

Officials Fear Facts on Negro Life in Harlem

'Red Scare' Fails to Conceal Source of Poverty, Misery

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"The Grand Jury and the District Attorney are trying to get information against people who advocate the overthrow of the republican form of government by force and violence. We are going after them and we expect to get them."—District Attorney Dodge, N. Y. Times, March 29, 1935.

The above statement makes it clear that District Attorney Dodge and the LaGuardia administration are not anxious to learn what caused the so-called "riot" in Harlem on March 19. On the contrary, LaGuardia and Dodge know that a real exposure of conditions in Harlem will not only show up the Fusion-Wall Street Administration, but also the whole Tammany gang control of New York City.

Any one at all conversant with conditions in Harlem—even the worst enemy of the Communist Party in Harlem—frankly admits today that the Communists were not to blame for the riot in Harlem, but that basic to the elemental outburst of hatred and resentment displayed on March 19 were the hunger, misery, high rents, denial of rights, police brutality, etc., to which the nearly 300,000 Negroes of Upper Harlem and the 150,000 Latin-Americans of Lower Harlem are subjected.

Does District Attorney Dodge dare to deny that relief in Harlem is lower than in other parts of the city? Of course not. Is it not a well-known fact that more than a year ago instructions were issued by the Welfare Department of New York that "those nationalities that are accustomed to a lower standard of living shall get a lower standard of relief"—specifying Negroes, Latin Americans and Italians? Is it not a well-established fact that the Harlem Relief Bureaus are given less funds to distribute in relief and rent than the "better sections" of the city? Is it not a fact that tuberculosis is far more widespread in Harlem than in other sections? Is it not a fact that rent for Negroes in Harlem is far higher than for whites? And above all, can any one dispute that unemployment is more widespread among the Negroes of Harlem—as among the Negroes throughout the city and country—than among the whites?

LaGuardia and Dodge are trying to dodge these facts. They are trying to find a Communist "riot" as having caused this explosion of anger in Harlem. In other words they are trying to find a goat for the brutality and hunger system that the capitalist class of New York has established against the Negroes.

We Communists have nothing to conceal. Where the workers are in struggle, there the Communists will be found organizing and leading the workers. For years Communists have pointed out the fearful conditions in Harlem. We were called "demagogues," "exaggerating conditions" for the purpose of bringing forward the Party. For years Communists in the Unemployment Councils have led the unemployed in struggle for relief, for clothes, to prevent evictions, etc. We have forced the authorities to grant more relief, while at the same time police clubs and jail sentences have rained on the head of Communists and militant workers, both Negro and white.

For years we have fought against the butchery of Negroes in the Harlem hospitals, and the discrimination against Negroes in all the institutions in New York. For three years and more Communists have pointed out to the Negroes and white workers of Harlem that Scottsboro is not only in the South, because the conditions in the north are leading to more frame-ups, more murders of Negroes.

Now we have Harlem—and the Communists "are to blame!"

District Attorney Dodge thinks that he can cover up the criminal conditions which the Negroes of Harlem and of this country are subjected to by raising the howl of "overthrow of the republican form of government by force and violence." Who is using force and violence in Harlem and throughout the country? Who murdered 16 work-

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ers during the textile strike? Who smashes the heads of workers on picket lines in New York City and throughout the country? Who organizes gangs of vigilantes and American Liberty Leagues, etc., against the workers? Who, but mayors like LaGuardia, district attorneys like Dodge all over the country?

The Communists cannot be ousted from Harlem, Messrs. Dodge and LaGuardia. Neither Negro Communists nor white Communists. Wherever there is a suffering worker, there the Communists will be. Wherever workers are attacked and assaulted, as were the workers of Harlem, both Negro and white, on March 19, there the Communists will be. Wherever efforts are not made to change these conditions, more Communists will be developed, both Negro and white. Neither LaGuardia, Dodge, the fascist Hearst, the Rev. Wm. R. McCann nor the whole capitalist class will be able to drive the Communists, white and Negro, out of Harlem.

On the contrary, the Negroes of Harlem today know that there is only one Party that really fights against all the degradation they have to accept in Harlem as throughout the country, and that is the Communist Party.

And while we are about it, let us ask LaGuardia and Dodge and the Wall Street bankers whom they represent a few questions. What about the conditions among the Negroes in Brownsville, in Williamsburg, in Crown Heights, in Queens? Are they not living in "houses" unfit even for a dog to live in? Are these "houses" not tumble-down shacks without a single accommodation? Is relief for the Negroes in these sections the same as relief for whites—as miserable as the latter is, as reported by LaGuardia's own Unemployment Relief Commission? Is unemployment not just as rife among the Negro masses in the other sections of the city as in Harlem? Perhaps the Communists are "to blame" for this, too, Messrs. LaGuardia and Dodge.

And how about the Negroes in Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Detroit, St. Louis, and throughout the South? They, too, probably have no grievances—and if they have, the Communists are "to blame"—they want to "overthrow the republican form of government by force and violence."

We tell you, as we tell the Negro and white masses of this country, that there will be no end to hunger, discrimination, terror, denial of all rights, etc., until the workers of this country, Negro and white, put an end to this "republican form of government" and establish a revolutionary Workers' Government in the U. S.

And who will use force and violence then as they are using it today against the Negro and white workers? It will be the LaGuardias, Dodges, Hearsts, Coughlins, Huey Longs, MacFaddens, etc., the outspoken champions of fascism in the U. S. today. The workers will have to face your violence then as we face it today. But the workers will be assured, as they are today, that they will have a Communist Party that can and does organize them for this struggle.

We can assure you, Messrs. Dodge and LaGuardia, that you will not find goats in the Communists. The Harlem "riot" will lead to the exposure of all of you as nothing before has. We Communists pledge to the masses of Harlem and the workers throughout the country that this will be so. And in this exposure we will organize the workers in a struggle that will put an end to your hunger and police terror, and at last liberate the masses of this country.