

Negro Youth Problem

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In the light of the perspective of the Young Communist International which correctly estimates the objective international situation and outlines the tasks devolving upon the Young Communist League of its various sections, the question of the Negro youth properly assumes great significance and work in this field is mentioned as one of the main tasks before the American League.

The Necessity of Correct Tactics

Work among the Negro youth is fraught with difficulties, as the Negro problem in the United States is complicated and involved, and our success depends to a great extent upon the correctness of our tactics and approach. Therefore, these tactics must be formulated with the greatest care and precision and with due consideration of the past experiences of both the Party and the League. They must be based upon thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the Negro, a correct estimation of his racial and social desires, a knowledge of his history, his economic and social status in this country, and his relation to the international situation. Without tactics based upon a sound theoretical understanding of the Negro problem in all its aspects, we shall inevitably commit blunders which will result in the retarding our work.

It is obvious, therefore, that in conjunction with our external activities among the Negro youth, we must carry on an intensive, ideological campaign within the League itself for the purpose of clarifying the membership upon this important phase of our work, so that they will be able to see it in its proper significance.

In order to understand the Negro problem in America we must first understand the character of American imperialism and see the relation of the Negroes to this development.

The Character of American Imperialism.

American imperialism is the most dominant in the world at the present time. The world pays homage to Wall Street. In the scramble for the sources of raw materials, cheap labor—a dumping ground for capital, American finance capitalism has penetrated into the most remote sections of the globe. (Philippines, Hawaii, Haiti, China and Latin-America). Not to speak of the extension of its sphere of influence over developed capitalist

nations (Germany—the Dawes Plan).

By bribing directly and indirectly the bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor and the skilled section of the workers (aristocracy of labor) in the form of higher wages, with part of the super profits from the colonies, American imperialism is able effectively to split the ranks of the American working class and to keep in subjection and servility the great majority of the unskilled workers.

The Negro as a Reserve of American Imperialism.

The stratification of the American working class has been doubly facilitated by the presence of a group of 12,000,000 Negroes in this country with the status of colonials and of which industrial workers, farm laborers, and poor farmers comprise the greatest majority; a race with no bourgeois class and with only a relatively small petty bourgeois class.

The position of the Negro as the most exploited group in American society is secured by hard cast lines based upon long standing and deep rooted prejudices which have been consciously engendered and fostered by capitalism. By the promotion of these prejudices among the workers, the capitalists through their henchmen, the bureaucrats of the American Federation of Labor, have been able to a large extent to isolate the Negro from organized labor in this country, keeping him as a reservoir of cheap labor, a weapon with which to beat into submission organized labor, thereby lowering the living conditions of the entire working class.

This group at present constitutes one of the chief reserves of American imperialism, a source from which a large portion of its immense profits are derived.

The Negro as a Part of the Proletarian Revolution.

On the other hand, the Negro is the weak spot in the armour of American imperialism. He is truly a problem in the United States, in the sense that his aspirations—racial, social, or economic—cannot be realized within the confines of a capitalist society. Capitalism cannot grant even his immediate racial demands much less his more basic economic ones. Because he has less to lose and more to gain by a radical social change, he is potentially the most revolutionary. Revolutionary fermentation among the Negro masses would be a mortal blow to American imperialism. It would be equivalent to the breaking down of one of its main supports. Undoubtedly, the Negro is the powder spark in American capitalist society.