such a figure, even if only slightly in excess of the figures I first named, that is \$100,000. I feel satisfied I can prevail upon my clients to sign releases. Enclosed you will find notice of lien on cases that have not been covered heretofore. I of course stand ready to meet you for further conferences, or any other action you may have to suggest.

Taking this opportunity to thank you and your associates for your courtesies, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

J. O. McKiernan

JOM-MOB

LIST OF CLAIMS OF J. W. MCKIERNAN,  
ATTORNEY, ON HERRIN MATTER.

<u>List of Claims - August 1, 1923.</u>	<u>Amount submitted</u> <u>August 1, 1923.</u>	<u>Amount submitted</u> <u>as Final.</u>
C. O. Anderson	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
William Cairns	10,000.00	10,000.00
John Rogers	1,000.00	3,000.00
Frank M. Fuller	1,000.00	1,000.00
Joseph Sodter	1,000.00	2,000.00
W. J. O'Rourke	1,000.00	1,000.00
Harry T. Springer	5,000.00	10,000.00
Eric Miller	10,000.00	10,000.00
A. E. Findlay	5,000.00	5,000.00
Joseph O'Rourke	10,000.00	15,000.00
Thomas Fleming	5,000.00	5,000.00
Morrison Estate	10,000.00	9,000.00
Gosman Estate (		4,000.00
Marsh Estate (	15,000.00	3,000.00
A. B. Miller Estate (		3,000.00
Hall Estate (		3,000.00

NEW CLAIMS.

R. B. McLennan	10,000.00
Mike Milorsh	1,000.00
• Robert Tracy	1,000.00
Richard Wesch	1,000.00
Andrew Riber	1,000.00
Ed Rose	25,000.00
John Pittman	1,500.00
Odis Lawrence	1,000.00
	75,000.00
	127,500.00



J. O. McKiernan, Atty. at Law,  
19 S. La Salle Street,  
Chicago.

August 13th, 1923.

Earl E. Houck, Esq.  
Ambassador Hotel,  
Atlantic City, N. J.

Dear Sir:                    IN RE: HERRIN CASES.

I am experiencing some difficulty in getting in touch with three or four of the parties whose names I gave you some time since, and I have not therefore been able to learn definitely what they will demand by way of settlement. I have had interviews with the following parties and the amounts set opposite each of their names indicates what they desire by way of settlement:

Robert Tracy . . . . .	\$1,000.00	John Pittman . . . . .	\$1500.00
Richard Wesch. . . . .	1,000.00	Harry T. Springer . . . . .	10000.00
Andrew Riber . . . . .	1,000.00	Odis Lawrence . . . . .	1000.00
Ed. Rose . . . . .	25,000.00	Allan P. Findlay . . . . .	5000.00
		C. O. Anderson . . . . .	2000.00

Rose is the party I mentioned in my letter of August 9th as being seriously injured. He was with the Commissary Department and sent down to the mine by Bertrand. His injuries consist of gun shot wounds of the spine and he was given the maximum compensation by the Industrial Commission. Another Attorney represented him in his claim for compensation, and that is the reason I did not have him in mind at the time of our conference. I now understand that the Supreme Court has rendered a decision holding in effect that labor employment agencies are not covered by the Illinois Workmen's Compensation Law.

For your information, I have no doubt but what Rose would accept less than the amount named, and it would be my suggestion that you make a counter proposition, in fact I feel this way about a number of these claims. I have endeavored to have certain ones submit smaller figures, but you can of course realize that I am not in a position to dictate what they shall demand in the first instance. There is no question in my mind but what their cases are worth far more upon verdict, yet I am using my best efforts to make them see the advisability of taking something within reason without fighting through a law suit

In accordance with my action of August 9th, I attach the enclosed liens on additional cases, namely that of Ed Rose, Odis Lawrence, Robert Tracy, Richard Wesch, Andrew Riber, and John Pittman.

Would you be disposed to talk settlement without having all the parties in?

Very truly yours,  
J. O. McKiernan.

JOM-MOB.

OFFICE OF  
A. W. KERR  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
ILLINOIS MINE WORKERS BLDG.  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.  
TELEPHONE NO.  
OFFICE 992 RES. 6516

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT NO. 12.

**United**  
**Mine Workers of America**

AFFILIATED WITH A. F. OF L.

*Springfield, Illinois,*

September 7, 1923.

