

WHAT OF A "NEGRO" NEWSPAPER THAT HELPS A WHITE RULING CLASS LYNCHERS?

(AN EDITORIAL)

One of the chief reasons why it is necessary to support the Daily Worker is:

AMONG the agencies that the white ruling class use AGAINST THE NEGROES is a whole string of so-called "Negro" newspapers. We do not mean that all Negro newspapers are agents of the white capitalist class. But many of them are.

For instance the Pittsburgh Courier, a so-called "Negro" newspaper, has just published an editorial in which it says:

"If Herndon dies, the responsibility for his death will rest not only upon the planter-manufacturer dictatorship of Georgia, but upon the Communist Party, which persists in callously sending these youngsters to certain imprisonment and death."

Thus the Pittsburgh Courier, mouthpiece of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, seizes upon the brutal chain-gang verdict of the Georgia courts against Angelo Herndon to exonerate the white rulers from their barbarous crime.

The Courier's statement has a familiar ring. We have heard this slander before, both from the white ruling class and from the Pittsburgh Courier and other organs of its kind. In fact, it is part of the whole campaign of calumny of the Negro reformists against the program of the Communist Party for Negro national liberation, a program which has met with the widest response among the Negro masses in this country. It is designed to stifle the growing militancy of the Negro toilers, to check their trend towards revolutionary leadership. It is but a servile echo of the attacks of the white rulers against the Negro masses, who are increasingly rallying to Communist leadership in their struggle against growing terror and misery.

Why does the Pittsburgh Courier object to the presence of Herndon in Georgia? Why was Herndon in Georgia? As a Communist he went to Georgia precisely for the purpose of organizing the fight of the Negro masses against the fiendish slave-oppression inflicted upon these masses by the "planter-manufacturer dictatorship of Georgia." Thus it cannot be the presence of Herndon to which the Pittsburgh Courier objects, but the fight which Herndon led against the hunger-murder regime of the white ruling class. Behind the hypocritical concern for the life of Herndon lurks the real anxiety of the Pitts-



(Above) Headline in Pittsburgh Courier calling on the Tuskegee Institute to carry out the drive of the Southern lynch bosses.

(Below, left) Headline in a Southern paper showing how Tuskegee answered the call of the Pittsburgh Courier. Cliff James, refused medical aid was allowed to die from his wounds in jail.

(Below, right) A typical lynching by the Southern boss class.

burgh Courier, that is, anxiety for the rule of its masters, the white slave-drivers.

When the Southern ruling-class lynchers were mobilizing all their forces to carry through the vicious lynch-verdicts against the nine innocent Scottsboro boys, the Pittsburgh Courier was found on the side of the lynchers.

It directed its fire not against the Alabama ruling class seeking to burn the boys in the electric chair, but against the mass defense movement and its leader, the Communist Party. It directly justified the lynch-action against the boys with the provocative declaration:

"It is more likely, however, that if mobs break out in Alabama and these eight boys are taken from the jail and lynched it would probably be due to the nonsensical activities of the Communists, who, by their misguided energies, are finally driving the citizens of Alabama to the point of desperation."

The poor lynchers whose aim is not to lynch the boys, —Oh, no!—but whose intentions were noble and humane —are being driven to "desperation" by the vicious Communists!

The Pittsburgh Courier is persistent in the defense of its white ruling-class masters. What was the attitude

of the Pittsburgh Courier during the bloody events of December 19, in Tallapoosa County, Alabama? When the Alabama landlords and their sheriffs, aided by their "Uncle Toms," the Negro lackeys of Tuskegee Institute, were trying to smash the growing struggles of the Negro sharecroppers and exploited farmers against starvation and oppression, when the press was doing everything in its power to incite lynch violence against the Negro toilers, the Courier again intervened on the side of "lynch law and order." It carried a headline reading: "Tuskegee Must Fight Reds."

