

Dr. Moton Endorsed Drive for Lower Pay For Negro Workers

Bosses in Nation-Wide Wage-Cutting Drive on Harrassed Negro Toilers

By CYRIL BRIGGS

BALTIMORE, April 5.—Secret support by Dr. Robert R. Moton, Negro reformist head of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, of a campaign by Southern and Northern manufacturers to further cut the starvation wages of Negro workers under the discriminatory N. R. A. differential codes is revealed in a Washington dispatch to the Baltimore Afro-American.

The paper reports discovery of secret documents in Washington insisting upon still lower wages for Negro workers, and a letter from Dr. Moton endorsing the demand of the Southland Manufacturing Co. of Montgomery, Ala., for an N.R.A. code differential based on race, with lower wage payments for its Negro employes. The Southland bosses had asked for "further extension of relief," at the expense of its already underpaid Negro workers. Moton in his letter declared: "I am conyniced that the management is making an honest effort to conform to the N. R. A. code in the industry."

Paper Attempts to Whitewash Moton

The Afro-American, which publishes these sensational revelations, attempts to whitewash Moton with the statement "it is felt by many that Dr. Moton was an unwitting aide to a scheme aimed at defrauding thousands of workers throughout the South of their rightful earnings." Thus the Afro-American gives indirect support to the very conditions against which it raves.

The Southland Manufacturing Co. employs some 300 women, and wanted to pay its Negro workers \$9 a week instead of the \$12 wage specified in the code as a minimum, but which in actual practice has become the average wage.

Manufacturer Calls for "Sub-Normal" Code for Negroes

Among the secret documents reported by the Afro-American is one from J. F. Ames, owner of factories in Selma, Ala., and Cleveland, Ohio, urging the manufacturers, North and South, to stick together in their insistence upon lower wages for Negro workers. Ames calls for a "sub-normal" code for all Negro workers, on the grounds that since they have been kept at the bottom of capitalist society they should be forced down into still deeper misery, or, as he chauvinistically puts it, since they are "at the bottom of worthwhile accomplishment in the affairs of the world since the beginning of time."

Ames has circularized other manufacturers with many letters slandering the Negro workers and their capacity for equal performance of work. One such letter declares that "unfortunately, the African Negro must be placed very low in the scale of intelligence." It sets forth purported figures from the U. S. War Department Intelligence tests taken during the war, in an attempt to prove Negroes inferior.

Admits and Endorses Boss Discrimination Policy

Another of his circular letters admits and endorses the general discrimination practiced by capitalist enterprises against Negro workers, declaring:

"It is an established fact over the entire nation that, generally, a colored man or woman should be and is paid less than a white man or woman, the reason being that their performance, responsibility and capability are less. This fact has been established since the beginning of time," he declares in his bumptious ignorance, concluding with a call to his fellow bosses to further force down the standard of living of the Negro masses as a capitalist way out of the crisis: "At a crisis like we are passing through, it certainly will prove disastrous to fall to consider what this means."

He proposes a wage of \$9.50 for a 40-hour week for Negroes in the

South, and of \$10.50 for Negroes in the North, with a further differential against Negro women of \$8 per week in the South, and \$9 in the North. Negro child laborers he would limit to \$6 per week, South, and \$7 per week, North.

Workers Pack Court, Force Release of Roth

NEW YORK, April 5.—C. Roth and Mary Smith, who were beaten and arrested on March 9 in Tombs court for protesting the arrest of the nine workers who were on trial for demonstrating before the Home Relief Bureau, were given suspended sentences yesterday by Magistrate August Dreyer.

Workers packed the court room during the trial, and many telegrams protesting the arrest of Roth and Smith were sent by workers' delegates.

Musicians Union Leaders in Fight Against Self Gov't

Refuse to Carry Out Demands Voted on by Membership

NEW YORK.—Since the members of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians have continued their militant 13-year fight for local autonomy (self-government) their officials have spent sleepless nights trying to figure out the best methods of breaking the spirit of the members, victimizing the rank and file leaders, and killing the fight for local autonomy.

The newest tactic of Eddie Canavan and his understrappers (governing board) should make every thinking musician take action against such infamy. The governing Board flatly refused to carry out the demands of the unanimous membership vote of March 19, and conduct a special meeting on April 2, for consideration of the by-laws revisions. The by-laws committee therefore arranged to hold a meeting at the Lyceum across the street from the local. They notified every member of the local.

The governing board sent out a letter of intimidation to all the members telling them that they would be disciplined or expelled if they attended the meeting.

Use Spotters

Fearing the success of the meeting they put Jimmy Canavan in front of the Lyceum to "rat" on any member who entered the building.

George (Sellout) Brenner used the more filthy method of spreading false rumors on the floor of the union. He kept away quite a few weakened members by telling them that the meeting was illegal.

The honest member should ask himself the following:

1. Does anyone fight against autonomy better than Weisman and the "yellow" board members who voted unanimously with Canavan for delay until June, and for expulsion and discipline for members who went to the meeting?

2. Does Weisman represent the members who elected him when he voted against the resolution passed unanimously by the members March 19?

3. Who are the leaders who boldly face all the obstacles and cannot be intimidated?

4. What right has Joseph Weber to deny members of 802 the constitutional rights of all citizens of free speech and free assembly?