

Socialists Try New Methods to Betray Negroes

By I. AMTER

THE Socialist Party in practice is a lily white party. Following the policy of the Republican and Democratic parties, the "Socialists" have hitherto treated the Negroes as a quantity to be ignored. But the revolutionary struggles that the Negroes have put up under the leadership of the Communists, in the unemployed struggles in Chicago and Cleveland and the miners' strikes have made the "Socialists" as well as the Republicans and Democrats take note. They recognize that the Negroes are no longer "voting cattle," to be sold by their misleaders at the highest price, but that the crisis has produced a fundamental change. Having been convinced by the Communists that there are white workers not only willing to fight together with them for their immediate needs but for their emancipation from the system of slavery that exists today, the Negroes are buckling up and fighting.

This basic change in the life of the Negroes must of necessity produce a change in the attitude of the capitalist parties. When, on the South Side of Chicago, the Negro and white workers boo off the platform capitalist demagogues, then the capitalists know that something is wrong for them. When in the mining sections of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, and in New York, Negro workers see that the Trade Union Unity League is fighting for their rights, and is organizing them into the unions side by side with the white workers, then they know that race prejudice (white chauvinism) is not part and parcel of the life of the white workers, but is something put into the mind and practices of the white workers by the white bosses. When the Negroes see that the Communist Party, the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights fight for the lives of the nine Scottsboro boys, and mobilize millions of workers throughout this and other countries in struggle for their release, then they know that a growing section of the white workers look upon them as brothers and comrades.

The capitalists and "socialist" allies recognize these facts and therefore they change their front—to keep the Negro Workers from going to the Communist Party. But we shall not forget the Socialist Party. Is it not a fact that A. Philipp Randolph together with Frank Crosswhite organized the Negro Pullman porters and sold them out on the very eve of a strike—when they voted almost 100 per cent for strike? Is it not a fact that in this betrayal they were openly assisted by Wm. Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who said the time was not "ripe" and the Negro porters had not yet secured the "support of the public"? Is it not a fact that their miserable wages have been slashed with the aid of Randolph, Crosswhite and Green? Thus do the white and Negro misleaders betray the Negro workers.

Is it not a fact that Norman Thomas in his presidential tour in 1928 refused to speak to Negro audiences in the south? Is it not a fact that Heywood Brown in 1930 said it would be inadvisable to fight for the enforcement of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendment of the U. S. constitution, although these were supposed to have been the fruits of the Civil War? Did not an old socialist in Tennessee write a letter to the New Leader in the election campaign of 1930, stating that "We (the Socialists) do not stand for equality for the Negroes," and declared it would be a calamity for the Socialist Party if it did?

Still this Heywood Brown had the nerve to speak to a Negro audience in Harlem on March 11 and talk about "economic justice and the

brotherhood of all men"! He did not say a word about the treachery of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which the Socialist Party supported in their betrayal of the nine Scottsboro boys! He said nothing about the betrayal of the Pullman porters by the socialists, Randolph and Crosswhite! He said nothing about Jimcrows and segregation, which the Socialist Party does nothing to fight against! All he could talk about was the socialist commonwealth—but nothing about the beating down of the Negro workers in Detroit who participated in the Ford Hunger March—because the massacre in Detroit was at the hands of Ford's mayor Murphy, whose election the Socialist Party supported!

Norman Thomas said nothing about his speaking to lily-white audiences in the South, when addressing the same Harlem audience a week later. He talked about the Negro not trying "to develop a middle class of business men, in copying a dying civilization." He spoke about "removing every racial barrier, in attaining a fellowship of free men." Nice words—but Norman Thomas, what are you and your Socialist Party doing to put an end to the discrimination against Negro workers even in the matter of relief? What have you done to expose the betrayal of the Negro dressmakers by the "socialist" leaders of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union? What have you and your Socialist Party done to brand as a white chauvinist, Clarence Darrow, whom you fought to get into the defense of the Scottsboro boys with the assistance of the N. A. A. C. P.—although this same Clarence Darrow fought bitterly for a lily white jury in Honolulu to save four white imperialists from prison for murder of an Hawaiian!

