

Mackawain, Negro Renegade, Aids Imperialist Attack on Ethiopia

By Cyril Briggs

Article I.

Every day brings fresh news of important progress in the development on a world scale of the united front defense of the Ethiopian people against the aggressions of Fascist Italy.

Even the American capitalist press, ever alert as every Negro and white worker knows, to promote chauvinist hatred of the Negro people, can no longer conceal the fact that throughout the world today there is being forged a mighty united front of white and Negro people for the defense of Ethiopia, for active aid to the liberation struggles of the Negro peoples of Africa and the United States.

"Divide and Rule"

This fact is naturally distasteful to the imperialists. Imperialist rule is based on the policy of "divide and rule." Imperialism must split the ranks of its victims in order to maintain its robber rule. It must set Negro against white to prevent them uniting against the common oppressor. In this it has been eminently successful in the past.

Today, as a direct result of the bold application by the Communist Parties of their correct program of unity of all toilers, black and white, the imperialists find their rule increasingly menaced. And the answer of the imperialists is to intensify their chauvinist propaganda and increase their efforts to prevent unity of the workers and the oppressed peoples. And just as they use stool pigeons to spy on workers in the factories with the aim of disrupting their struggles for better conditions, so do they seek agents from the ranks of their victims to carry out their dastardly work of spreading distrust and dis-

unity among these victims. They find willing agents for this work of disruption in the Lovestonette and Trotskyite renegades from Communism.

Role of Petty-Bourgeois Nationalism

The splitting tactics of the imperialists receive support from still another quarter: Negro petty bourgeois nationalism. Even here, however, the power of the anti-imperialist united front is being felt, and the more progressive sections of the Negro petty bourgeois nationalists are today wholeheartedly cooperating in the united defense of Ethiopia. In this they follow the wise example of the Ethiopian nation in seeking allies throughout the world in its defensive struggle against Italian fascism.

The more confused elements of the Negro petty bourgeois nationalists continue, however, to spread distrust among the Negro people for their natural allies, the white workers who, like them, are in active struggle against the same imperialist oppressors. Whether so intended or not, the rabid attacks of the confused elements on the growing unity of Negro and white can serve only one purpose: to hamper the fight against imperialism, thus giving aid and comfort to the imperialist enemy. Undoubtedly most of these people are not conscious allies of imperialism. Their attacks on the united front have, however, the same effect: the weakening of the struggle against the common enemy.

The imperialist enemies of the Negro people have recently gained another recruit for their splitting activities, a conscious ally, in Herman Mackawain, erstwhile professed revolutionary fighter against capitalism, and its plundering of the Negro peoples and white toilers.

Aids Mussolini

Mackawain's desertion of the revolutionary movement at this moment takes on special significance because of the tense international situation arising out of Mussolini's attacks on Ethiopia, and the resultant necessity of building the broadest united front support of Ethiopia. It takes on special significance because of the growth of fascist reaction in this country, and the necessity of the Negro people, who would be the worst sufferers under fascism, to put up the sharpest struggle, in unity with all anti-fascists, against William Randolph Hearst and other promoters of fascism.

It is this united front struggle against war and fascism and for defense of Ethiopia that Mackawain attacks in his slanders against the Communist Party—the best fighter for the unity of all toilers, for defense of Ethiopia and against war and fascism.

Mackawain has chosen the path of imperialist reaction. That is a road which inevitably leads to betrayal of the liberation struggles of the Negro people, to betrayal of the fight against fascism and war.

"Whenever a comrade slides down into the camp of imperialist reaction, it proves that he has never felt the urge to revolutionary action."

These are Mackawain's words, uttered at the Eighth Convention of the Communist Party in Cleveland in 1934. Is it necessary to add to this indictment of Mackawain by Mackawain? Mackawain's self-indictment throws a glaring light on his recent desertion from the revolutionary struggle for social emancipation of all toilers, black and white, and for the national liberation of the Negro people of this country, Africa and the West Indies.