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meetings, with joint conferences of black and white from time to time. A few agreed with this proposal. One worker who had been in the coal mines said that he personally had no objection at all to "niggers," but that the Southern workers would never stand for it. All others were unqualifiedly and determinedly opposed. They said that it would ruin the union, that we would never get a single worker, either black or white, if we tried to put this into effect.

Since then I believe some progress has been made. There are at least a half dozen workers (some of them new elements who were not on the strike committee when we first took up the question) - who appear to be thoroughly in sympathy with our policy and are helping to carry it out. I have taken up the question at nearly every meeting of the strike committee and have propagandized it at mass meetings. (Of course we don't reach masses there in Bessemer City, - the "mass" meetings consist of 50 workers or less.)

We have a negro committee of three workers. Other white workers help these. They have made personal contacts with quite a number of the colored workers and have signed up some for the union. I have been around the colored workers quite a bit myself. They appear to be very distrustful. The employers have spread the idea that the union is a trap whereby their jobs will be taken away by the whites. Some very good meetings have been held in Stumptown, with an attendance of about 75 colored men and women. Of course all are not textile workers, there are some there who work as laborers, and the women as servants. It seemed to me that the spirit at these meetings was very good, the workers laughed at our jokes, applauded, etc. About a dozen or so of the white workers came up from Bessemer City to attend these meetings. At the beginning of the meeting the colored workers would stand off at a distance of fifty feet or so, but would gradually draw in closer until at the end of the meeting the black and white workers were standing together. These meetings were held in the evening in the dark. We have not yet held any joint meeting of colored and white workers. We had a plan a couple of weeks ago when we held an entertainment to bring them together; - we invited some colored performers and colored workers ~~xxx~~ to attend, but neither showed up.

Our great difficulty was the need of a colored organizer. Comrade Hall then stayed in Charlotte and appeared reluctant to come down here. Final, after some unsuccessful attempts to get him out here I went down with a car and brought him to Bessemer City. He is now staying permanently in Gastonia and ~~xxx~~ our work is making much better progress.

Comrade Hall tells us however that he gets no financial support, and we certainly can't afford to finance him from the little we get for the union. There is such a wonderful opportunity here for negro work that it appears to the comrades in the field ~~xxx~~ very strange that Comrade Hall is not given the support he needs.

When Comrade Weisbord was here he intimated - that is, he said to me personally - that since the colored workers in the Waste Plant worked in a separate plant not connected with the rest of the mill that they could be organized in a separate local. Our fraction took this up and decided to try to have a joint local.

We have no joint local yet - in fact we have no local at all. We have a large number of white workers signed up for that mill (American #1) but none will come out for a local meeting, nor do any but a handful turn out for "mass" meetings. The workers there

R128 24

Delos 1660

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have been very much terrorised by the employers and many have turned against the union because the strike has not yet been won.  
(I suppose the fact that their organizer left them flat the very day before the mill opened up has something to do with this.)

Since Comrade Hall is now in the situation I suppose he will keep you informed of what progress is made. I will continue to give him all cooperation within my power.

Fraternaly yours,

Vera Buch.

Organizer in Bessemer City.

P.S. I intend to give Comrade Hall a session of the organizer's class in Bessemer City & talk on the Soviet Union.

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