A. W. KERR  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
7TH FLOOR  
ILL. MINE WORKERS BLDG.  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.  
W. J. MACDONALD  
7TH FLOOR  
ILL. MINE WORKERS BLDG.  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
THOMAS A. MURPHY  
7TH FLOOR  
ILL. MINE WORKERS BLDG.  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.  
SAM W. GILBERT  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
JOSEPH A. LONDRIGAN  
513 MURPHY BLDG.  
EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.  
JAMES B. LEWIS  
HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS  
GEORGE R. STONE  
MARION, ILLINOIS  
W. P. SEEBER  
BENTON, ILL  
GENERAL ATTORNEYS

Mr. Earl E. Houck,  
Legal Department,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Houck:

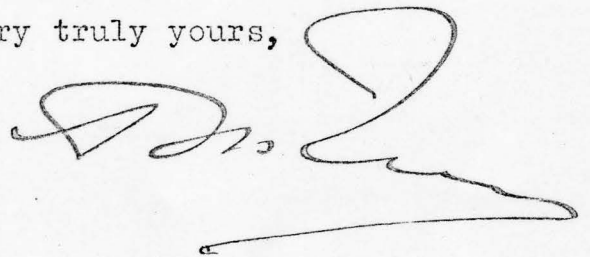
Yours of the first inst., enclosing statement of cases discussed, came to me in due season, but I just returned to the office and have not been able to answer it before. These are death and injury cases arising out of the Herrin affair. The settlement of five death cases and a number of injury cases were up for discussion between Mr. Mc Kiernan, an attorney in Chicago and Messrs. Warrum, yourself and myself, representing the organization. The conference was held in response to a request from Mr. Mc Kiernan, attorney for the plaintiffs in these cases. We discussed the matter quite thoroughly some weeks ago. Mr. Mc Kiernan demanded \$100,000 for the settlement of the cases then under consideration. We induced him to reduce his claim to \$75,000. His attitude seemed so fair to all of us that we felt it the part of wisdom at that time to suggest to Mr. Mc Kiernan that he get representation of all the cases arising out of the Herrin matter. We continued the discussion for a couple of weeks to enable Mr. Mc Kiernan to get in touch with the others and upon August 30th, he again meet us with a list of claims. He did not guarantee us that he had all the claims. This, of course, he could not do, nor is it likely that any person could give such assurance. He kept his agreement of being willing to settle the claims there-to-fore discussed for \$75,000. He presented additional claims bringing the total claim up to, I think \$137,500. We, yourself, and myself, after a conference decided to say to Mr. Mc Kiernan that we would recommend the payment of \$100,000 in full payment of all the claims in the hands of Mr. Mc Kiernan. He assured us of his belief that he could obtain releases from all for this amount. I unhesitatingly advise payment of this amount. This advise is based upon reasons discussed between yourself, Mr. Warrum and myself which need not be here repeated. It is my suggestion that a check be drawn to your order for this amount, account Legal Department, and that you make the necessary disbursements in exchange for releases from the administrators and the injured men. I have not yet had time to examine thoroughly the form of releases from the administrators. Will try to do so in the near future.

Earl E. Houck (cont'd)

The matter of who shall make the payment or in what proportion it shall be made if that be the plan, being a purely executive question, I suggest it be committed for solution to International President Lewis and District President Farrington. After it is agreed that the payment be made, I shall be glad to meet with you in Chicago and have with me one of our investigators who knows most of these claimants.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Houck', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

AWK M



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT

777 PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL

SECOND SHEET

TIME OF RECEIPT SHOWN  
ON THIS MESSAGE IS  
EASTERN STANDARD TIME

THE QUESTION OF REIMBURSEMENT BY DISTRICT NUMBER TWELVE STOP MR  
HOUCK INDICATED TO MR KERR THAT YOU PREFERRED HEARING FROM  
ME BEFORE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT STOP I AM SENDING THIS  
TELEGRAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THAT SUGGESTION STOP I AM MAILING  
TO YOU COPY OF LETTER OF THE TENTH

FRANK FARRINGTON

PRESIDENT

533P

*Answer on Reverse side*

N. Y. 7/14/33

Farrington :-

Your wife. Sorry to have  
missed your letter. It probably has  
been forwarded to Secretary. International  
Union glad to co-operate in manner  
you suggest. All telegraphing  
Secy Green & Mr. Howard Seward

Lewis

SEP 14 PM 4 29

NDA480 SHEET 2/39

ADVISED THE CHICAGO ATTORNEY THAT MR KERR AND I WILL BE THERE  
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY TO PAY THE MONEY AND SECURE THE RELEASES IF  
THERE IS ANY HITCH IN THE PROGRAM OR THIS PLAN I WILL ADVISE YOU  
IMMEDIATELY

EARL E HOUCK.



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION



# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT

WX

1923 SEP 14 PM 4 29

NDA480 109 1/70

INDIANAPOLIS IND 14 318P

JOHN L LEWIS      1581

PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL NEWYORK NY

JUST HAD CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY GREEN ON ILLINOIS MATTER HE SUGGESTS THAT CHECK BE DRAWN TO FARRINGTON AND THAT FARRINGTON ENDORSE THE CHECK TO ME FARRINGTON IS IN INDIANAPOLIS TODAY AND GREEN IS ENDEAVORING TO HAVE HIM COME IN AND CARRY OUT THIS PLAN STOP MR GREENS IDEA IS TO AVOID ANY DISPUTE ABOUT THE DISTRICT BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MONEY I BELIEVE THIS WILL WORK OUT ALL RIGHT I HAVE

Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT

296N X81 129 Q EX

PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL

SPRINGFIELD ILL 259P SEPT 13 1923

TIME OF RECEIPT SHOWN  
ON THIS MESSAGE IS  
EASTERN STANDARD TIME

JOHN L LEWIS

PRESIDENT UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMA PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL

