

The Reds Say--

By JIM ALLEN

They tell us that the United States is a Democracy. Every citizen over the age of 21 is supposed to be able to vote. The officials of the government and its legislature are supposed to represent the will of the people. Every citizen, man, woman, colored or white, goes to the polls on election day. Workers can go and elect their man who will give the unemployed social insurance, or stop the speed-up in the factories, or raise wages, or stop chain gangs, or stop lynchings, or stop war.

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Yes, sir! This is a real democracy! And if you don't believe it ask President Hoover, or Bill Green of the A. F. of L. or Senator Heflin, or Cole Blease of N. C., or any guy that "we elected." Why, they even got amendments in the Federal Constitution guaranteeing "citizens of any color" the right to vote and have a voice in the government. That means the colored people of course. They are citizens of this glorious country, too, altho their ancestors got here somewhat against their will.

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BUT—There is a story that goes around—some people call it seditious—that there ain't no such thing as democracy in this country. These "seditious" people say—other people call them reds—that the working man and farmer has got no show at all in this country. That this thing they call—"democracy" is nothing but a great big patch-quilt to cover up the real kind of government that's trying to pass itself off as the "people's government."

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It's not so hard for the colored people and poor whites to see that. They can't vote in the South, anyhow, even though the Constitution and President Hoover and Bill Green says they can. Let them try and vote at a democratic primary! And only the upper class of Negroes—business men and professional people— can get past all that red tape about poll tax and literacy and property laws that the "supreme white rulers" of the Southern States managed to get written down in the law books. No, sir, a Negro just isn't allowed to vote and there are few white workers, too who ever get their hand on a ballot box. That means 12,000,000 Negroes left right out of democracy and millions of other white workers too. Left right out in the cold while the supreme white bosses do everything they want with the ballots. That's the way with this democracy.

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And if you still won't believe us, just listen to this guy Gerard, who is high up with the bosses and should know. He says that 59 big bosses rule this country, and these big bosses don't hold any public office, either. They don't have to. They just hold little meetings in some office in Wall Street and old man Herb or any other public guy does their bidding. Or they send out a circular letter to all the other bosses, just like the Associated Industries of Alabama just did, and tell them what to do and see to it that the right ones are elected.

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But we Communists, with our fighting program, enter the election campaign to expose these bosses' tools, and demand that right to vote for the Negroes and white workers, so that they can place a real fighting man in among the politicians who will expose them in the legislatures. and smash thru the sham of democracy.