

CP Hits Deportation Of Claudia Jones

The deportation of Claudia Jones "is inconsistent with justice and our democratic tradition or our national interests," it is declared in a statement issued yesterday by the national committee of the Communist Party and signed by William Z. Foster, national chairman.

The statement follows:

Since 1951 the government of the United States, through its immigration officials, has been attempting to accomplish the deportation of Claudia Jones. This deportation threat was first issued while Miss Jones was defending herself and her Party from the lies of informers and the hysteria of a Smith Act persecution.

The threat inevitably aggravated the frameup nature of the trial procedure. It amounted to a publicly announced finding by the government that she was guilty of advocating the overthrow of the government by force and violence while she was still on trial on the same charge. The administrative branch of government passed its sentence while the judiciary was supposedly trying the case.

WE BELIEVE that in the present political climate, with a renewed struggle to restore the Bill of Rights developing on many sides, this deportation might have been stopped. No overt criminal act was ever charged or proved against Claudia Jones. Hysteria and the testimony of informers was substituted for the due process constitutionally guaranteed.

Miss Jones was convicted. She was sentenced to a year and a day, which she has served. But the struggle has sapped the last bit of physical strength from this heroic woman. She cannot now give the personal leadership that such a fight would demand. The government's harassment has gained a point at the expense of human decency.

Claudia Jones was released from prison on Oct. 23. Since then she has not known a day free from harassment and petty persecution, despite the fact that she has been hospitalized, stricken down by the effects of a heart ailment which became aggravated while she was in prison.

Now in this condition she is to be forcibly separated from her friends, uprooted from her home and familiar surroundings, in middle life driven out into a country she has never known, to begin life all over again without the health and youth that she gave in the service of the American people.

This is what is meant by "deportation"—the respectable name for the medieval punishment of banishment that has long since been abandoned in every other civilized country.

Is this a sample of the coming of Brownell's "golden age of civil liberties," or of the historic necessity to relentlessly combat racist bias? The Communist Party emphatically declares that this deportation is inconsistent with justice and our democratic tradition or our national interests.

THIS DEPORTATION is another example of the continued, ruthless application of the hated McCarran-Walter Act, despite the clear opposition of the overwhelming majority of the American people to this shameful racist legislation that disgraces our country at home and abroad. Already it has exiled from our midst such fighters for peace and democracy as Cedric Belfrage, editor of the National Guardian, Irving Potash, well-known trade unionist, John Williamson, a leader of the Communist Party, and many others.

Claudia Jones is a Negro woman, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, who has given skillful po-



CLAUDIA JONES

litical leadership and passionate devotion to the cause of peace, Negro and women's rights and social progress. Her parents brought her here to escape the oppression of British colonialism. It was here in the U. S. that her social outlook was moulded, becoming part of the American people and playing her part in the struggle for freedom.

Claudia Jones learned to fight against racist ideas, against lynch murder and lynch justice, which the government failed to challenge, against the rise of such uninhibited terrorist gangs as the White Citizens Councils, the White Circle League and the National Association for the Advancement of White People and a State's Rights theory accepted by the Federal government although, in practice it condemns the Negro people to worse than second-class citizenship in a number of states.

The victimization of Claudia Jones is a vindictive reaction against a fighter for a truly free world by an administration that flagrantly refuses to invoke the Constitution and the law against lynchers and racists but whose Attorney General demands that Negro Americans must accept this degrading atmosphere or be penalized.

Miss Jones is the victim of an attack upon the constitutional liberties, civil rights and dignity of every American, regardless of color, creed or political belief. The victimization of Claudia Jones is a measure of the depth to which the poison of racism has seeped into the body politic.

THE CHARACTERISTIC feature of the present moment is the emergence of forces determined to safeguard the Bill of Rights. Their unity in action is a decisive factor for a people's victory in this field. Claudia Jones has made outstanding contributions to this struggle and is now being victimized by Brownell because of it.

Our historic responsibility to Comrade Jones as well as to the rising tide of freedom, peace and democracy, is to keep aloft the banner of struggle for full equality for the Negro people and for restoration of the Bill of Rights to the American people. We are confident that in the future, as in the past, she will continue to make a splendid contribution to the cause of peace and democracy.

Demand that the Department of Justice stop its persecution of fighters for Negro rights and prosecute the lynchers of the Negro people!

Demand the repeal of the McCarran-Walter Act!

(Signed) WILLIAM Z. FOSTER
National Chairman CPUSA

