

The Negro Struggle

By ALBERT PARKER

We urge our readers to pay particular attention to the articles in this and past issues of the Socialist Appeal...

A number of these sailors are already in grave danger. To their aid have rallied sailors from other ships who are speaking up in their defense...

It is our duty on the outside to widely publicize the facts they have bared, to defend them from punishment by mass pressure and meetings...

INTO THE WASTE BASKET

Last Wednesday we threw into the waste-basket a lot of clippings, some of them a full page in size, from several Negro newspapers...

We had saved them just on the chance that Willie might be elected. In that case we were going to use them in comparing his record from week-to-week with his promises.

Because, you see, Willie was not stingy in this campaign in his promises to the Negroes. Realizing how important the Negro vote was...

Lynching? No one looks at it with more condemnation than he does, he said, and furthermore, something should be done about it.

Jim Crowism? He was against it, he said. If he was elected, he would put an end to it. Yes, he said, he would even fire any of his subordinates...

Segregation in the armed forces? He didn't see any reason for it, he said.

Job discrimination? He didn't like that either. And if he was elected, he would see to it that colored men would have equal opportunity to get jobs in private industry.

Unemployment? Of course he was against that too. Just elect him and he would do away with it, and put everybody to work.

Relief? He promised to do away with "the theory that relief is a Negro reservation." He said he would abolish discrimination in its administration and continue it for those who couldn't get gainful employment.

These were the promises he made when he was speaking to colored audiences. Of course, he did not say these things when he was speaking in the south, as at Amarillo, Texas.

Nor did he explain why it was that in the utility industries, where he is already "elected," he has never done anything to wipe out the Jim Crow hiring policies, which either exclude colored workers completely or confine them to common labor.

Nor did he comment on the fact that the promises and general remarks he made now were made pretty much word for word by the Democrats in 1932 and 1936.

Nor did he spend much time explaining why the Republicans when they controlled Congress completely in 1921-22 killed the Anti-Lynch Bill in exactly the same way that the Democrats who completely controlled Congress have been killing it ever since 1937.

Nor did he say much about the right to vote, although he talked a lot about equality, and he did not at all take up the question of how the Republicans have helped the Democrats kill the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill this last year.

But those who were able to, voted, and settled the question. So we threw all these promises in the waste-basket, in the same way Willie would have thrown them in the waste-basket if he was elected, and in the same way that the Democrats have thrown theirs now that they have been elected.

POLL TAXES HIT BOTH

The poll tax laws in operation in eight Southern states kept ten million people from voting in the presidential election last week.

This, says the Afro-American, was in addition to some five million residents barred from the polls by sheer intimidation.

These poll tax laws, originally passed to insure lily-white elections and to keep Negroes from exerting any political influence in Southern politics, today serve to disfranchise all workers, white as well as colored.

Most white workers in these states can't vote there either, because they can't pay the taxes, which range from \$1 to \$3. In some states these taxes are cumulative, that is, even workers who paid their taxes this year were not permitted to vote unless they paid up all their back poll taxes, from the time they were 21 years old and on.

The result is that while almost 60% of the adults in the rest of the country participate in the elections, in these eight Southern states only about 10% can enter the voting booths. And these 10% represent the ruling class, of course. The whole thing is the best possible proof of our contention that laws aimed against the Negro people inevitably hit and hurt the working class as a whole.

War Orders Policy Hit

WAR CRISIS BRINGS FDR INTERVENTION...

(Continued from Page 1)

of Wall Street, including the bloody puppet dictators, applaud the military moves of Washington and assure the world that it won't make any difference in the democracy of the countries they govern with machine gun and back stabbing.

In view of Washington's "acceptance" of British ports to be used as naval bases on the approaches to South America, virtually all the Latin American countries have "reached an understanding" with Washington by which US forces would be able to use air and naval bases on their soil.

HOLDS OUT FOR DOUGH

Argentina, still the boldest of the countries south of the Rio Grande, might ask for a "loan" of as much as \$100,000,000. Before Roosevelt's winning the third term, Argentina had opposed many of Washington's moves.

In Buenos Aires a diplomatic source predicted that Bolivia will give up its tin ore to the US, that a transcontinental military railway might be routed through Bolivia, and that settlement of expropriation of Standard Oil will be speedily considered in view of the fact the election is over.

Roosevelt's legal experts are now puzzling out a plausible pretext to take over the French possessions in the Western hemisphere. In view of the switch the French bourgeoisie made into the orbit of the Germany bourgeoisie, they hope perhaps to construe provisions in the Monroe Doctrine to fit the case.

Four days after the election the State Department moved in on Mexico with a diplomatic request for "leases" of Mexican ports for military bases, the rent to be turned over to American capitalists whose ill-gotten land has been expropriated by the Mexican government.

Oehlerite Paper Arbitrarily Banned By Authorities

A move in the direction of suppressing workers' anti-war papers was taken with the barring from the mails of the October 15 issue of the Fighting Worker, organ of the Revolutionary Workers League (Oehlerites).

