

The Reds Say--

By JIM ALLEN

It's good to have a little paper like the SOUTHERN WORKER coming out every week. It looks like an easy job, getting it out in little bundles to all our agents all over the South. But what, if one of these week it just didn't come? There would be lots of disappointed workers who would be asking about it. There would be some workers' correspondence that maybe you had sent in that you wanted the workers in your shop or around you to read. Big important things were happening and there was no SOUTHERN WORKER to report them and explain them. It would be a big gaping hole that week in the body of the revolutionary movement in the South, if the SOUTHERN WORKER did not appear.

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You all agree it would be a tragedy and yet from the way some of our comrades act, it looks as tho they are just inviting that to happen. Some units of the Communist Party—remember, the Party is supposed to be ahead in all things—individual comrades and union organizations that receive bundles of the SOUTHERN WORKER for sale regularly every week, read it with real satisfaction, and set about distributing it or selling it. That is the last we hear of them—except when the paper happens to come a day late, and then we get a howl of protest. Our bills are blissfully ignored. These comrades must think that we run a moonshine mint in Birmingham. Do you realize, comrades, that it costs money to put out the SOUTHERN WORKER?

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And yet, don't think for a moment that these copies of the SOUTHERN WORKER are not paid for. The trouble is that this money does not get by the unit treasuries. For some reason, that the man in the moon only knows about, the comrades have the idea that the SOUTHERN WORKER gets written up and printed on love. That may be true of the bosses papers, who live on the love of the capitalists translated into big juicy prices paid for advertisements. The SOUTHERN WORKER depends directly on the support of the workers' pennies, and the comrades above all must realize that these pennies must not only be collected but ACTUALLY SENT TO THE SOUTHERN WORKER.

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As much as we hate to do it, we are being forced to deprive workers of our paper, just because some comrade is careless enough or doesn't care enough to pay his bills. Just the other day we received a frantic letter from a worker in Ensley, who wanted to know where in the hell he could get the paper, since the place he used to get it is all sold out in a day. And, would you believe it? the comrade who is our agent in Ensley gets 60 copies a week and has not paid a cent from the very first issue! It is directly due to the negligence of this comrade, that the workers of Ensley will be deprived of the paper, until the Ensley unit of the Party begins to realize its responsibility. The same will happen, beginning with this very issue with other comrades like our Ensley one.

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The workers in the North, in the spirit of working class solidarity raised the funds necessary to keep our paper and keep it going for some time. But now those funds are running out, and unless we get on our own feet and walk on them ourselves, there won't be no SOUTHERN WORKER.