The Supreme Court and Segregation

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE DECISION of the Supreme Court against national and racial segregation in the school system is a real victory for democracy in the United States, and especially for the harassed Negro people. It will have world-wide repercussions. The decision is a body blow against the whole jimcrow system, which has for so many decades persecuted the Negro masses and disgraced this country. All the friends of freedom will hail this great democratic achievement.



Credit for this victory belongs in the first place to the Negro people themselves, who have so long and so valiantly fought against jimcrowism in all its forms. There also has been the assistance given by many workers' democratic organizations, among which the Communist Party has been the pioneer fighter for Negro rights. And not the least of the factors in producing the decision was the strong international pressure from the awakening colonial peoples of the world and the powerful international Communist movement. The Wall Street imperialists are learning the hard way that jimcrow is a severe handicap to their program of world expansion and domination.

This is a period when the oppressed peoples of the earth, nearly all of whom are non-white, are taking great strides forward to freedom. It is quite in line with this vast liberation movement that it also reflects itself in certain political ameliorations (such as the latest Supreme Court school decision) in the condition of the oppressed Negro nation within the boundaries of the United States.

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THE REACTIONARY Eisenhower administration, to which belongs no credit for the High Court's decision, will try to exploit the anti-segregation order in its efforts to win the political support of the Negro people and of the progressive forces in general. And the imperialist warmongers will also try to utilize the decision in other countries to hide the continuance of jimcrow in the United States and to obscure the dangerous growth of fascism in this country.

The main thing now for the friends and allies of the Negro people to realize is that the Supreme Court decision is only the first step, although a big one, towards abolishing segregation in the schools of this country. The decision must be backed up by a resolute fight for its enforcement. Otherwise it will be stripped of much of its force and significance.

Already the jimcrowers and Dixiecrats are lining up their disreputable troops to fight against the application of the Supreme Court's decision. This resistance may take the shape of open defiance as in Georgia, the abolition of the public school system as proposed in South Carolina and other Southern states, or systematic opposition to the application of the decision, where it is presumably accepted.

We may count upon the segregationists to develop a whole series of sabotage tactics, such

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as discrimination against Negro teachers, the segregating of Negro and white pupils into different parts of the schoolrooms, etc. All this opposition, open and covert, must be broken down by a relentless fight by organized labor, the Negro people, and all other democratic forces to have the High Court's decision brought to reality.

The jimcrowers and all those who profit from the persecution and super-exploitation of the Negro people are very much discomfited and alarmed by the Supreme Court's anti-segregation ruling. This fact should be a signal for the Negro people and all their friends and allies to press more militantly than ever the fight against jimcrowism and every other manifestation of white chauvinism.

In political life, in industry, the armed forces, in hotels, restaurants, and everywhere else where discrimination is practiced against Negroes, the fight must be pushed for the full economic, political and social equality for the Negro people. Now is the strategic moment to deliver vital blows against the monstrous jimcrow system which has shamed our people for so long.