In Buffalo buy the APPEAL at newstands: N.E. Corner Franklin & Chippewa S.E. Corner Main & Chippewa S.E. Corner Main & Genesee

721 AFL Officials Protest Contracts To NLRA Violators

NEW YORK, Nov. 6.—A petition signed by 721 officers of local AFL unions here urging President Roosevelt to issue an "Executive Order directing that all contracts for government purchases contain a stipulation that the contractor shall not be in violation of any provision of federal labor legislation" was mailed October 28 to Roosevelt and Defense Commissioner Hillman.

The petition is one indication of the growing realization of the labor movement of the extreme danger to union conditions that will result from the government's announced policy of awarding war contracts to corporations regardless of the fact that these corporations are in violation of the federal labor laws.

The petition was initiated on Oct. 11, shortly after Atty. Gen. Jackson and Commissioner Hillman had reversed their declared policy that war orders would not be given labor law violators, in their testimony before the Smith Committee Investigating the National Labor Relations Board.

"Why?" Query Draftees As They File Past

By LEWM (Editorial Note: The following report was written by one of the women employed to register men eligible for the draft. Her impressions of the reaction of the registrants reflect not only what occurred in the local board in which she was employed but in every board throughout the country.)

I saw and helped to register hundreds of them. The leaders, so they called them, of tomorrow. The cream of the crop, and the hope of the future. The syndicate newspapers had given them a fine send off. They were getting ready to defend democracy; but what lies behind that smoke screen of patriotism and allegiance for these young cannon stoppers?

One lad took up a few of my busy minutes explaining why he didn't want to register and why he had to. Another asked me, "What is democracy anyhow?" He said that his dad had fought for it and died a pauper.

I wanted to define the true meaning of American democracy; but this was not the time or place. So I registered the next lad while

A weakness of the petition was its complete failure to recognize and state that the present policy is Roosevelt's and Hillman's. It simply "respectfully urges" Roosevelt to do something about "this disgraceful condition."

There has been no direct reply on the matter from the administration, except the awarding today of a \$122,000,000 plane contract to the greatest open-shopper of all, Henry Ford.

Avoiding Class I-A

NEW YORK—A recent issue of the New York Times carried the following advertisement of a realtor:

A Call to Arms is A Call to Farms In peace or war, your son may serve his country as patriotically in the corn fields as on the battlefields, and, incidentally, life close to nature is always sweet.

In a democracy like the United States, the unemployed of course have equal opportunity with the rich of buying a \$10,000 farm so that their sons can find employment in an essential industry and thus avoid Class I-A.

LEON TROTSKY



Fourth International Trotsky Article

The november issue of FOURTH INTERNATIONAL, the monthly magazine of the Socialist Workers Party, will soon be off the press. It will feature an article by Leon Trotsky, "The Comintern and the GPU."

This is the article which Comrade Trotsky finished but a few days before his assassination and which he intended as a juridical document for the Mexican court in relation to the machine gun assault upon his bedroom May 24.

Don't miss getting your copy of the November issue of FOURTH INTERNATIONAL, containing this last article to be completed by Trotsky.

Long Time No See!

NEW YORK, Nov. 9.—A city-wide shakedown racket that apparently has cost elevator companies millions of dollars in the last 30 years was brought to light yesterday with the suspension of 26 inspectors in the municipal Department of Housing and Buildings.

That this racket was not known to city officials for thirty years is as likely as the story of the man about town who married a chorus girl and five years later asked for a divorce on the grounds he had just discovered she had a wooden leg.

TROTSKY MEMORIAL FUND

Table with columns: Branch, Quota, Amount paid, %. Lists contributions from New York, Flint, Chicago, Toledo, Allentown, New Haven, and Buffalo.

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TOTALS \$3442.00 \$828.57 24% Omaha and Rochester branches have not made pledges up to date.

NEGRO SAILORS STILL JAILED IN BRIG...

(Continued from page 1)

get because the officers want us there to serve them...

TIME TO WAKE UP

And the letter ends: "We are not trying to stir up strife, hatred or discontent, we are only trying to tell our people that it is time to wake up and go to the front and demand what we so justly deserve. We have slept long enough. Now is the time for more action and less talk!"

As the Courier points out: "Col. Benjamin O. Davis has been made a general in the United States Army, but that means nothing. Judge William Hastie has been named a civilian aide to the Secretary of War, but that means nothing. Major Campbell Johnson has been made executive assistant to the director of selective service, but that means nothing. THE UNITED STATES NAVY STILL ABUSES, RESTRICTS AND JIM CROWS BLACK BOYS!"

END THEIR CONTROL

That's true and it will continue to abuse, restrict and Jim Crow them as long as the Negro-hating, labor-hating generals and admirals continue to control military and naval training!

One Negro general, colored assistants and aides can do nothing as long as the military caste controls things. Let us, in addition to defending these boys, take a page from their heroic books and carry to a finish the fight for workers' control of military and naval training!

