

Dr. and Mrs. Yergan Sends Thanks

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Fuller are the recipients of a letter from Dr. and Mrs. Max Yergan telling of their safe arrival in New York after a brief stop-over in Guatemala; and thanking them for "the fullness of the hospitality and the warmth of the kindness and friendship" extended not only to them but to Mr. Robeson and Mr. Brown. "That part of our stay there," con-

tinues the letter, "will always remind us of the delightful, interesting and rewarding visit which we made to Panama."

The Yergans, reminded of their other friends here, conclude, "we wish also to express our appreciation to all of the others who contributed to the pleasure of our stay there. We shall be grateful to you if you make this known to them."

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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it takes great pleasure in reproducing excerpts from the trenchant pen of this capable young writer.

"-----Tommy Richardson took me to see Abraham Flaxer.... from my close-up on matters at this end the legislative work of the Union is something tremendous. Only the alertness of the C.I.O. legislative expert in the Capital saved—at least temporarily—the Civil Service Bill from being doomed. The opposition had worked out a strategy whereby no appropriations would be granted for payment of work performed by non-Americans. This innocent bit of wording was dynamite-laden and would have caused a terrific explosion among the people back on the Canal Zone."

NEW YORK.—Commenting on the organization of the vast army of non-American workers employed on the Panama Canal Zone, George W. Westerman, Panamanian writer and promoter of cultural activities who arrived in New York two weeks ago, stated that "after several attempts to gain affiliation with the AFL had failed, the employees of the Federal Government on the Canal Zone known as "silver" workers, became affiliated with the CIO last July."

This organization, he declared, speedily changed the economic and social policies of the Canal Zone Government towards more than 35,000 non-American citizens, over 75 per cent of whom were citizens of the Republic of Panama, but it was long overdue. Almost every progressive act undertaken on behalf of these employees had for more than a decade been bitterly and often successfully opposed by the Canal Central Labor Union of the AFL.

HITS CZCLU

He mentioned that the CZCLU, a small group of bigoted and selfishly disposed white Americans, had waged so relentless a fight against the general improvement in the working, housing and educational facilities being extended to the so-called "silver" workers, that the advent of the CIO on the Isthmus of Panama was hailed as the dawning of a new day for the future of these underprivileged tropical employes.

The following were cited as gains of the CIO: (1) union recognition from the Panama Canal, U.S. Army and Navy; (2) establishment of a grievance procedure ensuring enormously increased degree of democracy and fair job treatment; (3) increased wages to more than 400 hotel employes to total an annual increase of \$48,000; (4) improved sick and leave regulations; (5) automatic increases of 2 per cent per hour for nearly 5,000 employes.

RED CHARGE

When queried about the charge of communism hurled against

the union on the Canal Zone, Mr. Westerman strongly declared that this charge is the machinery of reactionary forces to crush a liberal force. There is nothing which indictates communism, he said, and if this charge is permitted to grow it will mean the end of a free enterprise system. Improved working conditions, better living facilities, advanced educational opportunities, greater future security form the basis of demands being made by the Panama Canal Zone "silver" employes through their affiliation with the CIO.

—"Pittsburgh Courier."

NEW YORK. — "Truman's speech on civil rights and human freedom, given last Sunday at the thirty-eighth annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, must invite special attention from the non-American peoples living on the Canal Zone, the five-mile strip of land leased by the United States from the Republic of Panama," was the opinion voiced by George Washington Westerman, Panama writer and civic worker making extensive researches in this country.

Mr. Westerman declared that although Panama is intimately associated with the U.S. and is now one of its closest friends in this hemisphere, relations between these two countries, through the Canal Zone Government, have been cordial but not altogether satisfactory in the past decades.

He stated that the "gold" and "silver" standard of the Panama Canal organization has been one of the most crucial and fundamental issues confronting the working people in that territory.

"TERRIFIC BLOW"

The President's statement, "we must not tolerate such limitation on the freedom of any of our people and on their enjoyment of basic rights which every citizen in a truly democratic society must possess," will be regarded by Panamanians as a terrific body blow to the present policies of the Canal Zone Government which fosters discrimination of the most vicious character against non-Americans, was Westerman's opinion.

Through the Canal Zone "gold" and "silver" standard, citizens in their own country are designated as "aliens," and this term has been employed to deprive people on their native soil of economic and social opportunities as American citizens on territory leased by the U.S.

