

"Keep Quiet" Is Slogan of A Porto Rican Exploiter

Head of Beneficial League Would Let Race Barriers Stand for His Own Benefit

(This is the twentieth in a series of articles exposing the conditions under which workers are forced to live. The first part dealt with conditions in Negro Harlem and told of the activities of the Harlem Tenants League, 169 W. 133rd Street, in the fight against the landlords. During the last week the Daily Worker exposed conditions in Latin-American Harlem. The present article deals with a Porto Rican organization which does all it can to mislead its members.)

By SOL AUERBACH.

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WHEREVER there are exploited segregated groups of workers you will find a group of parasites, of the same race or nationality, who take to themselves the privilege of a special concession for exploitation of this group.

Using the barrier of segregation as a protection, they suck the blood from the workers imprisoned behind those barriers. They say, "Hands

Off" to any other petty exploiter of another race who attempts to steal some of their privileges. Ensconsing themselves, like petty kings, they pose as philanthropists, humanitarians, liberals or what not.

They Want it So.

They, of course, are strongly opposed to any plan of action which would change the existing state of affairs, wipe out the artificial racial barriers, and free the slaves of capitalist exploitation. For any change

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EXPLOITER OF HARLEM WORKERS SAYS 'KEEP MUM'

Makes Use of Barriers of Prejudice

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in the mold of society would mean that they would be deprived of their special concessions as exploiters of the workers of their race, be deprived of their self-glorious position as philanthropists, humanitarians and liberals.

When this system of segregation and exploitation is wiped out these petty exploiters will lose their thrones.

On Other Side.

They like to make people think they are liberal. But in reality, they participate as actively as anyone in the class struggle—on the side opposed to the workers.

THE "Liga Puertorriquena E. Hispana," the American Porto Rican League, located at 75 West 113th Street, is such an organization.

A. R. Hernandez, president, makes his living from this organization. It is supposed to be a benefit society, charging regular dues and giving \$500 in case of death and a few dollars a week in case of sickness. Hernandez claims that he has 2,000 members.

The emergency housing situation existing in Lower Harlem gave Hernandez—who, it is said, has political aspirations in coming with one of the machines in Harlem—an opportunity to practice more posing as a humanitarian. He called a meeting a few weeks ago to discuss the Multiple Dwellings Bill, then on Governor Roosevelt's desk, and the expiration of the Emergency Rent Laws—a discussion which was forced by the activity of the Harlem Tenants League during its agitation against these measures.

Workers Talk.

Many Porto Rican and other Latin-American workers, very intimate with the "housing emergency," attended this meeting. Some Latin-American workers, representing the Harlem Tenants League were also present.

The meeting would have ended with a bunch of ballyhoo, and long-winded eruptions from the kind Mr. Hernandez, if the militant Latin-American workers present did not take matters into their own hands. They took the floor to expose the fake nature of the laws passed by the state legislature, which has done nothing in regards to housing but pass laws for the last half century and then forget all about them. In no uncertain terms they showed the true nature of the capitalist system, which segregated the foreign and colored workers in groups all the better to exploit them in the factories and in the tenements.

Hernandez Betrays.

They summed up all this, and more, in a resolution, which proposed that those present at the meeting send a committee to the Harlem Tenants League, which has a fighting program for workingclass tenants.

The resolution was passed unanimously over the heads of Hernandez and his friends. The president seeing that the tide threatened to drown out his humanitarian pose, expressed agreement with the resolution.

But now, weeks after the meeting, that committee has not yet reported at the office of the Harlem Tenants League. Hernandez, working from his office, saw to it that the committee did not arrive.

A Good Talker.

WE visited Hernandez at his office. He spoke many kind and long phrases, flowered with the many-colored words of a typical liberal. He talked long trying to convince us of the beneficial services of his organization, of his own charitable heart and plentiful hand.

But finally we got him to the crucial point. He had been telling us of the suffering of the Porto Ricans, how they toiled in restaurant and laundry for miserable wages and lived in uninhabitable houses. He had not said a word about discrimination, of which the colored Porto Ricans are the most frequent victims, often forced to find their bread and butter by the oldest trade in history.

