

What May Day Means For Negro Masses In U. S.

By CYRIL BRIGGS

TO THE Negro masses, May Day with its traditions of revolutionary struggles and unity of ALL toilers is of special significance.

On this May Day, 1934, the question of a vigorous, united struggle of ALL sections of the toiling population against fascism and war is a life-and-death question for the



CYRIL BRIGGS

toiling masses. It is of special urgency for the Negro masses, harassed by unemployment, unparalleled mass misery, jim-crow, denial of existence, jobs and relief, increasing fascist terror (49 reported lynchings in 1933), and the furious sharpening of national and social oppression in all sections of the country.

The bloody attacks on the Jews and other minority groups in fascist Germany, Austria, etc., the Nazi dictum of sterilization for the small Negro population in Germany, are a sinister warning to the Negro people of what to expect under fascism.

New Deal Victimizes Negroes

The increasingly savage attacks on the Negro masses by the "New Deal"—rank discrimination under the N. R. A. code differentials of lower wages for Negro workers, governmental jim-crowism in the U. S. Senate and House restaurants, cotton plough-under and agricultural reduction programs, sentencing hundreds of thousands of Negro croppers and poor farmers to virtual starvation—are all omens of what the Negro people may expect under a fascist dictatorship of finance capitalism.

Growing fascism carries with it a strengthening of white chauvinist propaganda aimed to poison the minds of the white workers and divert the rising anger of the working class against its worsening conditions inward upon itself, pitting Negro and white workers, native and foreign born, against each other, diverting the mass anger away from the capitalist class responsible for our misery. In the fascist conspiracy against the American working class, every effort is being made to disrupt the rising revolutionary struggles of Negro and white toilers against the "New Deal" program at home and for consolidation of the "national front" for imperialist aggressions abroad.

THE fight against chauvinist ideology is therefore a central point in any effective struggle against fascism and war. The nationalist poisoning of the masses must be persistently combatted by all sincere opponents of war and fascism. The white workers must be convinced that the jim-crow policies of the A. F. of L. leaders,

their barring of Negroes from membership in many A. F. of L. unions, their denial of the Negro workers' right to any job, are against the interests of the working class.

The sabotage of the Negro liberation movement by the Socialist Party leaders, their pernicious theories of the Negro liberation struggles as a race war against the entire white population, of the separation of the national revolutionary struggles of the Negro masses from the proletarian revolution, of "laying off the race question" as a "T. N. T. mine in the South" (menacing the capitalist-landlord system of national oppression and plundering of the Negro masses), must be exposed as in the interests of the Southern slave drivers and the whole capitalist class.

Expose Bearers of White Chauvinism

These social bearers of white chauvinism within the working class must be pilloried before the workers in their true light as enemies of both the Negro and white toilers, as people working in the service of the capitalist class, paving the way, as did the Socialist parties in Germany and Austria, for fascism and imperialist war. The 13th Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International issued a ringing call for a relentless fight on chauvinist ideology. Comrade Kuusinen, reporting on Fascism and War, declared:

"In our work in mobilizing the masses against fascism and the war danger we must now, more than ever before, pay attention to the struggle against chauvinist ideology . . . Evasion of this difficult task, or even mere passivity and silence on this question, indicates in the present conditions, the most dangerous opportunism in the struggle against fascism and war, the abandonment of the most important and urgent tasks of the revolutionary education of the toilers."

The Negro masses, like the white toilers, are searching for a way out of their present intolerable conditions. Like the white toilers, they are bedeviled by misleaders who seek to hide from the masses the truth that there is only one way out of the capitalist morass of mass misery and suffering: the revolutionary way out, the example provided by the Soviet masses, by the victorious October Revolution which overthrew Tsarist oppression and emancipated ALL sections of the toiling population of Russia.

National Minorities in U. S. S. R.

The October Revolution achieved the social emancipation of the Russian working class and the national liberation of the oppressed nationalities in a land that was formerly correctly described as the prison house of nationalities. Today we see these formerly backward nationalities, liberated by the October Revolution, achieving to tremendous economic, social and cultural heights under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The Soviet workers, under the leadership of the party of Lenin and Stalin, have abolished national oppression, unemployment, insecurity and the harassing fear of poverty from their land. Their example points the way out to the toilers and nations still enslaved under capitalism.

Demonstrate this May Day against fascism and war, against national oppression and plundering of the Negro masses, against the increasing fascist attacks on the entire working class, directed with especial fury against the Negro masses. For the defense of the Soviet Union, the stronghold of the world proletariat and of the liberation struggles of the Negro and colonial masses,