

# Results of National Negro Week

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National Negro Week is over, but the Party's Negro work has just begun.

While full reports have not yet been received from the districts as to the measure of success achieved in each district in the task of mobilizing the entire Party membership for Negro work, the National Negro department has sufficient data on hand to permit of a careful analysis of the results attained and of frank Bolshevik self-criticism of the manner in which our activities were carried out during National Negro Week.

First, let us consider the Party's purpose in having a national Negro week. The communications sent to the District Negro Committees by the National Negro Department before and during National Negro Week stressed that "the period of May 10 to May 20 shall be National Negro Week, and shall be used for the purpose of mobilizing the entire membership behind the Negro work of the Party, building the American Negro Labor Congress the relief committee, the Negro Champion, organizing tenants' leagues, etc."

## Dramatizing Struggle.

It was also repeatedly pointed out that National Negro Week must be utilized for dramatizing the struggles of the Negroes and for dramatizing the support by the Communist Party of the struggle against white ruling class terrorism, against lynching, against Jim-Crowism, against segregation, against disfranchisement, and for full political, social and racial equality of the Negroes.

District Negro committees were instructed to send mixed groups of white and Negro workers to theatres, restaurants and other public places known to be practicing discrimination against the Negroes, and that any refusal to sell tickets to, or serve our Negro comrades, was to be utilized for a mass demonstration against these places and against the whole system of racial discrimination, with picketing of the offending places by groups of white and Negro workers.

In this way, it was pointed out, the struggles of the Negro workers would be dramatized and at the same time we would also be dramatizing the historic role of the Communist Party in leading the struggles of the Negro masses against capitalist oppression and exploitation, against white ruling class terrorism, lynching, disfranchisement, etc.

## No Broad Agitational Base.

From the data at present on hand, it would appear that the campaign was practically barren of that broad agitational base sought by the National Office and for which directives were sent to each district. Only in Paterson (District 2) did National Negro Week achieve that agitational base. In other parts of District 2, notably in Harlem (Section 4 of District 2) several attempts were made to achieve this agitational base, but the first attempts proving unsuccessful in uncovering racial discrimination (the places tested having evidently changed their policies by reason of the growing pressure of the Negro population and the necessity of having to seek the Negro's trade) the matter was dropped.

The Toussaint L'Ouverture Memorial Meetings, held in conjunction with the A. N. L. C., were generally badly organized and poorly attended. These meetings offered a splendid opportunity to bring Negro and white workers together and to acquaint the Negro workers with their revolutionary background at the

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same time carrying on an ideological campaign against chauvinism among the white workers.

This opportunity was muffed because of poor arrangements and improper handling. Boston, perhaps, had the greatest success with the memorial meetings, with Detroit next. In District Two, with its more than 250,000 Negro population, only two memorial meetings were held, one in Brooklyn which was fairly well attended, the other in Harlem. This latter was an absolute farce, with only about 75 workers present. Very few of the white comrades were present, indicating that the decision of the Communist International to the contrary, there is still a marked underestimation of Negro work in the Party. The poor attendance of Negro workers can be traced to the failure of speakers to show up for the street meetings held previously to the memorial meeting.

## Wrong Conception.

The Negro comrades were particularly to blame in this respect. However, the white comrades must get over the idea that street meetings in Negro communities are absolutely impossible unless a Negro comrade is present to speak. If the white comrades will give the necessary attention to a study of the problems of the Negro masses they will not continue to consider themselves inadequately equipped to address a meeting of Negro workers.

Nor will they fail, as now, to enlist the sustained interest of Negro audiences. Their failure in this respect is generally due to the fact that they do not know how to link up the Party's program and slogans with the special problems facing the Negro workers.

Their attitude on the Negro question is not one of study of the special problems with which the Negro workers are faced but either of mechanical and confused (confused because of failure to give the necessary study to Communist International decisions on the Negro) adherence to Communist International decisions, or of a sort of condescending interest in the Party's Negro

work, which is symbolized in their attitude to the Negro Champion, which they usually do not buy to read themselves but "to give it to some Negro worker."

## Fairly Successful Meets.

In Kansas City, in Boston, in Chicago, in Detroit, in Cleveland, there were fairly successful memorial meetings from an agitational viewpoint. The National Negro Department co-operated with the districts wherever requested in sending out national speakers to cover their affairs. Comrade Moore was sent to address the memorial meetings in Boston, in Philadelphia, and also travelled to Buffalo to find that in spite of a request for a speaker no arrangements had actually been made for a memorial meeting. Comrade Moore also spoke at the Harlem memorial meeting. Comrade Hall spoke at two memorial meetings in the South, where for the first time the Party and the A. N. L. C. are penetrating on a healthy basis, drawing in proletarian elements of both races and discarding the professional and petty business element which heretofore hindered the Party's growth in the South. In no district, however, outside of District Two, was there any success in carrying out the financial campaign for the Negro Champion.

