

The Negro Struggle

By ALBERT PARKER

The Hampton Institute Conference

Roosevelt blessed the Hampton Institute Conference on the Participation of the Negro in National Defense... The resolution is weak. It fails to demand an end to the "separate regiment" policy of the Army...

(Next week: The Courier Conference)

Stalin Extends His Compulsory Labor Laws

Technicians, Stakhanovists No Longer Free To Choose Their Place Of Employment

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

Sunday, October 20, will be remembered as Black Sunday by the entire Soviet technical and administrative personnel... The June 26 laws had been extended to apply to them!

TEXT OF THIS CRIM UKASE

Or it may be that comment was really superfluous. The ukase speaks for itself, curtly and to the point. The preamble reads: "The task of assuring competent cadres in new factories, plants, shafts, mines, construction projects..."

Article I of the ukase lists those affected: "Engineers, constructors, technicians, master-workers (foremen), draftsmen, bookkeepers, economists, accountants, employees in the finance and plan departments..."

1940 all short-term labor agreements" and empowers the authorities to "retain the above-specified engineers, employees and skilled workers in those enterprises and institutions in which they are now working on a contract basis." "At the same time," PRAVDA continues with its murderous self-indictment, "there is a surplus of engineers and technical workers in many old enterprises..."

WHY STALIN USES COMPULSION

Up to now, explains the editorial, very little success has been attained in "transferring engineers, employees and skilled workers in adequate numbers from one enterprise to another. A section of the workers has shown no concern for the interests of the state and has refused to transfer..."

other enterprises, especially in Siberia, in the East." The stress placed by the Kremlin on the Far East is unquestionably connected with feverish war preparations. "At the same time," PRAVDA continues with its murderous self-indictment, "there is a surplus of engineers and technical workers in many old enterprises..."

"ENORMOUS" NUMBERS AFFECTED

While the exact number of those slated for transfer from the centers to the provinces cannot be computed, it obviously runs into hundreds of thousands. Approximately one-half of those now in the "old enterprises" must be shifted to correct the officially acknowledged disproportion. Unable to blame the regime itself for this catastrophic condition, Pravda, nonetheless, brazenly enough, fixes the blame in part on the June 26th laws: "Prior to the June 26 Ukase... when there used to exist an ENORMOUS TURNOVER OF LABOR IN INDUSTRY..."

center. The vanquished will either go to jail, or to the Kuzbas, the Urals, Siberia, and all points East, all expenses paid. It is too early to predict the course that the conflict between these discontented lower layers and the capricious irremovable tops will take. Sections closest to the workers may quickly feel the impulsion to draw nearer to the mass. But between the mass and the main tiers of the technical and administrative machine there still remains an enormous gulf...

BACKED BY NEW FRAMEUP TRIALS

Within four days of the publication of the October 19 ukase, Stalin, in order to keep the conflict from reaching dangerous proportions, and to curb the discontent, has been forced to apply his sharpest methods: frame-up trials. And with them has been revived the threat of another blood-bath. On October 24, the Soviet press began featuring day by day the trial of three defendants in the Moscow City Court. All three defendants are technicians. This establishes the audience for whose particular benefit the frame-up is staged. The GPU gets explicit orders on such items. A. D. Mityasov, the first defendant, is described as "former head of the Central Directing Bureau of ferrous metallurgy of the South and the Center"; T. P. Pervushina, a woman, is "an engineer-geologist"; and the third defendant, A. I. Karpushin—"an engineer employed by the Leningrad Institute Mekhanobor." All three are charged with being members of a "wrecking crew of slanderers who not only traduced honest Communists but took under their protection acknowledged enemies of the people." All three of course confessed. (Pravda, October 24, 25, 26).

A NEW WITCH-HUNT BEGINS

The purpose of this frame-up really lies in the "confession" of the defendants that they shielded "enemies of the people"; in particular, a woman Trotskyite, D., who was exposed by the Leningrad party organization. "How are we to explain the fact that you took upon yourself the defense of D.?" the defendant is asked by Prosecutor Khabarov. "It was my mistake," softly answered Pervushina. (Pravda, October 26, our emphasis.)

BATTLE FOR PRIVILEGES

Within the lower ranks a muffled nationwide battle is now raging: Those in the provinces are pitted against those in the centers, engineer is pitted against engineer, Stakhanovist against Stakhanovist, one white-collar functionary against another, and so on down the bureaucratic ladder. The methods and weapons utilized in such a struggle transcended description. The arena of combat extends into the ranks of the party, for a great number of the combatants whose vital interests are affected by the ukase are party members, together with their wives and relatives, and hold various party posts. Those able to exert special pull will remain with the fleshpots in

Camacho vs. Almazan: Tempest in Teacup

Stalinists Deliberately Deceived the Masses in Supporting Camacho

By G. MUNIS

MEXICO, D. F.—During the election campaign the Stalin-Toledano heralds proclaimed at the top of their lungs the revolutionary character of Camacho as opposed to the reactionary Almazan. The whole weight of propaganda, discipline and coercion which the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) bureaucracy could dispose of was put at the service of the "candidate of the revolution." The Trotskyists, too weak to nominate a candidate of their own, declined, nevertheless, to endorse either of the candidates. Basically, both candidates had a bourgeois character and the two also lacked a program, even a minimum one, which could guarantee the conquests of the workers and peasants.