NEWYORK NY

MR HOUCK ADVISES MR KERR THIS MORNING THAT YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED MY LETTER TO YOU OF THE TENTH INSTANT STOP IN THAT LETTER I ADVISED YOU OF THE FEAR THAT MESSRS WARRUM HOUCK AND KERR HAD WITH REFERENCE TO DELAY IN CLOSING THE CHICAGO MATTER STOP I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT YOU HAVE THE INTERNATIONAL PAY THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OVER

Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	



# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	

RECEIVED AT 507 LACKAWANNA AVE., SCRANTON, PA.      TELEPHONES - BELL AND CONSOLIDATED 4321

File 7  
1923 SEP 15 PM 1 07

WA139 30

INDIANAPOLIS IND 15 1148A

JOHN L LEWIS

CASEY HOTEL SCRANTON PENN

MR. FARRINGTON IS IN MY OFFICE NOW AND HE AND MR GREEN HAVE COMPLETED FINAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE MONEY MATTERS IT LOOKS AS THOUGH EVERYTHING WILL GO THROUGH AS PLANNED

EARL E HOUCK

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Telegram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Day Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Message	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM	

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Receiver's No.
<i>Legal Check</i>
Time Filed

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To *Carl Hawk Indpls 9/14* 1923

Street and No. (or Telephone Number) *Have Farrington request. Asked*

Place *Green to advance required amt and assuming this you closed matter last night. Have wired Farrington we would comply with request. advise if O.K. Lewis*

File 2  
Dist 12

Casey Hotel,  
Scranton, Pa.,  
September 17, 1923.

Mr. Frank Farrington, President,  
District No. 12, U.M.W. of A.,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I am advised by wire from Mr. Houck that you, Secretary Green and he have completed final arrangements covering the details of payment in the matter of the Chicago litigation. I am indeed pleased that a satisfactory arrangement has been made and trust that the final disposition of the case may be made in an equally satisfactory way in Chicago during the present week.

I am sorry that your letter of the 10th inst., affecting this matter, was delayed in reaching me. I think, however, it was partly due to an error in addressing the envelope containing the letter. I am enclosing the envelope in question. It was delivered to my residence in Springfield and then forwarded to me here in Scranton. I did not reach Scranton until late last evening, which accounts for my lack of knowledge of the communication.

Very truly yours,

President.

HC



*Legal.*

Casey Hotel,  
Scranton, Pa.,  
September 17, 1923.

Mr. Earl E. Houck,  
1112 Merchants Bank Building,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Houck:

Thanks for your wire of the 15th inst., advising that Farrington, Green and you have completed final arrangements in the many matters involved in the Chicago litigation. I wish you all success in winding up the affair in Chicago during the present week.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

president.

HC

# United Mine Workers of America

EARL E. HOUCK  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.

MERCHANTS BANK BLDG.  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

September 24, 1923.

Mr. John L. Lewis,  
1132 W. Lawrence Ave.  
Springfield, Ill.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

I am pleased to advise you that we have finally concluded the settlement of the Herrin cases last week in Chicago.

Secretary Green, after a conference with Mr. Farrington who happened to be in Indianapolis, made a check for \$100,000.00 payable to Frank Farrington, President of District 12. Mr. Farrington then endorsed the check to me. I took an Indiana National Bank draft to Chicago and deposited the \$100,000.00 in the Chicago Trust Company and paid the claims by check. I am enclosing a list of the claims we made settlement of and the amount paid.

Mr. Kerr advised me that a man by the name of Green, who was a former guard, had brought suit against the Southern Illinois Coal Company for \$100,000.00, in one of the State Courts of Illinois. Inasmuch as District 12 now owns the Southern Illinois Coal Company, the District naturally becomes the defendant. Any way, Mr. Kerr was of the opinion that he could compromise that case for \$2000.00. We advised Mr. McKiernan, the attorney on the other side, that this was a new case and asked him to cooperate with us in reducing his clients' claims in the amount of \$2,000.00, so that we would have enough left out of the \$100,000.00 to settle the Green case. This Mr. McKiernan was able to do. At the request of Mr. Kerr, I drew a check for the remaining \$2,000.00 in the fund, to Fred Cooper and William Walls, Investigators in the Legal Department of District 12, for the purpose of procuring settlement

Mr. John L. Lewis, p. 2.

in the above case. I have obtained releases from all the parties to whom settlements were made.

I personally feel that this is a fine settlement and so far as we know includes all who were injured and I am sure concludes the most embarrassing litigation we have ever had before us, and my understanding from Secretary Green that the arrangement with Mr. Farrington is a loan to the District, therefore we come out of this without any expense, except my own personal expense.

Mr. Lewis, the last two weeks I have had additional expense outside of my personal hotel bills, incurred in this case, in the amount of \$65.00. I am enclosing a statement of this and if you see fit to approve same and recommend payment, I will appreciate it.

In settling these cases I have had the hearty cooperation of Mr. Kerr and the Legal Department of District 12.

