

PARTY PRE-CONVENTION DISCUSSION SECTION

Factionalism and Chauvinism in California

The comrade who writes these articles, for reasons relating to his work, cannot sign his real name. However, he is one of the Negro comrades who, in a recent membership meeting at Los Angeles, was attacked by Emanuel Levin, former district organizer in California as being a black chauvinist.

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PART I.

By A. BUSCH.

It seems incredible, to say the least, that the functionaries of any branch or district of the Workers (Communist) Party, however remotely situated from Party headquarters, would resort to the usual American custom of mud-slinging and berating those whom they wish to crush beneath their feet in order to elevate themselves to supreme

political power. And yet, that is what has happened in District 13 (California).

The methods and practices of the functionaries in this district would make the high-handed methods of the Bourbon and lily-white South pale into insignificance if all the facts were known.

Suffice it to say that not a stone has been left unturned; nothing too low on the scale of underhanded dealings, backhanded stabs in the dark and a thousand underhanded tricks has been left out by the Opposition.

Factional Degeneration.

Thanks to the cunning and resourcefulness of the district organ-

izer and his aides, every vestige of Communism has been swept aside by the rising tide of incompetency, ignorance, bigotry and downright white chauvinism of the lowest order. And now, on the eve of the National Convention, the district that was once a growing, progressive, loyal, and above all, an active stronghold of Communism, has now degenerated into a big family feud, so to speak, with comrades resorting to personalities that are entirely foreign to Communism or to the major political problems of the American Party.

Comrades who less than a year ago were working together harmoniously for the common welfare

of the Party, are now bitter personal enemies. These same comrades are accusing and counter-accusing each other of all manner of personal wrong-doing that has absolutely no bearing on the issues involved.

The fight has become so bitter that the units of the Young Workers and the Young Pioneers have become infected. The Young Workers League members pass each other on the streets without speaking. Even the Young Pioneers in the Los Angeles sub-district frequently resort to actual fighting. They and no one else seem to know what it's all about.

Patronage of Negro Comrades.

Patronage has been the order of the day, particularly in the dealings with the non-white comrades. Those who accept what is told them without protest are tolerated and at any gathering they are singled out and made much of. But woe to those who refuse to accept the orders of the superior white comrades who are the court of last resort when it comes to a question of knowing what the darker peoples need, particularly the Negroes. For, it is this latter group who refuse to be Uncle Toms or yes-men, whom all the venom of white chauvinism is heaped upon.

In their practice of white chauvinism and factionalism, the usual

American methods of inoculation are resorted to; that is to say, to pit one Negro against the other. The method used is to first win the confidence of the Negro whom they wish to use in their factionalism and then play up everything that they can think of against the Negro they hate or fear. As a final step they induce the Negro of their selection to openly denounce the hated Negro. If they succeed in such underhand methods, such whites feel that they can heap all the abuses they wish upon the hated Negro with impunity. Such attempt has been made in the California District.

White Chauvinism Rampant.

On the other hand, when those

Negro comrades who are held in esteem by such white chauvinist tire of such treatment and take exception to this manifestation of race prejudice and make complaint, they are browbeaten and made the goat. This is only one example of white chauvinism in District Thirteen. The most flagrant evidence of white chauvinism in this district is the complete ignoring of a Negro comrade whose ability equals that of the best informed functionary in the entire district for a period of more than four years.

District Thirteen is now lying prostrate, suffering from a thousand stabs. Not stabs of outside enemies, but of enemies from within. The condition of this district is

desperate. From one end of the state of California to the other, there is chaos; demoralization of the Party is complete. And now, as the once proud and agreeable district organizer arrives at national Party headquarters, accompanied by his staff of supporters, it might not be out of place to relate some of the underlying facts that have brought about this demoralized state of affairs and place the blame where it belongs and that is the purpose of these articles.

We have no desire to resort to personalities for the mere sake of personal revenge or hatred. Rather, we feel that it is our duty to tell in a straightforward way the facts as they appeared to us. And above all, it is our desire to see an adjustment made so as to forever prevent a recurrence of this awful condition that now exists in California.