In sharp contrast with the failures of the campaign and the poor attendance the memorial meetings, was the methodical arrangement and splendid success of the Negro Champion Dinner in District Two. Over five hundred persons were present at this dinner, where five hundred dollars in cash was raised for the Negro Champion, with over \$1,500 pledged by various organizations and individuals. The dinner was a success both agitationally and financially.

The committee in charge of arrangements, of which Comrade King was chairman, deserves the highest praise for the efficient way in which the affair was arranged. So do the comrades who co-operated with the committee, and particularly Comrade Joseph Brodsky who gave in-

valuable aid both at the dinner and before.

## Department Failings.

Of course the National Negro Departments had its failings, too. The department fell down in the matter of getting out the Negro Champion in time for distribution at and before the memorial meetings. This was due to two causes, the absolute lack of funds and the shortage of forces at the center where one comrade has for the past three months been handling the work of three. The first reason was, of course, the decisive one.

The department should also have printed an ANLC leaflet and a Party leaflet for national distribution among the Negro masses during National Negro Week, but here again the lack of funds was decisive factor. They must, however, share the blame for the failure to get out these leaflets.

Had they responded with orders for these leaflets and with remittance, as requested, the shortage of funds at the center would have been overcome. All they did, however, was to order leaflets, conveniently forgetting to forward remittance.

## Must Learn by Mistakes.

Our Party must learn by these mistakes and in the task of pushing our work among the Negro masses we must seek to benefit by our past mistakes and experiences. We must learn the necessity of proper preparation for our mass demonstrations. And we must energetically carry on our work among the Negro masses and the fight against white chauvinism, against ruling class terrorism, against discrimination in the trade unions, etc. We must always bear in mind the words of the Communist International:

"It must be borne in mind that the Negro masses will not be won for the revolutionary struggles until such time as the most conscious section of the white workers show, by action, that they are fighting against all racial discrimination and persecution. Every member of the Party must bear in mind that 'the age-long oppression of the Colonial and weak nationalities by the imperialist powers,' has given rise to a feeling of bitterness among the masses of the enslaved countries as well as a feeling of distrust toward the oppressing nations in general and toward the proletariat of those Nations."

## Rally to Negro Work!

National Negro week is over, but our Negro work is just begun. We must mobilize every district, every section and every unit for full, active participation in the struggles of the Negro masses. We must increasingly intensify and dramatize the struggles of the Negro masses.

We must clearly and concretely dramatize the historic role of the Communist Party as the champion of the most oppressed section of the working class, and for the fight against lynching, against Jim-Crowism, etc., and for absolute political, social and racial equality for the Negro race.

**Down with Jim-Crowism!**

**Down with lynching!**

**Down with capitalism and imperialism!**

**Down with white ruling class terrorism!**

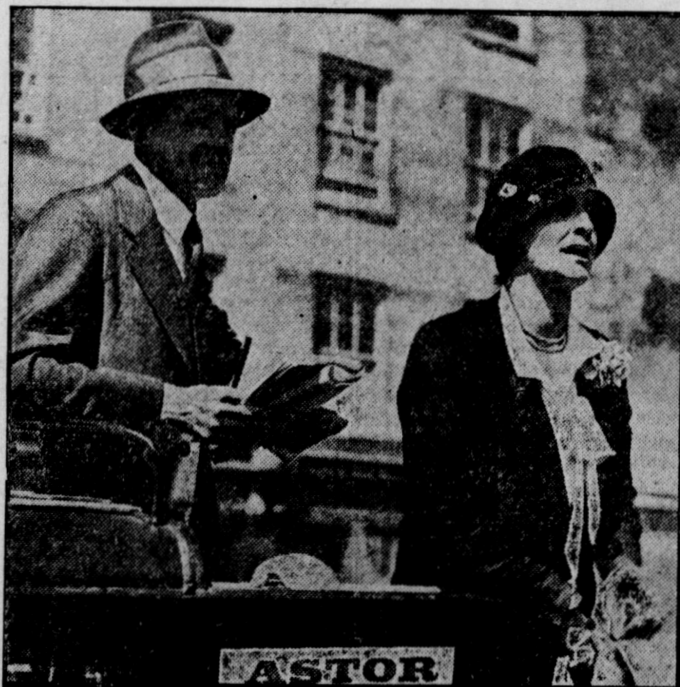
**Down with segregation and race prejudice!**

**Long live international and interracial working class solidarity!**

## POGROM IN WARSAW.

WARSAW, Poland, June 6.—Dispatches from Lemberg tonight reported 43 students wounded in a clash with police which climaxed three days of anti-Jewish disturbances there. There were 5,000 students involved in the disorders.

## Gets Another Chance to Fool Workers



Given the soft district of Plymouth to contest in the British elections, Lady Astor got another chance to excel as spokeswoman for the British ruling class in Parliament. The fashionably dressed man standing next to her in the car is the noble lord who aided his wife in the task of vote snatching.