

"Gentlemen of Color" Only in Rockefeller "Model" House

Gets Negro Bosses to Help Him Exploit Negro Workers In Harlem

By SOL AUERBACH.

X.

(This is the tenth of a series of articles appearing every day in the Daily Worker, exposing the conditions under which workers are forced to live in Harlem. Previous articles described unsanitary, crowded conditions, the robbery of landlords whether politician, Negro or white capitalist, or minister and a fight against these conditions which the tenants are beginning to put up. The present article exposes a so-called "model apartment" scheme.)

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JOHN D. ROCKKEFELLER, whose name is legion as brutal exploiter of labor of all races and in all parts of the world, has built apartments on the block between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, 149th and 150th Streets, for which he has stolen the name of Paul Laurence Dunbar.

This "experiment in cooperative housing" growing out of the charity of Rockefeller—for which he gets a five and one-half per cent return on his money—has been hailed by his own agents and papers like the New York Times as the action of a "public-spirited and charitable" man.

Call Brooklyn Workers to Anti-War Meeting

Fred Biedenkapp, of the Shoe Workers Union, Harold Williams, of the Negro Department of the Communist Party, and Walter Trumbull will speak at a mass meeting to protest against imperialist war preparations at the Brownsville Workers Center, 154 Watkins St., Brooklyn, at 8 p. m., Friday.

In reality, it is a straight bluff. It is meant for the upper class—segregated—of Negroes in Harlem. For the mass of Harlem tenants it is useless except for so much scenery to look upon, if they happen to be up that way.

Not for Us.

Housing schemes, such as proposed by the State Board of Regional Planning, such as are carried out by other "public spirited gentlemen"

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COOL MAY 1ST
CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE.

"Gentlemen of Color" Only In Rockefeller "Model" House

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do not fool one single workingclass tenant anywhere.

If you live in an apartment where you pay \$40 for four rooms in a dilapidated house and your imagination is struck by the description of the "model" Dunbar apartments, you will throw the advertisement down the dumbwaiter shaft as soon as you read that Dunbar apartments are available at \$77.50 per month and \$90 per month.

You will tear it up in fury when you read that a deposit of \$50 per room must be paid before you move in towards the sale price of the apartment and that it will take you 22 years to "own" it.

In this block of 511 apartments in which live about 2,000 people, the average monthly payment—call it rent or installments towards the buying of the apartment, it is about the same—is \$14.50 per room per month. The apartments rent for from \$60 to over \$100. No lodgers are allowed. No rent parties.

"Charity" Not for Us.

This means that the mass Negro workers in Harlem are definitely excluded. The average earnings of the tenants living in this "model apartment" is from \$40 to \$50 per month. They are all of "good Christian character," chosen from a long list of applicants, their lives well looked into.

The average earnings of the mass of workers living in Harlem is about \$20 per week. Figure it out yourself. The mass of tenants cannot pay even \$10 per room per month.

We are definitely out of the circle of Rockefeller's "charity." But what is his idea, anyhow?

"Too Respectable."

MR. and Mrs. Bruce, the managers of the apartments, are highly "respectable people."

"You know, this development, is not tax-exempt," said Mrs. Bruce. And then bristling like a society lady on show, "We are too respectable to ask for tax exemption. We feel that as citizens we should bear the duties of the state."

In fact "respectability" bristles all over the place. The kind of respectability that Mr. Rockefeller likes to see—respectability that means slavery to white masters. And these Negro bourgeoisie, who have sold themselves body and soul to the white master, take up his tune for the sake of getting a position of

supremacy over Negro workers.

Police System.

Mr. Bruce himself—you must consider that a compliment—took us over the place. It is all well kept. Dumbwaiters are working and are fumigated every day. Special guards who have been made members of the police force, patrol the building and see to it that the house rules are kept. If you want to be a respectable Negro bourgeois under the wing of Mr. Rockefeller you must submit to a virtual prison system of restraints, and a spy system. The Bruces, both trained in capitalist universities, are fine police captains.

Going through the cellar—which is also well kept, we found Mr. Wood at his furnace.

"Now, Mr. Wood," said Mr. Bruce, "will you please explain to this gentleman how the heating system works?"

Tutoring.

"This heating system supplies heat for this one apartment. It is built . . ." stammers Wood. He is stuck. He cannot remember his lines. Bruce saves him.

"Thank you very much, Mr. Wood. Now we will go on."

That is just an example of how awful it must be to live in this model apartment—even if you are located in the upper class and can pay the price.

The "Real Thing."

ROCKEFELLER does not allow any opportunity for making money to escape him. He started a bank, known as the Dunbar National Bank on the premises.

The purpose of this bank as expressed in its official literature is also the purpose of the whole "model scheme." It is meant for "the real thing—the middle class groups."

"Gentlemen of Color"

It appeals to the "gentlemen of color," in the name of a board of directors, only one or two of whom are Negroes bankers, but all of whom are big Wall Street financiers, to build a powerful middle class group in Harlem. It is meant for Negro store-keepers, builders, real estate men.

It is another institution created by Rockefeller for the exploitation of Negro workers with the aid of "respectable people" of their own race. In this way he buys over and helps the exploiters and the landlords to

further rob the mass of Negro workers.

A Good Return.

THAT is a model scheme for you. Notice that while Rockefeller helps the Negro bourgeoisie along as puts them under a prison system, because they are Negroes. Notice also that this upper class in Harlem will submit to all sorts of insults for the sake of shaking hands with the agents of Rockefeller.

As far as we, the Negro and white workers are concerned, that "model scheme" in Harlem is not meant for us. It is, in fact, an enemy of ours, for it serves as a focusing point for the development of a group of Negro bosses and exploiters, taken under the wing of Wall Street, who are to get some returns on the exploitation of Negro workers, the greater benefit of which, however, is to go to Rockefeller himself.

Tomorrow follow the Daily Worker investigator further in the exposure of housing conditions in Harlem.

Tenants are invited to write in freely to the Daily Worker on their housing conditions.

DEBENTURES TO RAISE FOOD COST

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American labor nullify the effect of a protective tariff?

"Is not the proposed reparations bank a creation of and sponsored by the League of Nations?"

"Have not arrangements already been made to have the Federal Reserve System of the United States become an agent of this international super bank, which will thereby of necessity force the United States to become affiliated with the World Court and the League of Nations in order to protect American money poured into Continental Europe through the action of the Federal Reserve Board?"

Protect Mellon "Refunds."

The senate judiciary committee put its official seal on the appointment of Mellon to be secretary of the treasury without asking for the consent of the senate, and will report to that body that his holding over in office from the Coolidge administration was legal. Mellon's friends hope by this maneuver to prevent a threatened investigation into his granting millions as "tax refunds" from the treasury to companies he owns.