Yours truly,

*Carl E. Houch*

EEH-LW/



REPORT OF EARL E. JOE ON SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN  
CLAIMS IN HERRIN, ILLINOIS, LITIGATION.

Sept. 10, 1923, Deposited in the Chicago Trust Company, Chicago, Illinois, for settlement of Herrin litigation

\$100,000.00.

Checks drawn on Sept, 20, 1923, on above deposit:

	Amount given to Claimant .	Mr. McKiernan's Fee	Total Am of Claim
George Hall, Admr. Estate of Geo. Hall Jr. and Geo. W. Walkup, Jr.	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
Eric Miller	7,500.00	2,500.00	10,000.00
Robert C. McLennon	4,500.00	1,500.00	6,000.00
Joe Sodter	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Frank N. Fuller	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Frank Schmidt	2,625.00	875.00	3,500.00
John Rogers	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Mary Kearney, Conservatrix, Est. of Thomas Fleming,	3,000.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
Mike Milosh	281.25	93.75	375.00
George W. Gosman, Admr. Estate of Horatio Gosman,	3,000.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
Myrtle Ritcher, Administratrix Estate of Robert Marsh,	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
May M. Chiappetta, Executrix Estate of Sidney Morrison	6,750.00	2,250.00	9,000.00
William Cairns	5,625.00	1,875.00	7,500.00
Patrick Joseph O'Rourke	9,000.00	3,000.00	12,000.00
Will J. O'Rourke	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Robert Tracy	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
Richard Wesch	375.00	125.00	500.00
Andrew Riber	281.25	93.75	375.00
Ed Rose	9,000.00	3,000.00	12,000.00
John Pittman	562.50	187.50	750.00
Harry T. Springer	5,625.00	1,875.00	7,500.00
Odis Lawrence	375.00	125.00	500.00
Allen P. Findlay	3,750.00	1,250.00	5,000.00
C. O. Anderson	750.00	250.00	1,000.00
David C. Miller, Admr. Estate of Arthur B. Miller	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
Fred Cooper and William Walls, Investigators, to be used in attempt to settle Green case vs. Southern Illinois Coal Co.	2,000.00		2,000.00
J. O. McKiernan, Attorney	24,250.00		
J. O. McKiernan, "	1,000.00		
	100,000.00	25,250.00	100,000.00

NOTE. Inasmuch as Mr. McKiernan, Attorney for these clients had served us with attorneys' liens, we were compelled to protect him, under the Illinois statute, to the amount under his contract with each of his individual clients, this was done, and in each release we also had a release from Mr. McKiernan in full on the attorneys' liens.

WHEREAS, the undersigned, George Hall as Administrator of the Estate of George Hall, Jr. , deceased, claims that his decedent George Hall, Jr. , had been injured on or about the 22nd day of June, A. D. 1922, by certain persons or mobs at or near the property of the Southern Illinois Coal Company in Williamson County, Illinois, or between that point and the City of Herrin, Illinois, by being beaten, out, choked, struck, shot, kicked, dragged, hanged and otherwise assaulted and abused; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned as such Administrator claims that the next of kin of said ~~George Hall, Jr.~~ <sup>George Hall, Jr.</sup> , deceased, suffered pecuniary loss by reason of the death of said deceased; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned as such Administrator claims that the said injuries above referred to were due to the wilful acts and misconduct of the United Mine Workers of America, District 12 of the United Mine Workers of America, all of the Local Unions of the United Mine Workers of America in Jackson, Williamson, Franklin and Saline Counties and Southern Illinois Coal Company, as well as the negligence and omission of duty upon the part of certain officers in and for the County of Williamson, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned as such Administrator further claims that said United Mine Workers of America, District 2 12 United Mine Workers of America, said Local Unions of said Counties of Jackson, Williamson, Franklin and Saline and the County of Williamson and Southern Illinois Coal Company are liable to him as such Administrator in damages on account of said injuries so alleged to have been received by said decedent; and

WHEREAS, said United Mine Workers of America, District 12 United Mine Workers of America, all of said Local Unions of said United Mine Workers of America in said Counties of Jackson, Williamson, Franklin and Saline and the County of Williamson and Southern Illinois Coal Company, deny, jointly or severally, any and all liability for said alleged injuries or the causes leading thereto; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned and said District 12 of the United Mine Workers of America, the United Mine Workers of America and Southern Illinois Coal Company have agreed to settle and compromise the disputed claims for damages arising out of said alleged injuries as claimed;

NOW, THEREFORE, by way of compromise and for and in consideration of the sum of Three Thousand (\$3000<sup>00</sup>) Dollars, good and lawful money of the United States of America this day cash in hand paid to the undersigned as such Administrator, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby release said United Mine Workers of America, District 12 United Mine Workers of America, all Local Unions of the United Mine Workers of America in the Counties of Jackson, Williamson, Franklin and Saline, in said State of Illinois, the Southern Illinois Coal Company, a corporation, and its successors and assigns, and the County of Williamson, Illinois, from any and all claims, actions, causes of action and damages of every kind and character whatsoever to which the undersigned is now entitled or may hereafter become entitled, by or in consequence of the said alleged injuries above mentioned, and whether directly or indirectly, specifically including in this release and covenant not to sue, all officers, members and local unions and other branches of said United Mine Workers of America.



