

N. A. A. C. P. Treachery Again

By CYRIL BRIGGS.

AGAIN the Alabama landlords and capitalists have unleashed their bloody terror against the Negro masses. Negro croppers around Camp Hill, Alabama, who dared to organize to resist the robbery of the landowners and storekeepers and who in the meetings of their union dared to raise the demand for the release of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys, have been ruthlessly shot down and murdered by the police agents of the Alabama white ruling class.

And again, in the face of this latest horror, this new outrage against the Negro people and the working class, the leaders of the N. A. A. C. P. are to be found giving objective support to the boss murderers of the Negro workers.

As in the Scottsboro case, it is not the boss lynchers of Alabama who draw the fire of the foes of imperialism at the head of the N. A. A. C. P., but the white and Negro Communists who are organizing and leading the struggles of the persecuted Negro people for better conditions against the most outrageous racial and economic oppression.

In a statement in the N. Y. Herald Tribune on Sunday, July 19, William Pickens, field secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., openly supports the Alabama bosses in their challenge of the right of Negro workers to organize to protect their interests and their right to protest the hideous Scottsboro legal lynching. Pickens is quoted by the Tribune as saying that "planters of the region were only too glad to have the Scottsboro case injected, as it gave them an excuse to proceed against the share croppers' union."

So because the share croppers dared to protest against the Scottsboro outrage in their union meetings, Mr. Pickens condones and justifies the bloody attack on the croppers by the landowners and their police agents. He naively speaks of the "injection" of the Scottsboro case as giving the landowners an "excuse." He insinuates that the attack would not have occurred had not the croppers denounced the Scottsboro mass murder. He ignores the similar case of the Arkansas peons. Ignores, in fact, hundreds of similar attacks by the southern landowners on the attempts of the Negro peons and share croppers to resist the robbery of the landlords and storekeepers.

In his statement to the boss press Pickens peddles the boss lie of the "servile psychology" of the Negro masses. He says, "They (the Communists) misunderstand the situation and the psychology of the American Negro and of the South." He openly jeers at the leadership of the Negro proletariat which is steadily wresting the hegemony over the Negro masses away from the cowardly, traitorous, Uncle Tom reformist leadership of which Pickens is part and parcel. He refers to the Negro industrial and agricultural workers as the "so-called Negro proletariat" and upholds the lie of the bosses

of food, writing first-hand stories on the conditions of the miners, etc. Similar work can easily be done in any large town.

that the massacre at Camp Hill, Alabama, was an "outbreak" on the part of the Negro workers, which, as an "outbreak," he describes as "a desperate and vain effort to win the so-called 'Negro proletariat' to the Communist Party."

In the same way, Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., rushes to the defense of his imperialist masters, the bloody murderers of the Negro masses. Supporting the boss position that the militant demands of the colored and white workers for the release of the innocent nine Scottsboro boys are "threats" against the officials of Alabama, White declares in a statement in Sunday's capitalist papers:

"We have feared trouble because of the manner in which the Communists have made bombastic and empty threats in the Scottsboro cases."

This is not the first time that Walter White and other officials of the N. A. A. C. P. have sought to incite the Alabama boss lynchers against the radical Negro and white workers and to justify in advance any brutal terror the bosses may prepare against the Negro people. Mr. Pickens, speaking in Chattanooga, Tenn., on June 7th, publicly advised, "Let the white people of Alabama and the South sit up and take notice." In the same way Rev. J. R. Bowen of Chattanooga, acting for the N. A. A. C. P., called upon the police of Chattanooga and Birmingham to raid and arrest Negro workers protesting against the Scottsboro frame-up. Mrs. Janie Patterson, mother of one of the Scottsboro victims, was forcibly ejected from the Pittsburgh Conference of the N. A. A. C. P. following a demand by workers that she be permitted to speak.

In its May 16 issue, the Pittsburgh Courier, one of the few Negro papers supporting the N. A. A. C. P. leaders, deliberately sought to justify any terror that the bosses might unleash, preparing this justification in advance on the grounds that colored and white workers daring to raise their voices in protest against the horrible frame-up of the Scottsboro boys would "finally drive the citizens of Alabama to the point of desperation."

It is in times of struggle like these that the Negro masses can learn the real character of the wavering, treacherous leadership which, with the help of the white imperialists, has been imposed upon them for the past several decades. It is in times of struggle that the Negro masses will learn who are their real friends and true comrades.

Negro workers! Rally in tenfold strength to the mass fight to free the Scottsboro boys! Defend the Negro workers of Alabama! Demonstrate on August First against the capitalist system with its race hatred, its white "supremacy," its savage persecution of Negroes, its unemployment, its wage cuts, starvation and evictions and its preparation for war against the Soviet Union.