

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

White Workers and Struggles in South

Editor, Daily Worker:

I strongly resent James W. Ford's attack on Lester Rodney's brilliant coverage from Clinton, Tenn., and Ford's implication of an "anti-Negro bias" on the part of the Daily Worker editors.

Perhaps I am qualified to judge the accuracy of Lester's reporting as it reflects the changing South. I happen to be a white Southerner who was driven out of his homeland for his work in the Negro press.

Les Rodney has done no "backsliding" on the Negro question by writing optimistic stories about what he saw in Clinton.

Is it not progress, are not the Negro people advanced, when the white citizens of Clinton finally accept integration in the schools and vote down, in a local election, candidates pledged to enforce segregation?

Is it not progress when the community's leading white minister personally escorts Negro children to school, when the white townfolk rally to him after he is beaten by kluxers for his gallant act, when they don't lift a finger to help a kluxer gang when it is led off to jail for eventual trial before a fair-minded Southern Federal judge?

And who says that any progressive is yet telling "Negroes of Mississippi that they are enjoying the truly great democratic heritage of 1776"? Les Rodney didn't say so. But he pointed to progress in one area of the South—Tennessee—and indicated that it was a promise of things to come in all areas.

The South does have a "past," as Rodney declared, though Ford denies it. In every generation,

there have been many whites who have made common cause with the Negroes and fought beside them to bring the South into the Union and the civilized world. My own forebears held my native county in the Southern hills against the Confederacy during four years of the Civil War. With my own eyes, I have seen Southern white workers standing shoulder to shoulder with Negroes, from the relief struggles of the depression till the union struggles of this post-war era.

Just recently the white doctors of Pulaski, Tenn.,—where the Klan was born, elected the town's only Negro physician to be the president of their local medical society. At last I can be proud of that community where my great-great grandfather was the very first settler, and he was another Southerner who was never a Klansman.

A veteran Negro Communist, Ben Davis, has noted correctly that Negroes won the stirring Montgomery bus victory with "the moral backing of democratic-minded whites, including significant sections in the Deep South." (Daily Worker, Dec. 28, 1956.)

Surely, if yet too slowly, the South marches toward that complete democracy for which my ancestors and Jim Ford's ancestors fought honorably and cooperatively. There are today more Negroes and whites struggling together on more levels than at any time in the South's history.

—HAL HARPER

James Dolsen Sends \$10

Attached is a check for \$10, made up as follows:

A donation of a dollar each from two friends of the paper. My donation of \$8, which includes what I would have had to pay for moving of my furniture, etc., to my new location. In the fact that the persons who helped move me did so without charge, what I would have otherwise had to pay is in this \$8, so that most of it should be credited to them.

Whatever faults and weaknesses may exist in our press, the Daily and The Worker are so superior to the ordinary run

even of the best of the trade union press that I find myself often marveling how those who make it up in New York can do so well under the handicaps, especially of limited funds, that confront them at all times

Our press deserves the utmost support we can give it. That is in spite of serious differences of opinion any of us may have with its editorial policy on some matters—and I have such differences, too.

With best regards to all, and urging that renewed efforts be made to get the Drive "over the top."—James Dolsen.

Virginia CP Welcomes Clinton Coverage

RICHMOND, Va.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The State Convention of the Communist Party of Virginia has passed the following resolution.

The Communist Party of Virginia urges full support to the Worker and Daily Worker. While we have serious disagreement with the editorial policy, our paper has been, and can be, the champion of the best interests of the American Working class.

The freedom struggle of the Negro people now taking place in the South, is of major importance to the whole American people, and we hope there will be continued emphasis in our press. We welcome the on-the-scene stories on Clinton and urge the continuance of such coverage.

We contribute the sum of \$25.00 and urge all supporters of our press in Virginia to make individual contributions.

We pledge our full support in the circulation drive.

—CP of Virginia.

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