They can be summarized thus: Fatherland, religion, order, and property. And in order to give point to his remarks, he started to go publicly to mass, no doubt to praise God and the souls of the Stalinists and Toledanists who brought him victory. The reactionary nature of the new policy announced by the "candidate of the people" is so marked that the president of the Almazanist party hastened to proclaim his own and his party's support of Camacho. Twenty-four hours later he recited his somewhat stunning words, but this correction as well as the previous grandiloquent threats of Almazan does not mean that political differences exist; it is a letter of exchange for greater political concessions and higher public posts. Almazan had died as unnecessary. The flag of reaction has passed without any transition or grave convulsions from the hands of one to those of the other. Some armed hands that rose against the government acted without coordination and have surrendered to the forces of the army. Almazan never solidarized himself with them. Finally, the arrival of Almazan in the capital excludes all possibility of struggle and his declarations recognize Camacho as the leader of Almazanism. The Trotskyists were completely right: between the two candidates no fundamental differences existed. Lombardo Toledano and the Stalinists, by their unconditional support of Camacho, have deceived the masses. The Stalinists and Toledanists cannot say they were

deceived. They "neglected" to give the working class a candidate of their own when the least grasp of politics foresaw that Camacho hoped to accomplish a swing to the right. But the CTM bureaucracy cannot adopt an independent policy without running the risk of unloosing a real revolutionary movement. The blinding of the masses was necessary in order to preserve the interests of this bureaucracy. The collusion between Camacho and the reactionary forces of the country is beyond doubt. With rancorous glee, the conservative cabal prepares to use its forces and carry out different projects. Renewal of the upper democratic hierarchies of the government, distribution of ministries and secretariats, new selection of the diplomatic corps, protection of capital, free hand for imperialism, restriction if not suppression of the right to strike, and in draconian measures against the most elementary needs of the working class. Will Avila Camacho succeed in accomplishing his reactionary aims with the aid of the same bureaucratic satellites who surrounded Cardenas, that is to say, the Party of the Mexican Revolution and the Confederation of Mexican Workers dominated by Lombardo Toledano and the Stalinists? The strata of the PRM who hold the important state posts will not oppose Camacho's desires. From the moment Camacho expressed contrition before the altar for his abominable revolutionary delirium, many of those who yesterday were frightened by their own "ad-

vanced" ideas, have discovered in the bottom of their hearts a hidden religious faith. Catholicism conquers new and unsuspecting proselytes. The heterogeneous class composition and the lack of ideology of the so-called Party of the Mexican Revolution converts it into a docile instrument in the hands of any fraction of the Mexican bourgeoisie. A few changes to more trustworthy men will suffice to accomplish the course to the right without any fundamental changes. However, it is probable that Camacho will dissolve the PRM and form another party which the Almazanists would be invited to join. This reaction would feel more satisfied and the Almazanists would have greater access to governmental posts. In either case, the social base of the PRM will adapt itself completely to the interests of the reactionary bourgeoisie. For their part, neither the leaders of the CTM nor the Stalinists have dared to raise a single objection to Camacho's remarks. As far as the future is concerned, they only hope to retain their posts. They even offer their services to the president-elect to allow them to subdue workers who might have the courage to protest. The Mexican press has spoken of substituting in place of Toledano in the leadership of the CTM, Fidel Velazquez, a secondary figure who won't mind displacing his boss. As a whole, the corrupt bureaucracy of the CTM will be perfectly submissive. But the proletariat grouped in this trade union center will learn with this experience the reactionary character of their leaders, and the policy of Camacho will awaken, sooner or later, a new trade union movement, more independent, democratic and healthy. The Communist Party appears ready to purchase tolerance at the price of silence. Their press and pamphlets, formerly sold on almost every newstand in the capital, have already almost completely disappeared. The printing press which ran them off has been sold. The rare copies which once came across call upon "believers and non-believers" to support the "progressive policy" of the government. One gets the impression that the C. P. will renounce all and devote itself to activity, more apparent than real, with the purpose of conserving legality. The legality the C. P. wants is a relative legality and freedom of action for GPU agents who pollulate like ants in Mexico. Politically Stalin doesn't expect anything from the C. P. of Mexico. But as a GPU base of operations it is absolutely indispensable for him. To permit this, the C. P. will invent any "progressive" pretexts which will allow it to exist and support Camacho. Thus the struggle between Avila Camacho and Almazan which started with harangues in irreconcilable opposition to each other, and which gave the faint-hearted chills of civil-war, resolved itself miserably like a storm in a teacup, and of course, at the expense of the workers and peasants. November 28, 1940

British Workers Carry War Load

The British ruling class finds it hard to understand why it should spend money on providing adequate air-raid shelters for the teeming masses of London. One group of advisers to the ruling class, the "socialist" patriots who form the "left wing" of the British Labor Party, undertook in a recent issue (October 4) of their weekly, The Tribune, to explain to their betters why this task was so urgently necessary. Some revealing details turn up: "We had been told that the defenses of London were completed, and sufficient arrangements had been made for the sheltering of the homeless or undefended. It was a lie; and the victims are angry. Now, the Labour members are, if they are anything, the protectors of the workers. Do they reflect, this anger? If you know what that anger is, you will answer NO at once." "The outcome of the war may well depend on the speed and efficiency with which the Special Commissioner Willink is able to tackle the problem. Unless this is done successfully the spirit of Londoners may move through sullen resentment to an open refusal to accept the sacrifices necessary for victory." "The desires of the people are very reasonable. They are the provision of shelter accommodation, of a type giving more protection than the surface shelter, that will allow them to lie down and sleep at night in an atmosphere that is not dangerously unhealthy, and is not rank with the stink of human excreta." "I wonder if Mr. Churchill is aware that, in spite of all the talk, there is no scheme at all for the removal of old people or invalids from London? There is no evacuation scheme for mothers with children of school age who want to leave London, unless they live in a few specially selected areas, or can find their own billets. Very few London working-class women can do this, so they and their children are forced to remain in London and swell the nightly casualty lists."