According to the Pittsburgh Courier and those it represents, the present vicious terror against the Negro masses in the South is not an integral part of the whole system of national oppression and its inevitable sharpening in the present crisis, but is due to the vicious Communists who are inciting the "ignorant" Negroes to rebel against their good masters!

What is the essence of this hypocritical swindle of the Negro reformists and social-fascists? It is that the capitalists are to maintain their wholesale violence against the Negro masses without the resistance of these masses. Not against the increasing, daily violence of the Bourbon dictatorship, but against the resistance of the masses to this violence; this is the core of Negro reformism in the present period of rising class and Negro liberation struggles. This it has in common with social-fascism.

Is it not crystal clear that this is but a method of support of the ruling-class, designed to disarm the resistance of the masses in the face of the growing terror?

It should be clear to every worker that the professed "indignation" of the Pittsburgh Courier against the "planter-manufacturer dictatorship" of Georgia, their "belief" that "all American citizens who love their liberty will rally to the support" of Herndon, is a cloak behind which lurks the assassin's knife, hired by the ruling class murderers to behead the rising mass movement of the Negro and white toilers. The praise of Herndon as a "fine, up-standing youth," is a "Judas kiss" from the mouth of slimy traitors.

In striking contrast to the cowardly, belly-crawling attitude of the "Uncle Tom" Negro misleaders, typified by the editors of the Pittsburgh Courier, the leaders of the N.A.A.C.P., etc., is the ringing call of Angelo Herndon, who, with the menace of death in the electric chair threatening his young life, stood up in the Georgia courtroom, boldly called for a struggle for Negro rights, exposed the lords of starvation and Jim-Crowism, and uncompromisingly denounced those who would betray this struggle. In a ringing call, Herndon hurled his heroic defiance in the face of the murderous white ruling class.

"You may do what you will with Angelo Herndon. You may indict him. You may put him in jail. But there will come other thousands of Angelo Herndons."

Angelo Herndon's voice is the voice of the new Negro leadership, the Negro working-class, which, in close solidarity with the revolutionary white workers, under the leadership of the Communist Party, is the only force capable of leading the oppressed Negro people to freedom.

It is clear now why a newspaper that betrays the Negro masses such as the Pittsburgh Courier receives the support of the white ruling class. Even the white landlords and the bloody handed governors of Georgia and Alabama are now smiling upon the Pittsburgh Courier, just as they welcome Mr. Pickens and Mr. White whenever these gentlemen come into a Southern State where the ruling class is preparing to shoot down Negro sharecroppers. The Pittsburgh Courier will prosper as long as slavery prospers.

But the Daily Worker is at the same time most savagely attacked by the capitalist landlord ruling class of Alabama and Georgia. Those who organize and fight as the Daily Worker organizes and fights for the liberation of the Negro people from slavery are not receiving any support—no advertisements and no money contributions from the ruling class who enslave the Negro people.

But this fight must be won. Today in a thousand sharecroppers cabins in the South, the Daily Worker, despite the efforts of the ruling class to outlaw it and prevent its being brought into the southern states, is their most treasured possession.

The Daily Worker has to depend upon not the rich, but the poor to support it. Not the capitalists and the landlords who incite lynching and frame up innocent Negro boys in order to perpetuate a system of slavery—but the slaves themselves are depended upon to support the Daily Worker.

The Daily Worker is in desperate danger of extinction.

The truth is that the \$35,000 drive to save the life of the Daily Worker is lagging dangerously behind, due to the extreme poverty of the masses. Therefore it is necessary to issue a sharp word of warning that the contributions must come quicker and in larger amounts.

ONLY \$329.96 was received Sunday and yesterday, a drop to a little more than half of the \$636.46 that came in last Sunday and Monday. Readers, the Daily Worker is in a critical condition. Don't delay! Collect among your friends, visit organizations, arrange affairs, contribute every cent you can! Hurry funds immediately to the Daily Worker 50 E. 13th St., New York City.

Received Sunday and yesterday \$329.96
Total to date \$636.46