

A Valiant Fighter Against Jimcrow

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

ONE OF THE MOST important attacks now being made against the jimcrow system is that of Ben Davis from his cell in Terre Haute, Ind., where, as a result of the frameup under the Smith Act, he is now serving a five-year sentence. Ben Davis is vigorously assailing the barbarous practice of the segregation of Negroes in the Federal prisons of this country.



On Dec. 13, 1954, Ben Davis petitioned the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington for a writ of mandamus, directing Herbert Brownell, attorney general of the U. S. and J. V. Bennett, U. S. director of prisons to discontinue the unlawful and unconstitutional practice of segregating Davis and other Negro inmates of prisons and penitentiaries throughout the U. S.

Claudia Jones, a woman molded in the brave tradition of Harriet Tubman and other Negro heroines, and herself presently railroaded to jail under the Smith Act, has written a pamphlet, "Ben Davis, Fighter for Freedom," in which she draws the life picture of Ben Davis and the many hard fights he has led and on behalf of the Negro people and the American working class.

This pamphlet, a brilliant defense of the demands of the

Negro people and a devastating attack upon the jimcrow system, is made all the more valuable because of the introduction to it written by Eslanda Goode Robeson who, like Claude herself, is a tireless fighter for Negro rights and against every form of tyranny in this country.

The civil rights of Negroes, including those who have the misfortune to be sent to jimcrow federal prisons, is the acid test of the rights of all Americans. Every attack against the Negro people in the long run reacts against the white workers and against progressives generally. The fitting answer to them is a united front of all the haters of jimcrow and lovers of liberty in this country.

Claudia Jones' pamphlet should be given a circulation far and wide. It is one of the most effective pieces of writing, for many years past, in defense of the Negro people. It is the type of writing that one day will put an end to the jimcrow system in this country, of which the fighter, Ben Davis, is now a victim in the Terre Haute penitentiary. If you want to express your support of this valiant fighter, you can do well by giving this fine pamphlet the widest possible circulation.

Ed. Note: The pamphlet, "Ben Davis, Fighter for Freedom," is published by the National Committee to Defend Negro Leadership, 1660 Fulton St., Brooklyn 13, N. Y.

CANADA UAW LOCAL PAPER URGES TRADE WITH SOVIETS

OSHAWA, Canada. — Trade with the Soviet Union was demanded by the "Oshaworker," organ of the 8,000-member UAW Local 222 at the General Motors plant here.

Voicing dissatisfaction with the way the United States has forced Canada to bar trade with the Soviet Union under threat of economic retaliation, the UAW editors write:

"Canada can no longer ignore the tremendous trade potential of the Asian continent. There are one billion humans in the Soviet bloc that are more than able to buy the Western world's products.

"It is time for the Canadian government and businessmen to change their antiquated and suicidal trade policy that is leading us into a depression along with the United States.

"They owe it to the unemployed and to the general prosperity of the country.

"(Ed. note: There are 100,000 jobless in Detroit, according to Mich. CIO News.) Shake away from the U. S. apron strings and get our share of this market before the U.S. sabotages Canada completely with tariffs, embargoes and dumping."