Nice words, socialist gentlemen, because you know that the Negroes are turning to the program and leadership of the Communist Party and the revolutionary unions. Because, now that the imperialists of the United States are preparing for war against the Soviet Union, they know that the Negroes, betrayed in the last world war, are becoming a revolutionary force against them! Because the Negro workers are being inspired by the example of the Soviet Union—not in talk alone, but in deed! Because the Negroes know about Stalingrad, where white workers guilty of crass white chauvinism were severely punished by the workers of the Soviet Union, who would not tolerate "white capitalist practices" in their country! Because the Communist Party of the United States is carrying on a fierce fight against Jimcrows, segregation and discrimination! Because the Communist Party is fighting for Negro rights! Because the Communists are carrying on the ONLY fight against lynching, and are calling upon the white workers to DEFEND WITH THEIR LIVES the Negro workers! Because the Communist Party is fighting for the right of self-determination of the Negroes in the Black Belt of the South, where the Negroes are the majority, and where the whites will have to accept the position of the minority!

It makes your blood curdle, you capitalists and your Socialist friends—but that is the program of the Communists. It makes you rave, because the Communists are carrying on a bitter struggle against the white chauvinism on the part of workers who join the Communist ranks—expulsion of Yokinen and numerous other members of the Communist Party and Young Communist League! Because the Communists are carrying on the same struggle in all working class organizations, thus proving that they not only talk but ACT!

Not as in the Socialist Party, which, in the

The "Poor Farm"

By E. F.

NEW BEDFORD, once a big textile center in New England, is today a city of mass hunger and poverty. Fully 20,000 men and women are today jobless. Last week 700 more workers were added to the already large army of job seekers. There is no relief in sight. Rumors are that the few mills still operating on a part time basis will soon shut down completely.

The unemployed of New Bedford share the same fate as those of other Massachusetts towns. The city refuses to give the unemployed adequate relief. The city government is doing everything possible to hide the real facts of mass hunger and poverty among the workers.

One of the methods used to keep the workers from organizing and from fighting for cash relief is through the so-called city "poor farm" employment. In the extreme part of the South End there is the city poor farm, where the poor and elderly men and women are usually sent.

But now this spot is used for a more "beneficial" purpose. Now the unemployed are sent there to work. The system followed in sending the jobless to work there is very interesting.

Every unemployed man who applies for relief is registered in the City Welfare. After a whole series of questions are asked from the applicant, after the city welfare department is convinced that the worker does not belong to any organization of struggle (and above all after they make sure that he is not a member of the unemployed council or of the N. T. W. U.), the application is accepted and the man is told to report to the "poor farm" to work.

Every unemployed works one day a week on the "poor farm." The work on this "farm" consists in carrying rocks from one rock pile to the other. Some carry wood from one spot to the other side of the farm. After the rocks are cleared from the given spot, the men are put to work to carry the same rocks back to the former place.

In addition to that, the workers have lately been put on the job of cleaning the beach. Formerly this work was done by city hired help at union wages. Now the unemployed do it at starvation wages. That is one way of saving money for the poor city.

This week another method of slavery was introduced on this "poor farm." While until now the cultivator was pulled by horses, now the horses were put into the barn, and jobless workers are forced to pull the cultivator. Workers resented this latest scheme of enslavement and refused to do the work, pointing out that the work is too heavy, and that they cannot stand the strain. The overseer informed these workers that if they don't keep on working they cannot get their relief check.

Day after day hundreds of men come to work on this "poor farm." Every unemployed is forced to do one day's work every week. For this he receives a check varying from \$3 up to \$8. The "hand-out" is made according to the number of children the person has. One dollar per child a week is the calculation. Nothing is given for the parents. No consideration is made for the rent, gas, light, etc.

Many workers live four or five miles from the

elections to the national convention in Milwaukee, failed to elect a prominent Negro member in New York as delegate, even though he is considered "a good socialist," because white lily socialists, as a leading socialist remarked, did not want him in the delegation!

This is the "Socialist" Party in action—its words, though sweet, are words of treachery!