The "LABOR WITH A WHITE SKIN CANNOT EMANCIPATE ITSELF WHERE LABOR WITH A BLACK SKIN IS BRANDED" — KARL

Negro Struggle

By ALBERT PARKER

A Victory On Paper

A couple of weeks ago, before the conscription bill was passed, two amendments were made, which were hailed by Senator Wagner of New York (and several unsuspecting and gullible Negro leaders) as "a signal victory for the forces of democracy in America life."

One amendment was supposed to prohibit discrimination in the armed forces because of color, so far as enlisted men were concerned, the other prohibited discrimination against drafted men.

But actually, in spite of the statements coming from secretaries in the White House, nothing has changed. Jim Crow still wears his stripes.

This was definitely shown in the attempts of a number of colored people to enlist in the service since the passage of the amended bill. They wanted to enlist so that they can choose the branch of the service they preferred, something that is not permitted for drafted men.

In five cities, reporters of the Baltimore Afro-American attempted to join the U.S. Aviation Corp. In each case, these colored men were met with flat rejections. "And in each instance the" reason given was always the same-no openings for colored men."

Another reporter of the same paper tried to enlist in the field artillery, a branch of the service that has been closed to the Negro people. "There are no vacancies for colored," was the answer he got.

: Another applied for admission into the U. S. Navy this week in Washington, the capital of this great democracy. He was told that the only place open for Negroes was as mess-hands, that is, as kitchen slavies. He protested, saying, "I was of the impression that the conscription bill, either in fact or in spirit, had changed all this segregation."

"Well," the officer declared, "I don't know what can be done about it. We haven't had any further orders. The conscription bill hasn't changed the situation for us. As far as we're concerned, it's just as if nothing's happened."

And so it goes, up and down the line of the different branches. The marine corps is still lily white. So is the tank corps, the air corps, the artillery, the coast guard, the engineers, the signal corps, etc. Only the infantry, the cavalry, the quartermaster corps, mess hands in the Navy, and to a very limited extent, the medical corps, are open to colored people.

The White House is Unmasked

After a White House conference with Walter White, A. Philip Randolph and T. Arnold Hill, it became clear this week that only white officers will be called in to command colored draftees. Roosevelt was quoted as saying that so far as training colored men as commissioned officers or for the air corps went, plans had not yet been developed.

Colored reserve officers will be called on active duty only to fill vancancies "in units now officered by colored personnel." Since the only units now officered by colored men are the National Guard, this means that drafted men will be placed in separate units under white officers.

"As to the Navy," says the Afro-American "Colonel Knox allegedly stated that while he was sympathetic, he felt that the problem there was almost insoluble since men have to live together on ships, and that 'Southern' and 'Northern' ships are impossible."

If Jim Crow still rules in the enlisted Army, in spite of the fine "anti-discrimination" amendment, how much more will it rule in the drafted army! It becomes clear now that the only reason these amendments were passed was to get the colored people to support the conscription bill, and make them feel things were going to change so far as they were concerned.

... It is now clearer than ever: The fight to end Jim Crowism in the armed forces, the fight to see that colored soldiers have the right to pick their own officers, can be won only as part of the general struggle for trade union control of military training.

* * *

The Army doesn't want colored men to become officers. And it has an unwritten rule that those who do become officers shall not rise higher than the rank of Colonel. And few of those!

The reason is that they don't want colored men in the highest councils where they can see from the inside how the Negro ranks are discriminated against, how it is decided that they are to play mainly two roles: to do the dirty work in the labor battalions, and to be given the most dangerous assignments in active duty.

In 1917, when officers were being promoted, General Jim Crow and his staff decided that Colonel Charles E. Young, highest ranking Negro West Point graduate, was suddenly retired "because he had high blood pressure." The real reason for this move was that an officer who is retired does not have to be promoted, even if he is returned to active duty.

Young rode on a horse all the way from Wilberforce, Ohio, to Washington, to show that he was physically fit-but he was not promoted as all the whites of his rank were. Later on, he was returned to active duty, but only as a colonel, because his "retirement" gave the general staff their necessary excuse not to advance him.

