

ANTI-NEGRO FILM DELETED AFTER PROTEST

Herndon Leads Group of Y. C. L., Party in Condemning Picture

Oscar Michaux, producer of "God's Stepchildren," a film which aroused a storm of protest because of its slanders against Negroes, yesterday hastily agreed to "delete all objectionable scenes" from the picture following sharp protest by a delegation from the Young Communist League and the Communist Party of Harlem.

The film was a part of the bill at the RKO theatre, 116th St. and 7th Ave. One scene showed an actor, playing the part of a white man, knocking down a young girl and spitting upon her because she had "Negro blood in her veins."

Scores of patrons, Negro and white, walked out of the theatre in protest against the management and the film, and joined a picket line in front of the theatre. Among the numerous community organizations which denounced the film was the National Negro Congress.

HERNDON CONDEMNS FILM

The delegation, of Negro and white youth, headed by Angelo Herndon, national vice-president of the Y.C.L., demanded that the picture be withdrawn or that all its insulting anti-Negro scenes be removed.

Michaux began immediate compliance with the delegation's request and in addition, arranged to give the delegation a preview of the film before it is released again. He promised also to give a special showing of two other pictures which he has completed, before they are released for public showing.

"This picture spreads the poison of the Southern lynch officials and the fascists that Negroes—particularly Negro women—are subjects for abuse and persecution as 'inferior' people. It bellycrawls before the Ku Klux Klans and the Hitler gangs who prate of 'white superiority'," Herndon said.

Others on the delegation were: Sam Brown, of the James Ford Branch of the Communist Party; George Shirmer; Dorothy Sims, prominent young Negro member of the Harlem Y.C.L.