

the decision and argument before it for consideration a foreign matter, namely, denial to workers of the right to quit in furtherance of their just and necessary rights, has pointed out the way to those who wish to bind the workers to their tasks.

In my opinion this unwarranted pronouncement of the supreme court, virtually legislating, so far as it can legislate, for the establishment of compulsory arbitration and enforced service, has already done much to make the task of democracy in its preparations for national defense difficult. It has awakened in the minds of millions of workingmen throughout America a distrust of the instrumentalities of government which it will be difficult to eradicate.

We are saying to the people: "Come to the defense of the republic, help us in the preservation of democracy," while these forces which I have described are doing all within their power to convert this nation from a democracy into the most distasteful of autocracies—an industrial absolutism.

While Russia is throwing off the bonds of absolutism and feudalism and has declared for the freedom of the workers, these sinister forces are at work in our midst using their enormous influences to throw us back into the dark ages of industrial tyranny, when the state was their tool of oppression.

We of the labor movement have pledged ourselves to the defense of our country. We are ready to expend our last ounce of energy, to shed the last drop of our blood if it is necessary, for the defense of the republic. We will not turn from our tasks.

But we will not meekly accept the burdens which they would put upon us, nor stop at the obstacles which they are putting in the road toward the creation of an efficient democracy.

Russia was obliged to stop in the

midst of her warfare to throw off the reactionary and sinister forces which had interfered grievously with her military efficiency and democratic progress. I trust and believe that the people of the United States will not find it necessary to halt in the midst of their national defense to check the aggressions of the reactionary anti-democratic forces within our midst.

Surely the American people should be not less conscious of their rights than the Russian people, and I am convinced that if occasion arises they will prove themselves able to deal effectively with would-be tyrants at home, while maintaining a stalwart and unbreakable defense against the enemy abroad.

#### MOTHER STOPS KIDNAPPING

A woman's bravery frustrated the kidnapping of her 3-year-old son yesterday. The woman was Mrs. Carl Reichert, 3541 W. 62d, who recently filed suit for divorce. Carl Reichert lives in Granston, Wis. Yesterday a black auto containing two men swung into 62d st. The boy was playing in the street. Reichert sprang from the car and grabbed the boy. The latter screamed. Mrs. Reichert jumped on the running board of the moving auto. Reichert ordered the chauffeur to "open up." The woman clung to the machine. Finally a policeman became curious and stopped the car. Explanations followed. Reichert is in jail.

#### NEW BLOW AT TWO PLATOON

Chief O'Connor's latest move to wipe out the double platoon system which the rank and file of the fire dep't won after several years' fight is to end the inspection of the 337 Chicago theaters. He gave as his excuse the shortage of firemen under the new system. The fire insurance men have lined up the trust press against the double platoon.