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# COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO

By JAMES W. FORD.

SOLICITED by the editor of *The Crisis*, seven Negro editors had their say on Communism in the April Crisis. One naturally asks why this sudden interest in Communism on the part of these gentlemen, most of whom in the past attempted to hide the very existence of the Communist Party from the Negro masses.



JAMES W. FORD

Proposed Candidate of the Communist Party for Vice-President.

The answer to this question is given by the editors themselves, in their admissions of the rapid growth of Communist influence among the Negro masses and their undisguised concern and alarm over this undeniable fact.

I have carefully studied these statements. I find them all admitting that (1) the Communist Party is waging a relentless struggle not only for the immediate interests of the whole working class, but for full and unconditional equal rights for the Negro masses; (2) that the Negro masses are definitely turning to the leadership of the Communist Party.

Moreover, these gentlemen all admit the oppressive nature of the capitalist system. They admit that the Negro people are brutally oppressed and robbed under the capitalist system.

But, admitting all this, these gentlemen, with the single exception of Mr. Carl Murphy, of the Baltimore Afro-American with whose article I shall deal later in detail, openly state their opposition to the Communist Party, openly expose

their support of the very capitalist system whose oppressive nature they themselves are forced to admit.

None of these editors are workers. They are all representatives of the Negro bourgeoisie (the boss class). And they all suffer in varying degrees from its ghetto ideology. They all are under the influence of the various imperialist theories, including that of the "inherent inferiority" of Negroes and the supposed "superiority" of the so-called white race. They all look upon capitalism, and especially capitalist Jim-crowism as offering them a career, a chance to build personal fortunes at the expense of the Negro masses. These factors determine the objective role of these gentlemen.

Despite the fact of difference within their general policy, that general policy definitely is to block the growing struggles of the Negro masses against imperialism. These struggles they admit are led by the Communist Party.

And why this so-called symposium on Communism in the Crisis? In the Crisis of all the organs of the Negro bourgeoisie? The Crisis which violently attacks the Communist Party, denies the independent role of the Negro proletariat, scoffs at the growing solidarity of the Negro and white toiling masses in the fight against starvation and national oppression, and shamelessly defends the capitalist oppressors of the white and Negro toilers?

The so-called symposium is an attempt to block the growing influence of the Communist Party among the Negro masses. It is no accident that this attempt is led by the Crisis, the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The top leadership of the NAACP is notoriously composed of

bourgeois Negroes and white imperialists, like Spingarn, the gentleman who advocated Jim-Crow training camps for Negro soldiers during the World War and now heads the NAACP as his reward. The NAACP leadership represents the highest expression of the united front of the Negro bourgeoisie with the imperialist enemies of the Negro masses. Its leaders have completely exposed themselves in the Scotsboro case, in the

Orphan Jones (Maryland), Willie Peterson (Birmingham), Willie Brown (Philadelphia), and other cases of frame-ups and attempted legal lynchings of Negro workers, as assistant hangmen of the imperialists.

Nor is it an accident that this attack on the Communist Party occurs at this time when the workers are confronted with the election struggle. The real issues of the election campaign

are the fight against starvation, for unemployment and social insurance, emergency relief for the small farmers, exemption of poor farmers from taxes and forced collection of debts, equal rights for the Negro masses and the right of self determination for the Black Belt. In the fight for these working class demands it is necessary to build a firm working class unity in resistance against the capitalist hunger and war offensives, against Hoover's wage slashing campaign, against terror, against all forms of suppression of the political rights of the workers, against imperialist war and for the defense of

the Chinese people and the Soviet Union.

Only the Communist Party is leading this struggle. Only the Communist Party can lead such a struggle. And the Communist Party is gaining in influence among the toiling Negro and white masses. The imperialists and their agents, black and white, therefore consider it necessary to intensify their offensive against the Communist Party. The Crisis "symposium" on Communism is part of that offensive.

Beginning tomorrow I will take up the individual statements of these seven gentlemen in detail.

## Coining Blood Money from Munitions for the Anti-Soviet War



## THE STRUGGLE OF THE FAR EASTERN TOILERS AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST WAR

(Chinese Workers Correspondence)

ONE of the Japanese militarists said: "The 19th Route Army at Shanghai does not seem to know the prestige of the Imperial Force; that accounts for their stubborn resistance."

For five weeks since January 25th all events transpiring at Shanghai have told us fully what the 'prestige' of the force of the Japanese Empire is. The 'prestige' manifested through the most inhuman massacres by means of the most scientific and up-to-date arms!

On Feb. 22nd, two days before the Japanese

soldier Government and Red Army of Japan! Celebrate the 14th anniversary of the establishment of the Red Army!"

Other kinds of literature of the same revolutionary nature are abundant. The Japanese revolutionary elements are so active that on Feb. 21, one of their members connected with the Japanese air force at Shanghai even utilized one of the Japanese fighting planes as the instrument of their publicity work and distributed a great many leaflets bearing the seal of the Young Japanese Communists urging the Japanese soldiers on the front to fight against the im-