

Negro Papers Ask Democracy Here--Oppose War Loans

Betrayal of Ethiopia Still Fresh in Negro Peoples Minds; Treatment of Returned U. S. Soldiers Was Bitter Lesson

By Angelo Herndon

Clearly apprehensive of the consequences to follow the Roosevelt administration's anxiety to rush to the aid of "poor little Finland," several leading Negro newspapers have voiced their firm opposition to sending American dollars to the butcher Mannerheim.

With the betrayal of Ethiopia still fresh in the minds of the Negro people, the fake humanitarian crusade to raise funds and make government loans to "Finland," is expressed in the Negro press as sure steps leading to war.

The New York Age, in its editorial of January 27, points out that "by granting the loan to Finland, we are taking the first step into the war. In his foreign policy the President is showing an attitude of mind very much like that of Mr. Wilson. After pressing for the passage of the present Neutrality Law and expressing a determination to keep this country out of the European conflagration, Mr. Roosevelt is now following the same policy that led this country's involvement in the last World War."

The editorial further points to the fact that "Finland" is now being used as the excuse for war, whereas in 1914-17 it was the Belgian atrocity stories which the Wilson administration used.

LOAN ILLEGAL

The Finnish loan, the editorial says "is illegal, and yet it (the administration) is sponsoring a government loan to Finland. . . . Citizens of all races should let Congress know that they are opposed to any government aid, financially or otherwise, to Finland or any other belligerent country now fighting in Europe or Asia. Such aid is the first step to war and we don't want war."

The New York Amsterdam News, January 27, in an editorial entitled, "Mind Your Business," writes:

"What, we ask, is the reason our government is moving heaven and earth to help poor little Finland, but never raised a finger to come to the aid of Ethiopia when Il Duce planted his heel on that nation's neck five years ago?"

Although it mistakenly claims that "Finland" should get private aid, the editorial declares:

"But it is not the business of the United States government to do it. Poor little Finland, noble little Finland and all that is all right, but it isn't all right for our government to use a moral issue (it has two sides) as a purposeful or accidental route to war! If the administration at Washington wants to keep us out of war as it swears

on a stack of Bibles it does, then the best thing to do now is to drop this Finnish business like a hot potato."

LOANS MEAN WAR

In its editorial, "Finland and Ethiopia," January 27, the Pittsburgh Courier declares that:

"From President Roosevelt down, it seems that every prominent American is eager to help the Finns, even if it eventually involves the United States in the present European war. The last time we became involved in the war largely because American private bankers floated loans for European war powers in this country and finally got us so closely tied up in the destiny of the Allies that we were forced to enter the conflict.

"This time the American government itself is talking about lending money to a belligerent European country on the ground that it is fighting for democracy and therefore fighting for us.

". . . Ethiopia is bigger than Finland, has more people than Finland and was less prepared to defend herself than was Finland. . . . That was the time to take a stand for democracy, but there was no hint or suggestion from President Roosevelt, ex-President Hoover, the liberals and the now-suddenly revealed friends of democracy that money be sent to clothe and feed the Ethiopian refugees, or that United States money be loaned to Haile Selassie to buy arms to fight the vandals of Mussolini."

In addition to the betrayal of Ethiopia, the Negro people, especially, will remember the cruel treatment accorded them during and after the last World War. Moreover, they should and are thinking first about the denial of democracy, citizenship rights and the barbaric terror campaigns of the Ku Klux Klan—all of which are being used every day by the pro-Mannerheim reactionaries as repressive measures to insure the perpetual enslavement of 15,000,000 Negroes.

There is every reason for the Negro people, their organizations and press, to make it known to the war makers that they want nothing to do with this war for subjugation and exploitation of other peoples.