It being further expressly understood as a part of the consideration for said payment that the said undersigned as such Administrator shall at once enter in writing his dismissal of any and all suits now pending in the United States Court or the State Courts to recover upon the above mentioned cause of action, and said dismissals to be at the cost of the said undersigned, the plaintiff or petitioner in said suits, including all actions now pending before the Industrial Commission of Illinois for compensation thereunder.

It being further specifically and expressly agreed by the undersigned, as such Administrator, in consideration of the payment to him as above provided, that he does hereby covenant and agree not to sue either United Mine Workers of America, District 12 United Mine Workers of America, any Local Union of the United Mine Workers of America in the Counties of Jackson, Williamson, Franklin and Saline, Illinois, the Southern Illinois Coal Company or Williamson County, or any other person or persons upon the alleged cause of action above referred to.

It being further specifically and expressly agreed that said sum of money hereinabove mentioned to be paid to the undersigned as such Administrator is the sole and only consideration whatsoever for this release and covenant not to sue moving to the said undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal to this document and to one other document of identical words, figures, tenor and effect, this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, A. D. 1923.

Geo. Hall

(Seal)

Administrator

Signed, sealed and delivered  
in the presence of:

John Miller

Warren B. Adams

STATE OF ILLINOIS. {  
COUNTY OF COOK. { SS:

Before me, Joseph O. McKeernian, a Notary Public, in and for the County and State aforesaid this day personally appeared George Hall Administrator of the Estate of George Hall, Jr., deceased, personally known to me to be same person who signed, sealed and delivered the above and foregoing release and covenant not to sue and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the same as and for his free and voluntary act and deed and for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, A. D. 1923.

Joseph O. McKeernian  
Notary Public.

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The above release has been made by and with the consent and approval of the undersigned, attorneys of record of the releasor; and we hereby expressly release any and all claim or claims accrued to us or either of us as such attorneys and against either United Mine Workers of America, District 12 United Mine Workers of America, any Local Union of the United Mine Workers of America in the Counties of Jackson, Williamson, Franklin and Saline, Illinois, the Southern Illinois Coal Company or Williamson County by reason of our employment herein or by reason of any attorney's lien accruing hereunder to us or either of us.

Dated at Chicago, Illinois, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, A. D. 1923.

Joseph O. McKeernian  
Charles C. Walker

# United Mine Workers of America

EARL E. HOUCK  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.

MERCHANTS BANK BLDG.  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

November 15, 1923.

Mr. John L. Lewis,  
1114 Merchants Bank Bldg.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

While I was in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in the Coronado case, I received a letter which Secretary-Treasurer Green referred to me, from Joseph D. Irose, Attorney at Law, Chicago, Ill., advising that he represented a Mr. Sherman Holman who alleged that he was severely injured in the Herrin riot in June, 1922; that he contemplated suit against the International Union unless some compromise could be reached.

On receipt of this letter I referred the same to Mr. A. W. Kerr, chief counsel for District 12, as I was unable to give it my attention at that time, and requested Mr. Kerr to take such action as he deemed advisable. The matter was taken up by Mr. Kerr with Mr. Irose and it later developed that there were seven claimants. After numerous meetings, Mr. Kerr advised me on November 8, 1923, that he had agreed with the Chicago attorney that he would recommend settlement of the seven claims for the sum of \$4500.00, and asked that the transaction be handled in the same manner as in the previous settlement.

Mr. Farrington called me at my home on Sunday, November 11, asking that I have Secretary-Treasurer Green draw a check made payable to Frank Farrington as President of District 12 for \$4500.00 and that he, Farrington, would meet me in Chicago on November 14th and endorse the check to me. This suggestion was carried out by Mr. Green and myself. I took the check to Chicago, Mr. Farrington endorsed it to me and I deposited this amount in the Chicago Trust Company, and made full settlement of the following claims:



Mr. Lewis, p. 2.

James Cummings	\$200.00
Bernard Jones	500.00
Charles Patterson	500.00
Maurice T. Delaney	400.00
John Jordan	1000.00
Anton Heipel	400.00
Sherman Holman	1500.00
	<u>\$4500.00</u>

I am advised by Mr. J. O. McKiernan, who represented some of these claimants, as well as all of the claimants in the previous settlement, that this wipes out all of the injured men that he knows anything about. This cleans up all the cases that have ever been in the Compensation Courts of Illinois.

Mr. Kerr advised me, confidentially, that he has a record of several additional people who were employed there at that time and who may have been more or less injured but there has been no claim made and there is no agitation from these people so far as he knows.

I had no part in arriving at the amounts paid these claimants and only acted in a clerical capacity in writing the checks and taking the releases. My understanding is that the \$4500.00 is a loan to District 12.

Yours very truly,

*Earl E. Houck*

EEH-LW.

7  
Seq. Ref.  
NOV 27 1923

# United Mine Workers of America

EARL E. HOUCK  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.