Join The Army To Learn a Trade

For those individuals who may have been impressed by the slogans on the recruiting posters and newspaper editorials emphasizing the opportunities to learn a trade in the Army we quote the following from an editorial in the Army and Navy Register of November 2:

"In painting the picture of universal military training many sections of the American press are prone to stress the idea that the draftee will have an opportunity for training in skills which will be useful to them and may serve to help them into jobs when they return to civil life at the end of their year's training. Such may be the case with a minor portion of the great draftee army—those young men who are assigned to the motorized or mechanical units and those who draw the maintenance outfits of the Air Corps—but it probably will not be the case with the great mass of draftees who are to take their place in the line of the Army."

Join the Socialist Workers Party

Recruiters Wax Poetic In Film Blurb

The higher things of life, art and all that, are not neglected in the Army. We were pleasantly surprised to find a cultured review of a newly released Warner Bros.' cinematic gem in the November Recruiting News, official house organ of the Recruiting Publicity Bureau, U. S. Army. In several thousand glowing words, the review describes the half-hour special feature techni-color Service With The Colors. We will let the masterly review speak for itself, merely high-lighting in bolder type the more exquisite phrases.

A RECRUITING DEVICE

"The film, frankly a recruiting exploitive made in the interests of National Defense by the public-spirited Warner Brothers," begins the review, "features a simple but interesting little plot." Accent on the "simple."

The plot involves two young civilians, "one from a typical American home of comfort, the other a youth in reduced circumstances and almost ready to go on relief."

Tom, the son of this "typical" prosperous family, hears an Army recruiting program on the radio and is "inspired to enlist." His whole family immediately approve and this "fine, clean-cut youngster marches voluntarily off to the recruiting station."

FOR AN ASSURED INCOME

The scene switches to Charley, "the unemployed, down-on-his luck youth" who "shuffles" past a San Francisco recruiting station. An Army canvasser tries to sell him a bill of goods.

"One can see that Charley is not much impressed by the recruiting sergeant's" line of gab; "what appeals to Charley is the prospect of having some assured income, no matter how small, good food regularly, and a clean place in which to sleep."

Charley finally gets towed in and is sworn in with a group which includes "the starry-eyed Tom."—"All dope does that."

Tom, a scion of the "better" classes, "as is to be expected, pays close attention to everything told to him by the drill sergeant, and even studies Infantry Drill Regulations in his off moments." Of course, this makes him just too popular with the rest of his "buddies"—in his "off" moments.

EVEN BUMS CIGARETTES

But Charley, who comes from a "non-typical" poor family, is simply terrible, "talks back to the sergeant," n'everything. He tried "to 'bum a smoke' from a smart-looking gentleman in civilian clothes," who happens to be the regimental colonel.

The colonel, incidentally, true to the 'officer and gentleman' tradition, smilingly hands the uninhibited recruit his package of cigarettes and engages him in friendly, casual conversation "until the sergeant comes up to haul the offender into line. We remind our readers this is an Army colonel, not a Boy Scout captain."

SKULKS IN WOODS

Charley goes from bad to worse, and finally tries to desert, while he is "skulking" through a near-by woods, he encounters a radio detail led by Tom behind a huge pile of heavy lumber. At this point, Fate Knocks on the Door!

A heavy truck is about to back into the log heap behind which are the men of the radio detail. Charley, forgetting self, rushes from the bushes shouting a warning to the men, who spring to safety. But poor Charley is himself buried under the pile of logs.

ROSE BUDS AND SERGEANTS

Getting bumped on the bean by a couple of tons of lumber miraculously turns Charley into a "good soldier." "There follows a scene—the one false note in the film—"of the hard-boiled sergeant bringing—of all things!—a bouquet of flowers to the blushing Charley." I can't go on, boys! I'm all choked up.)

But while Charley has redeemed himself unofficially, he still must receive his official punishment for attempted desertion. He is brought, as soon as he recovers, before the colonel, "humane and understanding," who explains "in kindly, fatherly" fashion the "proud records of the fine regiment."

Contrite Charley "bucks" up, cries he has been an "utter fool" and takes his punishment—you guessed it—"like a man." The wind-up scene shows "Tom carrying the National Colors and marching along proudly beside him and carrying the regimental colors, Charley."

WALL STREET THEME SONG

The review concludes, "...Throughout the... film the song... 'Them—Now—Forever,' which was inspired by the Recruiting Publicity Bureau poster, is used as the musical motif (original emphasis, my dear,) always modulated and under-toned to good effect." Nothing to remind us of anything so loud and vulgar as a drill sergeant dressing down a private—or an artillery barrage. Blah! Now there's even talk of putting lace curtains in the Army tents!

HORROR ITEM

The War Department's opposition to censorship was voiced by Lieutenant Colonel Stanley J. Grogan of the general staff press section who said that military officials "believed the press would cooperate voluntarily with authorities in such a way as to make censorship unnecessary." Yep, you cannot hope to bribe or twist, thank God, our noble journalist; but seeing what he'll do unbribed, why, there's a seldom an occasion to.

Henry A. Wallace, speaking at San Francisco, said Latin America never before had so much faith in the United States.