History repeated itself last week. President Roosevelt, who tells how he loves democracy . . . in Europe, appointed 100 white colonels to the grade of brigadier-general over the head of Col. Benjamin O. Davis, commanding officer of the 369th Infantry Regiment, N. Y. These appointments were made by the Commander-in-Chief on the recommendation of the Army.

The only difference is that in 1917 they looked for an "excuse." In 1940 they feel Jim Crow is permanent in the Army, as long as they're in control, and they don't even need excuses to cover tafly.

tiently and later on more bruboundaries. From the Northern learned the lesson that 300 bullets most point of Scandinavia to the are not enough, Siqueiros will use it up.

Workers' Power Alone Can Defeat Fascism

France's Fate Shows That "Democrats" Cannot Lead Fight Against Fascism

By J. GERLAND

(Fourth International Press Service)

Every breed of bourgeois likes to constantly preach morals it is lit up in Prague or in Rot has arrived and it requires men banner. to the workers. The collapse of France furnishes these gentlemen an excellent subject for sermons.

"You see," say some of them, "national defense was compromised by strikes, by the class struggle . . . "

Others, of lesser stature, but no less dangerous because of that, strike another tune: "The French army was swarming with OUR COMRADES WILL LEAD struggle which they have led for war was not our war, so this de-Fascist officers..."-and conclude by calling upon the workers to save bourgeois democracy.

the face of all of Europe contain terrible lessons and menacing struggles against the bourgeoisie and its lackies.

WE NEAR THE END

OF BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY The biggest loser of the war is bourgeois democracy. In the years one defeat after another in the field of diplomacy. With Hitler holding the whip hand, the entire tries the counter-parts of these policy of democratic capitalism' consisted of making concessions and waiting for a better future which never came. In September 1939, England and France could not retreat any further and Hitler of the French workers cries out allowed himself the supreme lux- to their brothers elsewhere. ury of forcing them to declare war on him, under conditions THE GOVERNMENT OF which he chose.

This war was, on both sides, aviation facilities. By 1942, the ler's consent.

soon to unleash its torrents of lead and fire upon its aston'shed

belonged to another epoch. The have been abandoned.

not be prevented, nor the post- pants from him. tions of Fascism shaken, except by means of the proletarian revo-

WHO IS RESPONSABLE FOR FRANCE'S DEFEAT

Since 1934, under the pressure

of the Fascist menace, of the economic crisis and of the general decline of the French empire, a revolutionary crisis was maturing in France. In June 1936, the French workers occupied large numbers of factories. The frightened bourgeoisie remained silent gates of the occupied factories. the policemen would arrive to inquire the number of strikers inside "for statistical purposes"that was what their role was reat suppression would have provoked a gigantic explosion. In waves, the burning breath of the revolution could be sensed passing over he great industrial cities.

But the workers were soon to witness a strange spectacle. While the bosses right on the spot conceded all demands, the workers 'own" leaders, who they themselves had brought to power, were placing restraints on the workers. Leon Blum and the Socialist parliamentarians, Leon Jouhaux and the trade union officialdom and, gesticulating wildly right behind them, Maurice Thorez and the other Stalinist satellites-all formed one big chorus calling for calmness from the workers and for social peace. Before the working class could overcome its astonishment, it found tied around its neck the rope of agreements sign-

Yes, the collapse of France and the advance of Fascism over most bloodless revolutions at that, But the latter must look upon up arms somewhat later, in July. this fremendous experience With a Soviet France, their tri-

changed the face of Europe.

If Europe is now covered with responsible are Blum, Jouhaux, Thorez, and all their colleagues. all those who infected the French working class with false hopes in democracy. The workers of the entire world will easily be able to recognize in their own counsame gentry who, under different names, spread the same paralyzing poison. Learn to liberate yourselves from these traitors in time, that's what the experience

