

Un-American Committee And the Negro People

By CLAUDIA JONES

(Last of three articles)

Among all sections of the Negro people (except for renegades and bought-out reformists) their oppressed status makes for an ideological unity against the Jimcrow lynch system to which all Negroes are subjected. From Ralph Bunche to Rosa Lee Ingram, the virus of white supremacy and Jimcrow haunts our tracks. Hence, the ideological unity against Jimcrow, second-class citizenship, demands for equal rights now, among all strata of the Negro liberation movement. This fundamental concept is undoubtedly what led Jackie Robinson to air the profound truth that "the fact that a Communist denounces injustice in the courts, police brutality and lynching when it happens, does not change the truth of his charges."

It is precisely this truth that the Communist leaders—Foster, Dennis, Winston, Davis and our Party, have symbolized all along, throughout the existence of the Communist Party! It is a pro-fascist, social-democratic lie that our Party has "used the Negro Question" for our own ends! This is a white chauvinist insult, in the first place to the Negro people themselves!

Our "use of the Negro Question" has been to throw the clear light of day on the lynchers lair; our "use of the Negro question" has been only to give proper Marxist-Leninist analysis to the unique national oppression of the Negro people in the United States; our "use of the Negro question" has been to match our words with active deeds from Scottsboro to the Trenton Six, to Rosa Lee Ingram to the fight for Negroes in the Big Leagues; to upgrading of Negro workers in industry; against the white supremacist violation of Negro womanhood; to expose lynch terror, police brutality, restrictive covenants and other vile evils of Jimcrow. Our "use of the Negro question" has been to show white Americans, particularly the workers, that the struggle for the full equality of the Negro people is in their basic self-interest, especially today in the fight against imperialist war and fascism.

MOREOVER, without the Communist Party (notwithstanding Robinson's statement 'that we can get along without the Communists') there could be no progress in the last 20 years on any of these issues for equality for the Negro people or for the

advancement of American democracy!

No less a paper than the New York Age, editorializing on July 30 on "The Core of the Red Issue Concerning the Negro," declared: "The fact is that the Communists, right or wrong, have gotten the jump on everybody else by putting into the record something concrete to prove what they teach. . . .

" . . . The Communists have simply walked through the wide loopholes of the democratic system and reached the people the other side has ignored. Were Communism a lily-white philosophy it would likely fall into a category resembling the Democrats, the Republicans, the American Federation of Labor, Dixiecrats or the Ku Klux Klan, which the South, represented by Wood, and others like Thurmond of South Carolina, regards more or less as an 'American institution.'"

It is not in spite of, but because we cannot get along without Communist leadership on the fundamental issue of Negro oppression that the American bourgeoisie fears the Communists and seek to outlaw the Party.

Outlawing of our Party by legislation, or court procedure, or persecution, is one of the ways they count on to silence the protests of the Negro people themselves, and the most advanced forces who fight for labor, Negro liberation, against white supremacy and lynch justice.

It is this same reactionary capitalist class that seeks to make Jackie Robinson the scapegoat of their hypocritical preachments of democracy which they deny to 14,000,000 Negro people, and which must yet be fully won in organized baseball.

Without fundamental understanding of the Negro question, one cannot effectively fight against oppression, or for peace, the rights of labor, or against fascism and war! It is because the Un-Americans fear this truth that they sought to use leaders of the oppressed Negro people to impugn the loyalty of an entire people.

BUT THE HEARINGS boomeranged.

They boomeranged, first, because the Negro question is itself "the Achilles heel of American imperialism" in the words of the national chairman of the Communist Party, William Z. Foster. And because, the more they touch it, the more the imperialists are exposed for what they are: the oppressors of the Negro people, of the working class, the organizers of force and violence against the Negro people, the financiers of exploitation of six million Negroes and four million whites in the South, from which exploitation they wring the profits to stuff their coffers for the financing of an imperialist atomic war and domestic fascism!

The hearings boomeranged, for a second reason. And that is because, even as they utilized the old "divide-and-rule" tactic, the eyes of 14,000,000 Negro Americans, the eyes of countless white Americans, the eyes of nationally and colonially oppressed peoples in Africa, the West Indies, and in Liberated China, the eyes of the New European Democracies, the eyes of the leader of the world democratic forces, the Soviet Union, were upon them.

And thirdly, these hearings boomeranged because even among reformist Negro leaders, intellectual integrity and intensified national oppression pushes many of them to a clearer realization of the profound truth spoken by Frederick Douglass: "Power concedes nothing without struggle."

That is why from their newspapers and columns they hastily cleaned up comment about the praise for Jackie Robinson as a "closed incident;" that is why they editorialize, as did one Scripps-Howard columnist, that a Paul Robeson, "the automatic success story" is "hard to understand"; that is why they are still editorializing about Davis' testimony in magazines, which they cannot refute except impotently to say of this Communist leader that "he" is "misled."

The Negro press comment in the main, didn't satisfy them either. For many utilized the anti-Jimcrow statements of Robinson as a take-off for an even more strenuous demand for Ne-

(Continued on Page 10)

UN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AND THE NEGRO PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

gro unity and for a demand to the Truman Administration that it make good its election promises of civil rights legislation now.

The mass of the Negro people, as reflected in the man-of-the-street talks, in letters to the editors, are discussing even a deeper question—namely comparing the statement of Paul Robeson to their own ideas, their anti-war anti-imperialists as they question as did Robeson: Why should we fight an imperialist war—a war against the Soviet Union, which

has wiped out discrimination and prejudice within its borders?

And all this is why labor and the Negro people, and all progressive women and men, must by drawing the proper conclusions, accelerate unity of the Negro people, unity of Negro and white and wrest from the foul stable of a jail, by renewed and popular protest, Henry Winston whose life and time is a symbol of the courageous contribution of the Communist Party to the Negro Question in the United States. Free the Three!