MERCHANTS BANK BLDG.  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

November 27, 1923.

Mr. John L. Lewis,  
1114 Merchants Bank Bldg.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

This will acknowledge receipt of a letter from Jones & Key, Attorneys, in re Ernest H. Renaud, alleged to have been injured in the Herrin trouble.

I have written Jones & Key and advised them that the matter has been referred to Mr. A. W. Kerr, Chief Counsel for District 12, and have sent copy of my letter to Mr. Kerr, suggesting that he handle the matter as he sees fit. I have advised Mr. Kerr that I am leaving tomorrow to be gone for several weeks and have tendered my services upon my return.

Yours very truly,

*Earl E. Houch*

EEH-LW.

APR 14

Chicago, April 11, 1924.

John L. Lewis, Pres.  
United Mine Workers,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago I learned that your Union had settled a number of claims with the men that were shot up at Herrin June 21st and 22nd 1922. I was one of the victims and was shot. I have a bullet wound and a bad scar over the left eye. I was otherwise wounded so that I could not walk for about two months, and have not fully recovered yet. About the middle of March this year I went to see an Attorney by the name of McKiernan, who one of the other boys that were down at Herrin told me had handled the settlements for those that were paid.

I do not think this lawyer is doing anything on my case as he seems to try and discourage me whenever I talk with him about it. There is another lawyer that is anxious to get my case and the cases of three others with whom no settlement has been made. He says he is able to handle the cases better than McKiernan and will get us a lot of money as he has the backing of plenty of funds with which to fight. Unless McKiernan does something in our cases immediately we are going to take the cases out of his hands. I do not see ~~when~~ why you do not settle with us when you settled with the others. I only want \$2000.00 and I think the other fellows would settle cheap if they could get their money without a law suit. Let me hear from you whether you will settle without a trial.

Yours truly,

Earl M Mankins  
5430 University  
Chicago  
EM



Herrin

# United Mine Workers of America

EARL E. HOUCK  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.



MERCHANTS BANK BLDG.  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

April 14, 1924.

Mr. John L. Lewis,  
Merchants Bank Bldg.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Lewis:

Miss Cromer, of your office, has handed me a copy of letter to you written by Earl M. Mankins regarding personal injuries alleged to have been received in the Herrin trouble. Mr. Kerr and I were advised of this man along with three others when we were in Chicago. We are looking after it and suppose some sort of a settlement will have to be made, but we have in mind to hold these settlements up until as near June 22nd as we can. The statute of limitation goes into effect two years after the alleged injury.

We will no doubt have to make settlement with these people before that time, but after that date all other cases will be outlawed.

An injunction suit has been filed against us in Knoxville, Tenn. by the Tennessee-Jellico Company and the hearing is set for next Saturday the 19th at Knoxville. I am planning to leave about Wednesday and Mr. Warrum will arrive there Friday.

Yours truly,

EEH-LW.

P.S. I am returning clipping you handed me in Washington and which I forgot to return.



# United Mine Workers of America

EARL E. HOUCK  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

AFFILIATED WITH  
A. F. OF L.

MERCHANTS BANK BLDG.  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

June 7, 1924.

Mr. John L. Lewis,  
1114 Merchants Bank Bldg.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Mr. Frank Farrington,  
Mine Workers' Bldg.  
Springfield, Ill.

Gentlemen:

We beg to advise that the undersigned, your representatives, met on June 6th with Mr. J. O. McKiernan, attorney, for certain claims as a result of the Herrin riot. As you will recall, settlement has previously been made with about forty claimants. Mr. McKiernan represents five additional claimants who have not as yet been settled with.

We have known of these people for some time but have delayed negotiations with them as long as possible, knowing that the statute of limitation expires on June 22nd of this year. In other words, they cannot file suit against the organization after this date. We are advised by counsel that unless settlement is made not later than the 17th of this month that they will file suit in Federal Court in Indianapolis. We have every reason to believe that they are prepared to do so.

We wish to make it plain that we both feel that Mr. McKiernan has been very helpful to us in these settlements and has been very fair to the organization.

The following are the names and a brief memorandum of the injuries alleged to have been sustained by each of them and the amounts asked in settlement:-

Mr. John L. Lewis,  
Mr. Frank Farrington, - p. 2.

JOHN MILLER: 38 years of age. Lives at 53rd and Pine Sts., New York, or rather claims that as his home. Married. One child 4 years of age. Was sent to Herrin the 16th or 17th of June by Bertrand as a waiter. Was in the line of March. Shot in right ankle. Had medical attention in St. Louis. Dr. C. R. Smith, next to post office. Rifle ball in back of neck. Fractured right collar bone in falling on a stump. Got to St. Louis about three days after. Doctor bill \$60.00. In hospital about three weeks, unable to work for about four months. Thinks he should have \$2,000.00.

THOMAS J. MCDONALD: 41 years old. Single. News butcher. Went down 20th of June. Sent by Bertrand as laborer. Was on the truck leaving Carbondale when it was fired upon. Was not shot. Had to swim the creek and lost baggage. Wants \$150.00.

