

LABOR BUREAUCRATS AND NEGRO WORKER

By GEORGE PADMORE

"The reason why Negro workers cannot be organized into the labor movement is because they live in segregated areas and are controlled by boss-politicians whose interest is identified with the employing class," was the explanation given for the lack of economic organization among Negroes, by John P. Frey, one of the bureaucrats of the reactionary American Federation of Labor, at the recent National Inter-Racial Conference held in Washington, D. C. Frey is editor of the Iron Moulders Journal, and a lecturer to colleges and employers associations.

Frey, whose great boast is that he was the first trade unionist to attempt to organize a Negro union in the South, was invited to address the conference on the subject: "Race Problems and the Labor Movement."

Apologetic Speech.

This labor faker began his address—the most apologetic presentation made before the petty-bourgeois intellectuals who constituted the conference—by excusing the reactionary attitude and manifestation of race prejudice existing among the misleaders of the A. F. of L. by saying that it was unfair to criticize Green and his cohorts, because they were not as openly hostile to the Negro workers as the church and many people who call themselves Christians in America.

The speaker then stated that efforts to organize Negro mechanics did not meet with success, because he found that whenever Negro workers became organized they were faced with two problems: First they were viciously discriminated against by the white workers, especially in the skilled industries, and second, Negro political leaders are paid by the capitalists to discourage organization and to crush their militancy.

Helps Only Skilled.

Again, most Negroes belonged to the unskilled class of workers, and the A. F. of L. was more concerned today with the skilled workers, said Frey, whose position within the last ten years was greatly affected by the mechanical improvements taking place in industry. Negro workers were therefore the greatest sufferers, not because of their color, said Mr. Frey, but chiefly because they represent that stratum of the working class which is unorganized.

It was therefore the duty of Negro workers to acquire education and skill and thereby raise themselves out of their present status into the rank of skilled labor, where they will be assured of protection along side the skilled white labor, Frey stated.

In conclusion, Frey paid a glowing tribute to the skill, ability and sterling qualities of Negro labor.

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For United Struggle.

Frey's address, despite its open betrayal of a large section of the American working class, is a frank expression of the deep-rooted decay and corruption within the ranks of the A. F. of L., which only goes to confirm the charge of bankruptcy levelled against Green and other labor aristocrats. In the present class struggle which becomes more and more acute daily, the Negro workers can only look to the Communist Party and the left wing of the labor movement to organize them in the common struggle of labor against capital.

The white worker, especially in the ranks of unskilled, must unite with their black brothers in purging the labor movement of its present misleaders, and building their unions on a program of militancy for the final victory of the working-class over the parasitic capitalists and their lackeys who today control the A. F. of L.

New York Central 'Not Able to Raise Wages' But Electrifies Track

A plan now reaching the surveying stage for electrification of New York Central lines to Buffalo, using power from Niagara Falls, caused General Electric stock to soar 23 points on the stock exchange yesterday. The New York Central is quadrupling tracks wherever the four-track system is not in use already. No raise in wages, to accompany the apparent prosperity of the company, is contemplated.

Sec. 2 Units Order Now For Daily Distribution

All unit organizers and Daily Worker agents must see to it that all the units of Section 2 place their orders for the special edition of the Daily Worker to be distributed on Saturday. Orders should be placed at the section headquarters. All units which did not meet must see to it that orders are placed.

All ticket money and other money collected during the Fifth Anniversary Drive must be turned in no later than tonight.