Crusader News Agency Reaches 1,500,000 Weekly

Progressive Negro News Service Is an Educative Force

By Cyril Briggs

If today it can be said without fear of contradiction that the Negro press is vigorously anti-fascist and generally sympathetic to the labor and progressive movements and to the growing Democratic Front in this country, it is owing in large measure to the work of a Negro news service of which very little is known in white labor or in progressive circles.

For twenty years the Crusader News Agency has been an effective spearhead in the Negro liberation struggle on two fronts; against Jim-Crow oppression and the white ruling class which profits from that oppression, and against Negro petty bourgeois nationalism with its confused lumping together of all whites as enemies of Negro people—the white toilers with the white exploiters, the progressive elements among the white population with the fascist-minded tories and lynchers.

Oldest in the Country

The accompanying photograph of CNA headlines and stories as used in hundreds of Negro papers throughout the country will be a revelation to those readers of the Daily Worker who have never heard of the Crusader News Agency, and to most of those, too, who already have some idea of its work. Yet in its limited space the photograph can give only a general idea of the territorial and the quantitative use of CNA releases, and can give even less indication of the social significance of many CNA stories appearing regularly in the columns of even the most conservative of the Negro papers.

The CNA reaches at least 1,500,000 readers weekly through the combined circulation of the papers it serves. It is the oldest Negro news service in the country and one of the three leading news agencies in its field today.

An effort is now being made to further improve the service and thereby increase its prestige and its influence. In this connection, new equipment is needed. To raise funds for this purpose, the CNA Sponsoring Committee, headed by John Coray, well-known Harlem artist, is holding a dance this Saturday night, Oct. 29, at the Ford Hall, 41 West 124th Street. The affair will be the third in a series to commemorate the 20th year and approaching 20th anniversary of the founding of the CNA.

Influences Editorial Policies

The influence of the service extends beyond the stories and features appearing under its by-line. That it influences the editorial policies of its newspaper-clients was markedly demonstrated in the Czech crisis and the Munich betrayal of democracy by Chamberlain and Daladier. A survey of the Negro papers during that period showed that with few exceptions the editors had promptly recognized the sinister implications of the Munich deal and sharply assailed the policy of appeasement as a treacherous blow at democracy and at the democratic rights and aspirations of the small nations, including Negro and colonial peoples.

CNA influence on editorial policy is manifested also in the expressed sympathies of the Negro press (these being one of two exceptions) with the Chinese people in their struggle against that self-proclaimed "defender of the darker peoples," rapacious Japanese imperialism, and it is shown further in the general support of the Negro press for Loyalist Spain and in the rising condemnaton of the efforts of confused elements and of out-and-out charlatans in the pay of Nazi agents to promote anti-Semitism among Negroes.

The service merits support of all progressive people. One way of expressing this support is to attend the affair arranged by the CNA Sponsoring Committee for this Saturday evening.