



Half the World

by Claudia Jones

IT IS APPARENTLY DIFFICULT for reactionaries to grasp the fact that millions of formerly oppressed peoples, ground under their heels for centuries, are willing to fight and die for their convictions, for a fundamental change in their way of life—free of any foreign masters—including Wall Street.

Hence, they express surprise, as did a UP dispatch that even in South Korea, Koreans have "taken many a pot shot at U. S. bombers in the sky."

This helps to explain why, in Formosa, Viet Nam and South Korea, imperialism (read Wall Street) because it cannot rule as of old, seeks to utilize corrupt forces among the oppressed peoples themselves as Syngman Rhee, Chiang Kai-shek and Bao Dai; to do their dirty work of perpetuating exploitation, slavery, division and starvation which has been the fruit of their rule. But even where the peoples anti-imperialist struggles have not reached such levels, the imperialist tactic of using oppressed peoples to help prop up their tottering system is practiced.

SUCH an example was the composition of the stacked jury which falsely convicted the leaders of the Communist Party, in the Foley Square heresy trials for their political beliefs. On that 12-man jury, there were two Negro women jurors. These Negro women jurors were built up in the reactionary press with a view to bypassing the issue raised by the Communist defendants of the undemocratic jury system in the Southern District Court of New York. Reaction hoped, through this means, to sound the tocsin that the Negro people rejected Ben Davis and Henry Winston, Communist leaders and leaders of the Negro people. But their anxious shouts fell on poor soil. The Negro people recognized as they have since the days of slavery the use of Negroes in positions of house slaves for their masters. They understood the very choice of the Negro women jurors was to falsely identify the most oppressed sector of the Negro people (Negro women) with anti-Communist hysteria and allegiance to the war program of Wall Street. They saw that one of the few "honors" Wall Street pays to Negro women was the "honor" of selecting Mrs. Thelma Dial, a Negro woman housewife, as foreman of the jury, in the vain hope of giving "validity" to the decision which convicted the foremost leaders of the American working class, whose party is the foremost champion of the rights of the Negro people.

But reaction can't pull wool over the eyes of the Negro people by such "honors." This "honor" contrasts sharply with the continued Wall Street imprisonment of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, who fights on the side of social progress and whose negative answer to Klux rapists is heard round the world. Wall Street "uses" the Negro question, alright, to its own advantage. But to assert simply that these Negro women jurors were "used" by Wall Street is only half the truth. It must be remembered that like the white jurors, they willingly allowed themselves to be used for a mess of pottage. They no more represent Negro womanhood than did Ilsa Koch represent German womanhood. A true representative of Negro womanhood is Rosalie McGee who fights for her husband's freedom from a jimcrow lynch frameup; the sister of Haywood Patterson, fugitive from the fascist-like hell-hole of Georgia's jails, which celebrated Scottsboro case first helped to break the lily-white Southern jury system; they are represented in the heroic figures of Mrs. Amy Mallard and Mrs. Bessie Mitchell and scores of dozens of our sisters in every Negro community who fight for peace. Active support then to these and other civil rights cases is a vital part of the fight for peace.