

The Struggle of the Negroes

By TOM JOHNSON

(This is the third of a series of articles by Comrade Tom Johnson. The first two appeared in previous issues of the SOUTHERN WORKER. A fourth article will appear next week dealing with new problems that arose while these were being published.)

To fail to support this struggle of the Negroes against the common enemy of all those who toil means in effect to give support to the enemy—to the capitalist class.

The ruling class realizes very clearly that the best guarantee they have against a successful struggle of the working class against capitalism is the present division in the ranks of the workers. Therefore they do all possible thru discrimination against the Negro, thru segregation of the Negro from the white worker, thru a whole elaborate system of Jim Crow laws, to keep the white and Negro toilers from uniting in common struggle against the common enemy. Therefore they deliberately stir up racial hatred and incite mob violence against the Negroes.

Smash The Barrier!

It is one of the most important tasks of the Communists in the South to smash thru this barrier the bosses have set up between the white and Negro toilers. Thru careful and consistent propaganda, thru pointing out the lessons of all strikes and labor struggles, the Communists must win the masses of white workers away from their ideas of "white supremacy" etc., pumped into them by the

boss. And at the same time the Communists must do all possible to break down the justified distrust of the Negro masses toward even the white workers. On every hand and in every struggle the Communists must constantly struggle to unite the white and Negro farmers and workers on a common platform of struggle against the ruling class.

Struggle Against Misleaders

It is the duty of the Communists to give every support to, and to fight in the front ranks of, the battles of the Negro people for the right of self-determination. But at the same time the Negro and white Communists must carry on a consistent struggle against those misleaders of the Negroes, such as Marcus Garvey, who are trying or will try to lead the national struggle into incorrect channels or to use it for their own selfish benefit. The Communists must systematically expose such misleaders to the masses of Negroes and must point out continually that altho at certain stages of the struggle even the small Negro bosses, store keepers and professional people, and plantation owners may give some little support to the national struggle, these people will in the end betray it. It is the duty of the Communists to struggle always to the end that the leadership of the national revolutionary struggle shall be taken over by the Negro workers in the shops and mines, as the Negro workers alone are capable of giving correct revolutionary leadership to the whole movement.

This great revolutionary national

come out against the abolition of women's night work. It stands, on principle, for the unlimited sweating of the woman worker.

The Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League fight against night work for women, against child labor and for a shorter working week. But they know that to do away with night work in the manner of the cotton textile institute is only to increase the misery of the working class. Most of these women, and child workers have no other means of support. Many of them are the only wage earners in the family. This is more true today than ever, when so many millions of men are out of work.

The workers must fight against night work for women, against child labor, in connection with the demand of the Communist Party and Trade Union Unity League for unemployment insurance. Only in connection with this demand does the abolition of women's and children's night work mean a real advance in the conditions of the workers.

struggle of the Negro people, which is destined to become the most important ally of the working class revolution in the South, will not develop overnight. It is the task of the Communists to develop this struggle, using as the starting point the struggle for the most immediate partial demands of the Negro masses.

The manner in which this struggle must be developed, the demands which must be raised in the struggle, will be dealt with in another series of articles to appear in the Southern Worker at an early date.