

Truman, Randolph Stage Love Fest Over Remains of Senate FEPC Bill

By CLAUDIA JONES

President Truman recently wrote a warm and cozy letter to A. Phillip Randolph, president of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and co-chairman with Anna Arnold Hedgeman of the "National Council for a Permanent FEPC."

The coziness of the relationship between Mr. Truman and Mr. Randolph caused political eyebrow-raising, when Truman warmly thanked Randolph for "his heartwarming letter of Jan. 24."

What sort of letter could A. Phillip Randolph have sent to the President to merit such a "heartwarming" characterization?

As far as one can discern, there is certainly no "heartwarming" example of Administration leadership on the FEPC measure. It is quite the contrary.

It was the "heartwarming" action of Truman that was responsible for taking away FEPC powers to investigate the blatant refusal of the Capitol Transit Co. to hire Negroes. It was the "heartwarming" ruling of President Truman under the "seeming" extension of the power of FEPC to June 30 that coincided with the virtual death of the FEPC, the closing of its regional offices in all but Chicago and Detroit. Truman's failure to condemn the Senate sell-out of FEPC by both major parties and his failure to condemn the filibustering crowd in his own party merit anything but support from Negro leaders.

TOO LATE FOR PROMISES

Yet A. Phillip Randolph can be the recipient of a letter from President Truman which further stated: "It is good to know that you feel that I am with you and to know that you are with me. . . ."

Is Randolph purporting to be the modern-day peddler of promises

to the Negro people? If so, he should be aware that the temper of the Negro people leans in a direction contrary to easy acceptance of promises, no matter where they come from.

This is why they are today placing the blame for failure of the Senate FEPC bill where it belongs. They recognize, together with their trade union allies, that they must fight themselves for a new successful fight, around the House Measure, in this session of Congress.

Without a doubt, the blame rests primarily on the Republican and Democratic parties, whose majority and minority Senate leaders agreed to displace the FEPC after cloture was lost. Only 12 Senators voted against displacement of the FEPC measure.

BARKLEY'S RECORD

It must be remembered that it was Senator Barkley, Senate majority leader, who took the floor in support of Chavez' motion to withdraw the bill. This is clear evidence that Mr. Truman undoubtedly give his approval. We must remember that the promises by Republican Senator Taft to fight the filibuster with all-night sessions turned out to be a bluff. The Republicans went down the line with the Democrats in the Senate sell-out of FEPC.

We can no more praise Truman in "heartwarming" terms than we can the 38 Senators who, while signing the cloture petition, felt that their obligation on this measure was discharged by merely a record vote for cloture.

Undoubtedly Randolph will ob-

ject, for his own political reasons, to criticism of Mr. Truman. But it is noteworthy that none of this "heartwarming" praise emanates from Randolph to those forces responsible for organizing mass action in support of FEPC, especially when the filibuster was at its height.

This is why another question follows—one which is the key for all fighters for a permanent FEPC measure, namely:

Where were Mr. Randolph and Mr. Hedgeman when the Senate was being fouled up by the spewings of the Bilbos, Eastlands and Rankins?

The record shows:

1—They sabotaged the mass actions of the people directed against the bill's enemies.

2—They were responsible for foiling the plans of the most experienced and reliable group of progressive Congressmen, whose advice was to fight to free the House discharge petition on the FEPC.

3—They did so because they seek to make partisan capital out of the FEPC issue.

(Tomorrow's article will document these charges.)

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