MARSHAL PETAIN

Hitler left a piece of France to merely the continuation of the lead an independent existence. policy carried on until its out- Not that he has any more love break. The great secret of Game- for the French than for the Poles lin and the British General Staff or the Norwegians. He secured was to temporize. By 1941, they for himself all the necessary strafigured, they would have more tegic positions for his struggle against England, the North of factories would have turned out France with its mineral riches enough artillery to make possible and all its coastline. The rest an attack on the Siegfried Line. of France is of no immediate stra-The purchase of material from tegic or economic interest to him. the United States was apportioned His armies swept before them milover a number of years . . . All | Hons of refugees. He left the care these fine projects needed was Hit- of regulating their fate to the first clique of politicians that came While, in the course of the Win- slong. Every day he grants or ter of 1939-1940, the Anglo-French withdraws from the Vichy crowd troops were softened up by inac- whatever he pleases. Petain is tion, the German army was being nothing more than the Gaulester rained in a new and terrible of meridional France. Only he strategy by means of which it was has to bear a certain amount of shame with his job.

.If the struggle with England should be prolonged, Hitler's needs Bourgeois democracy thus prov- will grow from day to day. That ed to be just as impotent in in- is the course which developments ternational war as in the preced- seem to be taking these last few ing "peaceful" struggles. Its weeks. The project of moving the methods, its parties and its men government to Paris appears to very fact that Hitler was able to can no longer pass over the border find conniving support within to the other side of France. France is not a matter of chance, French prisoners of war are sent but one of the clearest symptoms to Germany as factory hands. Toof the decomposition of democ- morrow, if strategic or economic Inside each country Fascism | ler will occupy all of France and | sky's counter-revolutionary activcannot be combated victoriously replace Petain with a German gennow except by means of proleta. eral. How pitiful are the speeches rian arms: workers' militia, the of the French bourgeois who pat- indicate to the public exactly arming of the working class, ac- ter "national" reconstruction and what documents he was looking tive defense which prepares to go prostrate themselves before Hitler over to the offensive, with the and try to get into his good graces seizure of power by the working by imitating him! For more than ments. class as the aim. Likewise, on the three months they have been re-

PERSPECTIVES OF THE COMING MONTHS

The fate of France, of the workers' France, is that of all the peoples of Europe, reduced by Hitler to common servitude. The war is still going on and the armistice will not preserve France from new military involvements.

French campaigns revealed that vers and machine guns. the terrible weapon of the new But to transport thousands of tanks across the seas, with their is not an easy task.

In the Fall, the North Sea and to navigate in the entire world. Fog, which is particularly heavy and frequent in these parts will pretty soon paralyze aviation. It That means, for England, the possibility of mobilizing the resources of her empire, and of receiving a hand from the United States. The war can continue for a long time.

growing misery and despair in Europe, with famine immediately in view. Everywhere national passion will ally itself with revolutionary aspirations in the strug-

Vistula, the sabre of the German | bourgeois democracy and they | today, they alone remain to pre colonel rules' supreme. Whether have fallen with it. A new epoch sent to the workers an unsullied terdam or in Paris, any revolu- in accord with its spirit, fighters | Confusion is not lacking in the tionary explosion will immediate- who know how to conduct a bitter ranks of the working class at the tries far more directly than was end. ever the case before the war.

FRANCE AGAINST FASCISM other times. They grew up with mocrats and the Stalinists. But | Sept. 2, 1940

Jouhaux. These people belong to of the bourgeoisie, the social del tory is assured.

ly be echoed in the other coun- and difficult struggle to its very present moment. The first task of the Bolshevik-Leninists is to The French Bolshevik-Leninists explain patiently what has hapcan lay claim to that role. The pened. Just as the imperialist more than ten years against re- feat is not our defeat. It is a de-In France the military catas- formism and Stalinism has found feat of bourgeois democracy, to trophe immediately marks the complete justification in the most whose fate the treacherous leaders downfall of the traditional party recent events. Our French com- wanted to link the proletariat. It France in 1936-and one of the of democracy, the Radical-Socialist rades raised their voice against is a defeat of a political system Party. On the Right, all sorts of the alliance of the workers' organ- of oppression which no longer ing warnings for the workers. The Spanish workers were to take Fascist adventurers are raising Izations with the Radical-Socialist corresponds to the requirements their heads. But the best they Party, the party of decaying de- of our epoch. The proletariat has can hope for is to become agents mocracy. And it was the support another aim and other methods. from the point of view of their umph in Spain, would have been of the German command. On the of these bankrupt bourgeois poli- Its aim is the overthrow of the class and know how to draw assured. A Workers' France plus. Left, the Socialist Party has aban ticians by the workers' leaders system of capitalist exploitation. from it lessons for their com- a Workers' Spain would have doned every pretense to an inde- which led up to the present ca. Its methods are the methods of pendent existence. The trade un- tastrophe. The Trotskylsts have revolutionary class struggle. It fon leaders have rallied to Petain had to undergo ignoble insuits and is but necessary to apply them the black stains of Fascism, those or disappeared into the void, like incessant persecution at the hands | tirelessly and implacably and vic-

