

Excerpts from Resolution Adopted by CP on Negro Rights

Following are excerpts from the resolution on Negro rights voted Sunday night at the convention of the Communist Party:

The Negro people of our country are fighting with unbending will and irresistible resolve to secure now the whole measure of their constitutional rights as free and equal citizens.

Over a half million Negroes in deep Southern cities are participating daily in organized direct actions to break the Jim Crow barrier in bus transportation. More than a hundred thousand are engaged in organized campaigns on a single issue — to secure the right to vote; they aim to utilize the ballot as a weapon in the struggle to desegregate and to democratize Southern life.

Millions of Negroes the country over are giving moral and financial support to the legal battles being waged in hundreds of school districts against the Jim Crow barriers to equal and non-segregated education. And fiercely proud and courageous Southern Negro parents commit their children to the battle. These daring girls and boys defy hate-inspired mobs to attend "desegregated" schools.

In scope, militancy and effectiveness the Negro Peoples Movement has reached a maturity unparalleled in recent generations.

This fact of glorious struggle is the most vital reality in Negro life today. Not the quantity or character of their recent gains, not even the continuing depths of their daily oppression — but the compelling magnificence of their united struggle is the most distinguishing and socially significant factor in the

lives of 17 million American Negro people.

The struggles of the Negro people and the resultant significance advance attained inspires Negro Americans with a new quality of self-confidence. A profound spirit of national consciousness and pride in their racial identification permeates the Negro people of the U.S. today.

Negroes unite not in order to separate themselves from the political, economic or social life of our country. They unite to more effectively employ the strength of their own numbers and the weight of their alliances with other parts of the population to level all barriers to their fullest integration into all aspects of the economic, political and social life of the American people as a whole.

The Negro peoples movement is today's standard bearer in the struggle to enlarge the now-restricted areas of democracy. It is the decisive strategic ally of the working class.

All Communists, and all progressive Americans, are called upon to marshal their maximum strength to enhance the liberation movement of the Negro people. This requires:

1. Full participation in and support of the all-sided anti-segregation movement in the South. This is a battle to remove a festering, unsightly sore from the national body politic; to free the Negro people of the unequal opportunity and the social degradation heaped upon them by a system which renders them outcasts; to enforce the

Constitution of the United States as interpreted by the Supreme Court. A popular and irresistible demand must arise for Congressional action to pass civil rights legislation, for effective federal executive intervention to stay the murderous hands of the Southern racists, to enforce integration in all aspects of public life, in all Southern states, now.

2. The strengthening and broadening of the battle for the unfettered right of suffrage for all Southerners.

3. An intensified struggle for equal employment and upgrading practices in all industries, everywhere in the nation. The trade union movement will be greatly strengthened to the degree that it insists on the slogan long inscribed on its banners: equal pay for equal work. Apprenticeship training must be opened up to Negro youth on an equal basis with young white workers. The strengthening of the activities of the anti-discrimination committee of the AFL-CIO, and of international and local unions, should continue to be regarded as a matter of urgent concern for the labor movement.

Special attention should be given to advancing Negro participation in the leadership of the trade union movement at all levels. The American labor movement must be helped to understand that racism and unionism are fundamentally incompatible.

4. The unfolding of major campaigns to break down segregation in housing. Hemmed into the dilapidated tenements and ramshackle dwellings of our urban ghettos, the Negro masses are made the

prey of rapacious landlords. They are robbed at the point of production, on the job. They are twice robbed at home by unconscionable rent-gougers. They are thrice robbed by higher prices for inferior commodities and services in the stores of the Jim Crow communities. Housing segregation is another barrier to the unity of Negro and white workers. Not one cent of public money should be spent for housing developments, whether publicly or privately administered, which are closed to any citizen because of race. Communists and progressives are called upon to lead the fight for integrated housing in the communities, neighborhood and multiple-dwelling units in which they themselves live.

5. Action for desegregation of public schools. In the South this requires support of the program of the NAACP and other organizations of the Negro people to accomplish desegregation of the schools in accordance with the mandates of the federal courts. It will require, in some instances, federal protection of the lives and limbs of Negro students of "desegregated" schools. In Northern communities the fight against school segregation, which is still widely maintained, involves primarily the struggle to redistrict school lines on an integrated basis.

Fundamental to a correction of this discriminatory practice is the fight to end Jim Crow housing.

6. Intensifying the ideological struggle against racism. Since the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, the country has been

flooded with an ocean of racist literature, and television, radio and newspapers have been used in the South to saturate the minds of white masses with the false doctrines of "white supremacy." The task of propagating the truth of the equality of all peoples, the necessity of convincing the white workers and the democratic masses generally that equal rights for the Negro people is a matter of their own self interests, is more urgent than ever before.

All of the class strata in Negro life have a stake in the goals of and are represented in the Negro peoples movement for democratic rights and equality. Nevertheless, the Negro people are, in class composition, essentially a working people. The propponderant membership of the Negro peoples mass organizations is of the working class and toiling farmers.

This working class component, working side by side with white workers in shop, mine and mill, sharing in the activities of the common unions of all workers, is the guarantee that the bonds of fraternity will be strengthened between the liberation movement and the working class. Its preponderant strength in the Negro peoples movement for freedom enhances the prospects for the development of this movement in conformation with the aims and interests of labor. This is the major factor which gives substance to the outlook and the program for complete integration which characterizes the Negro liberation movement today.

TEXTILE UNION WILL ASK