

# THE KKK RIDES AGAIN

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE FIRST ATTEMPTS to enforce the anti-segregation decision of the Supreme Court have been countered by open resistance in the "border" areas of Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Washington, D. C., and elsewhere. In their determina-

tion to render null and void the High Court's decision and to keep the Negro people in their present outrageous segregation, the white supremacists have dared to come forward arrogantly with synthetic student organizations, the beating up of Negro girls and boys, the burning of K.K.K. crosses, and other acts of violence.

These shameful scenes, sinister though they are, constitute hardly an indication of the violent white supremacist resistance that may be expected when it comes to the enforcement of the Supreme Court's decision in the South itself. Up to now there has been no attempt to abolish school segregation in this key area. Meanwhile many reactionary Southern leaders, typified by such notorious characters as Governor Byrnes and Talmadge of South Carolina and Georgia,



are counseling their followers to sabotage the Court's decision by ignoring it, by abolishing the public schools, if the ruling is applied, and by preparing for armed resistance against the establishment of racial equality in the schools.

All this constitutes a critical situation. Occurring when fascist agitation and intimidation is rising in this country, such a reactionary outburst as is now being systematically organized in the South (and also in parts of the North) can become a real danger to American democracy in general if its perpetrators are allowed to get away with it. The fight against the Court's desegregation ruling is not only a grievous insult and injury to the Negro people, but also a dangerous attack upon the Bill of Rights.

THE SITUATION demands the immediate attention of the whole labor and progressive movement. Every supporter of democracy in this country should rally strongly to the support of the Negro people and help them fend off this latest attack upon their rights as American citizens and human beings. With a mighty voice, the working class and its political allies should demand that the Federal government take all necessary steps to enforce the Supreme Court's decisions in the schools and to break

through any and all opposition that the jimcrowers and lynchers may set up against it.

This outburst of violence is the work of a minority of bitter-end jimcrowers. Wherever the local authorities have shown any disposition whatever to enforce the court's ruling, they have had the support of the great majority of the population.

It is time to deal a smashing blow to the white supremacists in their long-continued policy of persecution and exploitation of the Negro people. For over two centuries these social pests held the Negro masses in chattel slavery, and it cost the country the terrible Civil War of 1861-65 to get rid of the monstrous outrage.

But even this defeat was not enough to change the will of the Southern white supremacists. For three generations thereafter they continued to rule the South with K.K.K. terrorism, denying the Negro people the right to vote and subjecting them to a barbarous exploitation, lynching, and jimcrow persecution. They set up a condition as near to actual slavery as the plantation owners could make it. All this was done in the most flagrant violation of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, as well as of the whole Bill of Rights.

DURING THE PAST two



decades some progress has been made in winning a few elementary rights for the Negroes, to raise them at least partly above the condition of second category citizenship that the white supremacists had forced upon them. These advances were brought about chiefly by the long and hard struggle put up by the Negro people themselves, by the solidarity of the trade union movement with them, and, especially in recent years, by the pressure against American jimcrowism by the tables those led by the Communists.

One of the most important of the victories in this long, hard fight was the enunciation of

the recent school desegregation order by the upreme Court. But now the white supremacists, to whom Negro segregation is an economic question first of all, bringing them millions of dollars every year in super-profits wrung from doubly-exploited Negro workers and sharecroppers, are out to defeat the High Court's order by violence. But they must not be allowed to achieve their ultra-reactionary purpose. The fight to enforce the Supreme Court order vitally concerns every worker and progressive minded person in the United States. This struggle is one that will test the fibre of the democratic forces in this country, and, at all cost, it must be won.