

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE DEFENSE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

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February 13, 1932.

JOHN DEWEY, FANNY HURST, THEODORE DREISER AMONG
THOSE WHO PROTEST HARLAN BEATINGS

As Congress prepared to consider a resolution for an investigation into conditions in the Harlan and Bell Counties, Ky., coal fields, a group of well-known educators, sociologists, and writers today issued a protest against the beating of Waldo Frank and Allan Taub when they and a group of writers distributing relief were kidnaped from Pineville, Kentucky, early Wednesday morning. The protest is signed by Fanny Hurst, novelist; John Dewey, famous educator; Theodore Dreiser, novelist; Van Wyck Brooks, critic; Alfred Kreymborg, poet; Floyd Dell, Alvin Johnson, George S. Counts, Evelyn Dewey, Margaret Cheney Dawson, Lester Cohen, Corliss Lamont, and Dr. Henry Newmann. The protest is released through the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, under whose auspices Theodore Dreiser led a committee of writers into Harlan in November; and which was represented on the present delegation.

The text follows:

We protest the brazen kidnapping of Waldo Frank, Malcolm Cowley, Edmund Wilson, Mary Heaton Vorse, Polly Boyden, Benjamin Lieder, Dr. Elise Reid Mitchell, John Henry Hammond, Jr., Liston Oak, Quincey Howe, and A. M. Max who had gone into Pineville, Ky., to distribute relief to starving miners.