preceding the war, it underwent on the United States, the workers of the ATTORNEY FOR TROTSKY'S WIDOW BLASTS STORY OF GPU ASSASSIN

David Alfaro Sigueiros, the leader of the machine-gun band which attacked Trotsky's home on May 24th, 1940, less than three months before another GPU assassin, "Frank Jacson", was successful in assassinating Trotsky, is now awaiting trial in Mexico City for the first attempt on Trotsky. He was captured after a five months' hunt. Upon his arrest his leading role in the machine-gunning was confirmed by accomplices who have been in jail since June. Unable to deny his complicity, Siqueiros told a weird story to the investigating judge. The following analysis of Siqueiros' "explanation" was issued to the Mexican press by Albert Goldman, who is acting as attorney for Natalia Trotsky.

By ALBERT GOLDMAN

tivities of its agents,

for the May 24 assault on Trotsky is as bad as the story which the GPU created for explaining the murder of Trotsky.

If one is to believe Siqueiros, he transformed himself into a detective overnight. The motive for the May 24 attack, according to Sigueiros, was "to find documents necessities should require it, Hit- in Trotsky's home proving Trotities, nationally and internationally." Siqueiros did not see fit to for and in what part of Trotsky's home he hoped to find these docu-

Now it is well known that there international arena, the war can- ceiving nothing but kicks in the were thousands of documents in huge cases, especially constructed for that purpose, to ship the documents to Harvard University. It took six guards and secretaries feels that not only Trotsky but two days simply to get all the Trotskyists in general are counter- about the amount of money that documents together and to pack them for shipment.

all about the number of documents accordingly. To all appearances Hitler has in the Trotsky home and he also given up the plan of invading knew that he would have to send England before the coming of into the house at least six people one whom he chooses to designate has inexhaustible financial re-Winter. The two adversaries are who knew three or four languages, as a counter-revolutionary is there-sources, like the GPU. exhausting each other with avia- who could spend two or three days and went into hiding. At the tion duels. But aviation in itself in examining all the documents does not decide anything, if it in order to find the ones that he cannot be accompanied with ter- wanted. But the evidence shows ritorial advance. The Polish and that he only sent men with revol-

The most peculiar thing about duced to! The slightest attempt strategy consisted of the combination this alleged search for documents tion of the airplane and the tank. was that none of the people armed with machine guns and revolvers touched a single document. essential supplies and munitions On the contrary, they threw incendiary bombs in order to destroy the documents. Of course the Channel are the worst waters | Siqueiros claims that the people who got inside did not do a very good fob, but it is peculiar, to say the least, that they did not indicate the slightest desire to looks like a second year of war! | find any kind of documents. They did indicate a great desire to kill

people and to destroy documents Is it possible that Sigueiros will constantly more abundant helping claim that the gangsters kidnapped Sheldon Harte, Trotsky's secretary, in order to get documents? There are indications in In that case, it would mean his testimony that he will try to accuse Sheldon Harte of being an accomplice of his, even though

Sheldon Harte was murdered. When the Judge very astutely ed by the bosses, the trade union gle against Hitler. Revolts are asked Siqueiros whether it releaders and the government. In inevitable. In the coming strug- quired 300 or more bullets in orthe course of the months that fol- gles the workers will appear as der to find documents, he nonlowed the bourgeoisie took back the most resolute elements and chalantly replied that it "depends in parcels what it had been forced they will give the fighting a class upon circumstances." We presto grant in bulk, at first quite pa- content. Hitler has wiped out the ume that the next time, having The revolution was possible in Pyrenees, from Brittony to the at least several thousand bullets.