TESTS OF FAITH

Mr. Westerman concluded his comments by offering suggestions to the U.S. as tests of the democratic faith. First, a closer cooperation with Panama as a sovereign State in mat-

Teodoro M. Nolan International Representative

There is in circulation a "Dear Friend" letter signed by Bishop Francis J. McConnell on behalf of the "Committee of 100" in which an appeal is made for aid in the fight against anti-Negro terrorism in Southern United States. The letter describes the acquittal of twenty-eight self-confessed lynchers on May 21 as a license issued by the Greenville, South Carolina jury to white men in the South to kill Negroes, and further informs us that within a few hours after the acquittal another mob in North Carolina attempted to lynch another Negro.

It is understood that The "Committee of 100" sponsors the 1947 Appeal for \$100,000 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and is comprised of leaders of various colors, creeds and professions all over the United States. This committee has dedicated its services to "the Creation of an America of Justice and Equality for Our Negro Fellow Citizens."

Letter to Edward Cheresch

Dear Ed:

I wish you were here! You know, today your "baby" is one year old. Local 713 has completed one full year of operation and what a year!

Looking back at those 365 days, one cannot help but remember the many incidents, the heartaches, the sweat, the disappointments, and the sweetness of success.

You know, they have decided to publish an anniversary number of ACCION and from the looks of things, the emphasis seems to be on activities and not on individuals, but of course, everybody knows and even as the Congressman said, "... if there were no Edward Cheresch, there would never have been a Union". Eddie, that says a lot, doesn't it?

I bet involuntarily, your mind wanders back to those first nights at No. 52, 17th Street when we met in strict secrecy and drafted up the plans for a "a union of a couple hundred members"! You must remember the fear, the caution, the furtiveness of those first hundred members. And then those uncertain days

ters affecting both Governments; second, the Canal Zone educational institutions which are all under Federal control, should take an active part in fostering greater interest in and respect for Panama's people and peoples of Hispanic culture; third, the Government in Washington should examine the policies of the Central Labor Union, affiliate of the AF of L, with a view of correcting undemocratic practices on the Canal Zone which are injurious to the relations of the United States and the Republic of Panama.

—"Pittsburgh Courier."

We are indebted to Mr. Westerman for his contribution to the CAUSE.

It is no secret that the NAA-CP has done creditable work in the eradication of anti-Negroism. It has been long evident that this group, like the CIO and several other labor, religious and political groups, has done much towards the establishment of fair-play for all throughout the United States. The appeal should be taken seriously by local organizations and individuals as it provides them with an opportunity to assist in such a fight through whatever financial contributions they can make now.

On the Canal Zone we are somewhat fortunate in that the Law operates in such a fashion as to discourage or suppress any desire to lynch Negroes. But once in a while it becomes evident that such savage desires do exist in the non-Negro elements here. And looking further down the line we find that similar thoughts exist in the minds of people against persons of their own race but based on other prejudices.

Local 713 has as its chief goal the elimination of discrimination in every phase of

life on the Canal Zone. But the Local is aware of the fact that very little of this can be accomplished through the mere establishment of regulations. The regulations are merely guides which point the way along the road. The item of most importance is the road itself, which in this case is the actual conduct of the work on each job. So it is that Local 713, through its Educational Committee, diffuses its doctrine of full and uncompromising cooperation between "gold" and "silver" workers in every phase of the operation of the Panama Canal.

For the high and mighty on either side who disdainfully scoff at such an idea we have an invitation. To them we say: come with us to the hospitals, insane asylums and cemeteries and see Nature's leveling process reducing the rich and powerful to the humble status of pitiful simple-mindedness, physical helplessness and final lifelessness. A little smart thinking on the part of the possessors of overbearing pride and superiority complex will no doubt convince them of the futility of discriminatory practices.

AS I SEE IT

by Chris E. Harewood

First, allow me to express my sincere thanks and congratulations to the members of the Publicity Committee which was appointed by the Local's Executive Board at a recent meeting to supervise all matters pertaining to publicizing the Union's activities for the interest of the Union members and the general public as well. I make particular mention here of the fact that the committee has thought of the most important and several way of making the members know of their Union — the Union's newspaper, "ACCION". I hope there will be no more temporary obscurity of this newspaper, the Union's official mouthpiece.

The overall consensus of the situation presently existing in the Canal Zone in regards to the "silver" workers and his employment is one that is being observed not only by persons concerned, but the general public as well.

Perhaps the situation today, no doubt, is due to the slash Congress recently made in the requested appropriations for the operation of the Panama Canal for the next fiscal year. This may be true, but the writer fails to see why, when appropriations previously asked for and were granted, methods were not instituted that would have made the present situation in regards to operation of the Canal and the welfare of its workers a little more alleviating. There is no doubt that the sub-conscious minds of the persons who are the ones to work the whole thing out to the satisfaction of all workers, and more so to themselves, are wondering and pondering as to what changes can successfully be effected for the benefit of all "silver" employees of the Panama Canal. Inasmuch as the authorities know that

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Sincerely yours,
Stas