EDWARD L. COLLINS: About 35. Married. No children. Three or four ribs broken. Was in line of march. Struck with butt of gun. Laid up three or four weeks. Still bothered. Has placed no figure on his claim.


EARL MANKIN: 23 years of age. Married since trouble. One child. Chauffeur by occupation. Was in the Dodge car on way to mine from Carbondale June 21st. Sent down by Hargrave. Bullet wound leaving scar over left eye. Could not walk for about two months on account of bullets that came thru the side of the car striking the legs. Thinks he should have \$2,000.00.

C. E. BOYD: Operated electric drill. Was on the company truck and was fired on several times. Sustained severe injury on jaw and chin. Has large lump on chin, has several scars from club and butt of revolver on forehead and back of head. Was in the hospital at Carbondale several days. Asks for \$1,000.00.

Mr. John L. Lewis,  
Mr. Frank Farrington, - p. 3.

After a conference with Mr. McKiernan, we believe that we will be able to make settlement of the above cases for the sum of \$4,000.00 or less. Without going into further detail of the negotiations, we recommend to you compromise of these claims on the basis outlined above.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Earl E. Houch



OFFICE OF  
A. W. KERR  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
ILLINOIS MINE WORKERS BLDG.  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.  
TELEPHONE NO.  
OFFICE M. 992 RES. M. 1611

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT NO. 12.

**United**  
**Mine Workers of America**

AFFILIATED WITH A. F. OF L.

*Springfield, Illinois* June 9, 1924.

JUDGE A. W. KERR  
CHIEF COUNSEL  
714 ILL. MINE WORKERS BLDG  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
JOSEPH A. LONDRIGAN  
7TH FLOOR  
ILL. MINE WORKERS BLDG  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
THOMAS A. MURPHY  
7TH FLOOR  
ILL. MINE WORKERS BLDG  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL  
SAM W. GILBERT  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
W. J. MACDONALD  
323 MURPHY BLDG  
EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL  
JAMES B. LEWIS  
HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS  
GEORGE R. STONE  
MARION, ILLINOIS  
A. C. LEWIS  
BENTON, ILL.  
GENERAL ATTORNEYS

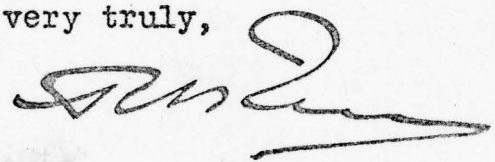
Mr. John L. Lewis, Pres.,  
United Mine Workers of America,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir:-

Inclosed joint letter of Mr. Houck and  
myself relative to what we hope are the last of  
the Herrin personal injury cases. Mr. Houck  
advised that I mail it to you here in Springfield.

AWK VD

Yours very truly,



Herrin

1114 Merchants Bank Bldg.,  
June 11, 1924.

Mr. A. W. Kerr,  
Chief Counsel, District #12, U.M.W. of A.,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

I have your favor of June 9th transmitting joint letter of yourself and Mr. Houck with further relation to the Herrin personal injury cases. I thank you for your courtesy in the premises and will discuss the matter with Mr. Houck who will advise you of my views thereon.

Very truly yours,

President.

cc

United Mine Workers of America  
SUB-DISTRICT 10 OF DISTRICT 12

OCT 23 1922



WM. J. SNEED,  
PRESIDENT

TELEPHONE,  
OFFICE 7-R. RES. 103-1

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
115 FORD BUILDING, NORTH P AVENUE  
HERRIN, ILLINOIS



October 19, 1922.

Mr. John L. Lewis, President  
Union Mine Workers of America,  
114 Merchants Bank Bldg.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear sir and brother:

I have your letter of October 12, with inclosure, for which accept my thanks. I shall go into this matter in detail and will advise you with reference to it in the next few days. May say that everything in connection with the prosecution of the men indicted for riot here, has the promise of every attention possible. The National Field Workers assigned, have been very successful assisting the protection of every interest involved in this matter.

It may be, when the court convenes for the hearing of these cases, that we will ask you that Mr. Herbert Halls be sent here to co-operate and assist. There appears to be a great demand on the part of the men indicted, particularly, that you come to Marion in order that they may discuss with you the affairs involved. My judgment is, that you should do this and I do not think that it will in any way create friction or muddy the water in the procedure now established, but your appearance in this county, will have the effect of making the members of our organization, as well as those indicted, feel that they are being protected from every source and in every element in the Miners Organization.

I appreciate very full that you are a very busy man, but if you can come here for even a few hours, I think that you will agree, it will be worth while.

With reference to our discussion with reference to appointments by the Governor, may I say that I have since talked to him and he is very desirous of seeing and talking with you relative to the matters discussed by Zimmerman, yourself and I.

I would suggest that while in Springfield, you arrange a conference with him and in all probability, you will be successful in having John Zimmerman placed on the Industrial Commission.

Hoping to hear from you when it is convenient, I am,

Respectfully yours,

*Wm J. Freed*



CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Telegram	
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired: OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM

# WESTERN UNION



# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Receiver's No.
Check
Time Filed

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Indianapolis, Indiana,  
Oct. 23, 1922.