We can expect that from now | by doomed to death at his hands, on the friends and defendants of and the same of course applies the GPU, who once upon a time to his friends whose opinions so energetically propagated the coincide with those of Siqueiros. theory of "self-assault", will grab TRIES TO SHIELD GUILT hold of this new theory—that the OF THE C. P. AND GPU attack was made in order to discover documents of "counter-revolutionary" activity.

FOR MACHINE-GUNNING

revolutionist?"

organizing cowardly murders, but these books is a counter-revolu-

sky proposed to him that he go Franco. to Russia and kill Stalin. At any

Sigueiros claims to be a revolutionist. Siqueiros also, no doubt,

against counter-revolutionists. We prevent him from doing everyshall at this time not ask the question: "What right has a gang. and the GPU told him to do. ster and murderer to assume the role of a revolutionist?" We shall ist Party line very closely is confine our questions simply to known to everybody, and he adthis: "How did Siqueiros con mits it. His attempt to create clude that Trotsky was a counter- tactical differences between him-

It is very significant that Si. falls flat, in view of the fact that queiros did not take the trouble he never wrote about these tacto mention which of Trotsky's tical differences and no one ever books he read, and which one of knew about them until his arrest. it is not at all skillful in creating tionary work. Nor did he men- GPU agent, he naively states that stories to explain the criminal ac- tion having read a single article in Spain he was too busy fightthat Trotsky wrote. "It is a safe ing to be a GPU agent." We do The story which Siqueiros guess that Siqueiros did not read not know how much fighting Siwants us to believe in explanation a single book nor a single article queiros actually did. The fact is written by Trotsky, and that his that all the GPU "Colonels" came view to the effect that Trotsky out alive from Spain, and it is a was a counter-revolutionist sim- fact that one of the principal reaply comes from the GPU, the or sons for the defeat of the Loyalist ganization that Siqueiros is so Army was the kind of fighting anxious to defend and at the same that "Colonels" like Siqueiros time to disassociate himself from. participated in while in Spain. It would be exceedingly wise Their main fighting was not

the Communist Party and the GPU is evident in almost every SIQUEIROS' 'JUSTIFICATION' sentence that he utters. He plays up the fact that he was expelled Siqueiros presumes to justify from the Communist Party in the assault on the ground that it | 1929, as if such an expulsion, aswas an act of revolutionists suming it to be a fact, would thing that the Communist Party That he followed the Commun-

Judge exactly what Trotsky wrote the revolutionary workers who tions with Trotsky in which Trot- ceeded in gaining a victory for

Siqueiros' anxiety to white-wash

self and the Communist Party for Siqueiros to indicate to the against the Fascists, but against that can be considered counter- were anxious to defeat fascism. revolutionary. Perhaps Siqueiros, Hundreds of revolutionary worklike the assassin Jacson, will ers were killed by the GPU in claim that he had secret conversa- Spain. The GPU "Colonels" suc-

The testimony of all his accomwas hanged. rate let Siqueiros indicate exactly plices makes it impossible for Siwhat Trotsky said or what Trot- queiros to crawl out of responsi sky wrote so that the Mexican bility for the May 24th attack people and all others can judge and for the murder of Sheldon the Trotsky home. It took six for themselves whether or not Harte. Nor will be succeed in Trotsky is a counter-revolutionist, convincing any intelligent person who doesn't take orders from dently of the GPU. His boasting revolutionists. He also claims he "could make" (and not what that to kill anyone he designates he did make) will not convince If Siqueiros was such a good as a counter-revolutionist is a po- anybody that the financing of detective, he undoubtedly knew litical act and should be judged such an expensive attempt as the one made on May 24 was the work It is obvious that if Siqueiros of one individual. It could only is permitted to go free, then every- be done by an organization that

John Brown's Ideas Go Marching On

By J. INGRAM

October 16, 1940, the date set by the ruling. class of this country for the registration of the conscript army, is the 81st anniversary of John Brown's attack upon the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Va., on October 16, 1859!