The Crucial Point.

"But, do you not think," we asked, "that by far the greatest difficulty which Porto Ricans must face is the violent prejudice instigated against them?"

Hernandez leaned back in his swivel chair, picking for words with his toothpick.

"Don't Talk."

"Well," he said, after considerable hesitation, "we don't talk much about that here. It can't be helped. That's the way America is. They'll just say damn the foreigner. We might call it the second nature of the American."

That is his attitude. It cannot be helped. It is the second nature. He never talks about it. For to fight against it would mean removing his own domain of exploitation.

Hernandez is either a Creole or an Indian and it is unlikely that he comes from Porto Rico. Working in his office while he was talking was a Porto Rican Negro. He listened intently and we saw him prick up his ears when we asked the question. He told us later that he was a discrimination cannot be removed. He will tell them to accept it as finished, unalterable, to remain cowed behind these walls, rather than to rise in masses and overthrow them. Hernandez himself is solidly

New York Workers F



Photo shows part of crowd of the greatest demonstrations of work

reader of the Daily Worker, even while still in Porto Rico.

Perched On Wall.

THAT is the nature of one of the Porto Rican "leaders." He will try to convince the Porto Rican workers that this concrete wall of perched on this wall, waving wands of humanitarianism and should the wall be overthrown, he too would fall. He is said to have been some sort of a socialist in the early stages of his career. Maybe that accounts for his aptness in the role of a betrayer.

Our Enemies.

In upper Harlem we found the Negro bourgeoisie kissing the feet of the white exploiters for the privilege of being allowed to exploit the Negro workers. We found the church, politicians and courts helping them.

The Latin-American bourgeoisie is no different. They too are the enemies of the Latin-American workers. They are just as despicable, parading under humanitarian surfaces, keeping the workers in slavery the better to exploit them.

"Centro Obrero de Halbo Espanola," which holds its regular meetings on Thursday nights at 55 W. 133rd St., talks the language of workers fighting against the whole system of exploitation with its Hernandezian hanger-ons.

Continue following the Daily Worker in its exposure of housing conditions in Latin-American Harlem. The concluding article on Lower Harlem will appear tomorrow. Monday we will take you to "Hell's Kitchen."

Tenants! Write in to the Daily Worker, describing the conditions under which you are forced to live.

"FOOD DECISIVE" SAYS PERSHING

Gastonia Strike Leader Asks Aid for Pickets

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the workers joined the struggle last week, more than 800 families are fed daily. This means that in Bessemer City alone we have to furnish food to more than 3,200 men, women and children. In addition, hundreds of others must be taken care of in Pineville, Lexington and Charlotte. The responsibilities of the Workers International Relief are great but I am sure that it will fulfill its expectations.

Vary Diet.

"Before the beginning of the strike a typical meal of a North Carolina textile worker consisted of biscuits, sour belly grease, sorgum and potatoes.

"Among the food-stuffs distributed at the W. I. R. stations can be found flour meal, potatoes, lard, salt pork, gritz, milk for the babies, coffee beans, cabbage and carrots. All of these are not given every day, but varied from time to time.

Boss for Starvation.

"The Workers International Relief is being watched closely both by the strikers and the mill owners. The strikers are watching it to get food, so they will not starve and will be able to fight on until they win. The mill owners are watching hoping that the food will give out so the workers will starve! It is a grim game and if the relief distribution centers continue to furnish food, can only bring one result, the victory of the workers.

"As an organizer of the National Textile Workers Union, I appeal to all supporters of the militant working class to contribute funds to feed the strikers. Do not delay, as hesitation is dangerous. Send a liberal donation to the national office of the Workers International Relief, located at 1 Union Sq., New York City."

Adopt Amendment for Farm 'Relief' Measure

WASHINGTON, May 2 (UP).

—The Norris amendment to the McNary farm relief bill, providing for a graduated decrease in the debenture whenever an increase in crop production is predicted, was adopted by the senate today without a record vote.

Of all the classes that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie today the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class.—Karl Marx (Communist Manifesto).