John L. Lewis,  
1132 West Lawrence Avenue,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Sneed writes suggesting while in Springfield you arrange conference with Governor who desires to see you reference appointments Sneed discussed with you and Zimmerman. Thinks you could be successful in having Zimmerman placed on Industrial Commission.

H. Carr.

Charge to United Mine Workers.

you the affairs involved. My judgment is, that you should do this and I do not think that it will in any way create friction or muddy the water in the procedure now established, but your appearance in this county, will have the effect of making the members of our organization, as well as those indicted, feel that they are being protected from every source and in every element in the Miners Organization.

I appreciate very full that you are a very busy man, but if you can come here for even a few hours, I think that you will agree, it will be worth while.

With reference to our discussion with reference to appointments by the Governor, may I say that I have since talked to him and he is very desirous of seeing and talking with you relative to the matters discussed by Zimmerman, yourself and I.

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Springfield, Illinois,  
November 29, 1922.

Mr. J.W. Hindmarsh,  
Riverton, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

In your campaign for the office of President of District No. 12, United Mine Workers of America, I notice in the columns of the Illinois Miner, as well as in other publications, that you are having quite a controversy with President Frank Farrington in regard to whether or not he made statements during the recent strike in favor of the miners of the Central Competitive Field accepting a reduction in wages.

If I understand President Farrington's statements correctly, he is contending to you and to the members of our organization in District No. 12 that he is not quoted correctly and that he did not make statements such as above referred to. It may be interesting to you to know that I have been reliably informed by men whose veracity cannot be questioned that President Farrington did make the statement that the Central Competitive Field would be obliged to take a reduction and that that was the only thing for them to do. In order that this statement may be verified, if you will write to Mr. Lee Hall, President of District No. 6, 75 Ruggery Bldg., Columbus, Ohio, I am sure that he will tell you that Farrington did on or about July 10th in the city of Washington, D.C., make the statement to him that "the miners would be compelled to take a reduction in wages and had better quit fooling themselves any longer."

I am also reliably informed by International Board Member Sam Caddy of District No. 10, state of Washington, that Mr. Robert Harlin and Mr. Ernest Newsham, formerly President and Secretary of District No. 10, made the statement to him and to others in District No. 10 that Farrington said "there is bound to be a national reduction; there is no question about it; that that was the feeling of the Central Competitive Field and for them to go back to District No. 10 and sign up a scale for \$6.00 a day, and to hell with John L. Lewis."

These are statements that can be verified by responsible people. Each of the brothers mentioned in this letter can verify them. I am sending you this information without any solicitation on your part and have in mind only a desire to have the membership of District No. 12 correctly informed as to the attitude of their district president during the recent great struggle to maintain wages and conditions of employment, particularly in the Central Competitive field.

Trusting this information will be of some service to you, I beg to remain

Fraternally yours,

(Dist.) J. M. Zimmerman  
Signed "A Miner"  
and mailed to Hindmarsh

PRES.  
IN. PRES.

JOHN VAUGHN, VICE-PRES.  
CHAS. McMAHAN, VICE-PRES.

JOHN T. MORRIS, SEC'Y-TREAS

OFFICE OF THE 11TH SUB-DISTRICT  
OF DISTRICT NO. 127

United Mine Workers of America

EOTH PHONES

HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS

Dec 5th, 1922.

DEC 6 1922  
DEC 6 1922

Mr John L. Lewis,  
Indianapolis, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother;

I have good reasons to beleive that you are interested in the selection of a district President in District 12, I am opposed to the present officers and have been for a good many years in fact I have never been for Farrington in my life and he knows it, and the machine influence has been used against me on numerous occasions, we have a good chance to get rid of Farrington in the coming election and I beleive that you can assist the men in Illinois to pull the thing through, we have about 800 colored men in this Sub District and I beleive that if we had a good man to put in a few days amongst them that they would go against the machine, I wish you could see your way clear to send Organizer Prentice into Saline County to work amongst the colored men I am sure that all of the members who are interested in the welfare of the organization will appreciate it very much, the actions of Farrington in the recent strike proves to everyone that he is not for the miners whom he is supposed to represent, he started in before the last election to discredit you for the ~~xxx~~ purpose of running you out of the Mine Workers Organization but I beleive that he will be the one to get run out, if it is at all possible send Prentice over here and if it is not asking too much a little assistance with the other voters would be acceptable as well, I have no fear of my own election but ~~xxx~~ would like to see the machine smashed of course I may get fooled the machine are working against me hard I wouldnt lose very much if I was to get beat but I think I will get over alright.

Trusting that you will be able to comply with my request,  
I am

Fraternally yours,

John T. Morris.  
Sec. Treas.

6  
Aronson

12

December 11, 1932.

Mr. John T. Morris, Sec'y.-Treas.,  
Sub-District 12, District 12,  
United Mine Workers of America,  
Harrisburg, Illinois.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I appreciate your letter of the 5th and will give the matter every consideration. I am glad to know you have reasonable grounds for believing you will be re-elected.

With the compliments of the season, I am

Very truly yours,

President.

L:G