John Brown's plan was to arouse and arm the slaves and lead them in the struggle for freedom. His attempt was foredoomed because he failed to prepare and properly organize the slaves in advance of his uprising, so that only a handful

Though he was unsuccessful and paid with his life for it, his audacity set into motion the imagination, will and energy which finally attained the freedom of the slaves, broke the backbone of the Southern slavocracy, and brought us a step closer to the complete emancipation of the working class of the world.

He first struck a blow against slavery on the plains of Kansas. In the Spring of 1855, he had sent his sons there to settle and help win the territory for the free-soil party. In May, his son and namesake sent the following appeal to Old John Brown: "While the interest of despotism has secured to its cause hundreds and thousands of the meanest and most desperate of men, armed to the teeth . . . , the friends of freedom are not one-fourth of them- half armed," with the result "that the people here exhibit the most abject and cowardly spirit ... We propose ... that the antislavery portion of the inhabitants should immediately, thoroughly arm and organize themselves in military companies . . . "

Without hesitation John Brown set about securing military supplies and in August left Chicago with a wagon-load of guns and ammunition. Shortly after his arrival he was elected captain of the anti-slavery forces and led them in bloody reprisals on the pro-slavery, sympathizers. In a short time the mere mention of his name struck fear into the hearts of the slave-owners, and inspired the forces of freedom.

The struggles of the next year, resulting in the pillaging and burning of the settlement of Ossawatamie, saw Brown's son killed, his forces beaten and scattered. Thereafter, Brown and his band were outlaws, living on the run, launching sudden raids on the pro-slavery forces. He continued this guerilla warfare until Kansas was "pacified" by the Federal troops,

For the next two years John Brown shuttled back and forth between Kansas and the East, seeking support for the struggle to make Kansas a free state. But under the conditions of armed neutrality, there was not much room in Kansas-

He reverted to his long cherished scheme of mountain warfare in the Southern states. He supposed that he could hide in the mountains, make raids on the plantations, inspiring the slaves to rise up and join him. Then they would form a new free state in the mountains, composed of Negroes and whites.

Early in the summer of 1859, he rented a farm near Harper's Ferry, collected his men there and prepared the attack. He felt that arms were needed, that he could seize them, distribute them

to the slaves nearby, and spread, the struggle. They seized the armory, took a few prisoners, aroused some of the slaves, and then they were surrounded by companies of militia and marines headed by Robert E. Lee. After a fierce battle, in which two more of Brown's sons were killed, they were overpowered. On December 2, Brown

FREEDOM MUST BE FOUGHT FOR

John Brown's great place in American history rests on the fact that in addition to recognizing the necessity of emancipation, as did many others, he alone at that time saw the general road it would have to take, and was willing to take it. It was he who taught that those who want freedom have to fight for it arms in hand,

He knew that he had to organize, gather men and materials around his ideas. He spent his life doing this, under immense personal hardships, talking, exhorting, opening schools for slaves, assisting in the work of the "underground railroad," giving all of his tremendous energy and singleness of purpose to the cause.

He knew also that you need more than enthusiasm and well-wishing to meet the guns of the slaveholders. He gathered fighters around him and trained them in the military arts, he taught the free settlements to form their defense guards. He knew this when he organized the League of Gileadites whose purpose was "to band Negroes together, teach them to advance their own interests, and resist their pursuers." He understood this when he ordered a thousand pikes to be made, to arm the slaves for his invasion of the South. And in spite of his mistakes at Harper's Ferry, his aim of arming the slaves was fundamentally the correct one.

There is still much that we can learn today from Old John Brown, just as there is much we can learn from his mistakes. For it is as true today as it was \$1 years ago that those who want freedom must be prepared to fight for it.

Workers of all races take inspiration from the heroism of John Brown. In the same way that he surveyed the situation in his day, and on the basis of the concrete line-up of forces decided that the next stage in the struggle was to be with arms, we must today look about us and decide what our tasks are,

The best way to honor John Brown's memory today is by joining the fight for trade union control of military training. Conscription is a law, and as a result, the oppressed and exploited of our times will learn how to use guns, will learn how to defend themselves against their enemies. Just as John Brown, and after him the slaves during the Civil War, did not shrink back from the struggle, we too must take our place among

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