

Herndon Brands SP Negro Resolution As Slap in Face

**Points to Tremendous Role of Negro in C.I.O.
Organizing Drive in Steel—Cites Recent
Strike of Tobacco Workers**

By Angelo Herndon

(Excerpts from the report of the Commission on Negro Youth Problems at the Eighth Convention of the Y.C.L.)

It is the task and responsibility of the Young Communist League to understand how and by what means various strata of youth can become an articulate part of the people's movement for freedom, peace and progress. We have spoken about an approach to youth which takes the young people as they are; we have stressed the need of recruiting and building the League on the basis of



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the interests of the young people themselves. This is especially true among large numbers of Negro youth.

Negro youth are rightfully entitled to the scepticism which they have about the official affairs of any organization. We must therefore see to it that they participate in drawing up plans of activity in all branches of the Y.C.L. In this way we will fully convince them of our sincerity and devotion to the cause of Negro emancipation. Unity of Negro and white can thus be effectively cemented.

It is of supreme importance that our comrades, Negro and white, acquaint themselves with the history of the Negro people and their contribution to the development of our country. The Negro people are becoming more and more conscious of this contribution and since such information is not available in most of our institutions of learning we should equip ourselves and help equip others with this knowledge.

SOCIALIST RESOLUTION

It is in place here and now, to take issue with the position of the Socialist Party on the Negro question. At its last National Convention in Chicago the Socialist Party adopted a resolution which is a malicious slap in the face for all Negroes. This resolution reads:

"The role of strikebreaking, which has been forced upon the American Negro by circumstances over which he has no control, has been one which has immeasurably hindered the development of a conscious labor movement. It is important that where there is capability, Negro comrades should be quietly and unobtrusively placed in positions of responsibility. As much precaution against the danger of 'black chauvinism' as 'white chauvinism' should be kept in mind."

I think that in answer to this malicious assault upon the Negro people, it is necessary to point out the role of Negroes in most of the major struggles of the American labor movement. Suffice it to say that especially in the recent period, despite the barriers set up by the old bureaucrats of the A. F. of L., barring Negroes from membership in the unions, Negro workers today are conscious that their place is in the labor movement. Observe the tremendous role which is now being played by the Negro people in the organization drive of the CIO.

One example is outstanding. The recent strike of the tobacco workers in Virginia is a decisive answer to the Socialist Party which has confused and befuddled this issue. Here it was possible, with the active help of the YCL to call out 300 Negro tobacco workers in a militant strike which ended in victory.

COURSE AT C.C.N.Y.

I wish to cite an example where our student comrades correctly understood the significance of Negro history and tradition. At City College in New York the suggestion was made that a course be added to the curriculum on Negro history and its contribution to American culture. The faculty replied that they had no such material and if it was collected and presented to them, they would see what could

be done. The Frederick Douglass society which included some of our comrades immediately got together such material and presented it to the faculty and conducted a campaign for the inclusion of such a course. As a result the faculty has promised to name a prominent Negro professor who will teach such a course at the school.

A few words about some special problems that face us in the South. The slogan of self-determination for the Negro people in the black belt can be applied in a much more practical and material way than we have done in the past. The whole feudal share-cropping system and the exclusion of Negroes from the suffrage and from the government is facing collapse. I think it is necessary at this moment to raise the right of the Negroes to participate in the government. For example, if two or three thousand Negroes in the State of Mississippi came to the State capital, supported by question of Negroes participating in the government. In this way, we would be applying a theoretical approach in a concrete material way. We must understand that if those Negroes who are deprived of the right to vote will win this demand they will be helping to complete that revolution which was not carried through to completion when chattel slavery was abolished. To realize the completion of that revolution it is necessary for us to bring forward in a very positive way the demand for increased participation in the government.

STEPS IN SOUTH

A real mass movement is already underway among the Negro people. There is the Southern Negro Youth Congress and also the movement of the Negro students in the South. On April 22, the day of the nationwide student peace strike, 12 Negro colleges went on strike in the Southland and I can assure you that this is a tremendous progressive movement.

The next step should be the development of a real mass movement to realize the demand for the those white people who are also deprived of suffrage because of inability to pay the poll tax, this would strike fear in the hearts of the slave masters. It would open up the whole question of the complete emancipation of the Negro people. Should there be a threat of violence we would be within our constitutional rights in demanding that Federal troops enforce those rights which are denied the Negro people.

Here we have a splendid opportunity to develop the struggle for democratic rights, winning such rights for the Negro people. Let us remember what Lenin taught us, that through the fight for democracy we shall be able to go further in the fight for the realization of Socialism.

Mother Bloor Fete Sponsored By Sinclair

**75th Birthday to Be
Marked at Festival
on Staten Island**

Upton Sinclair, Roger Baldwin and Isobel Walker Soule are among the well-known Americans who are sponsoring the Mother Bloor birthday celebration, to take place July 18, at Grant City Park, Staten Island.

Others to sponsor the birthday celebration of the American labor movement's most outstanding woman leader, are William Z. Foster, Clifford Odets, Jenny Elizabeth Johnstone and a long list of other names.

Over the country, preparations for the birthday celebration are being rushed as the recruiting drive moves into full swing. In Youngstown, Ohio, a new "Mother Bloor" unit has been formed to honor the 75th birthday of America's leading woman Communist. The unit, formed by the steel women of the Youngstown area, promises to "build up big" by July 18.

In Chicago the Fanny Sellens Unit of the Communist Party has pledged to recruit ten new members to be presented to Mother Bloor at