

Group Fights Carolina Racial Injustice

Takes Legal Steps To Free Children In "Kissing Case"

DEC. 19—Conrad Lynn, general counsel for the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, a newly formed group, is preparing further legal action to secure the release from reformatory of James Hanover Thompson, 9, and David "Fuzzy" Simpson, 8, both of Monroe, North Carolina. Last Nov. 4 the two Negro boys were committed for indefinite terms to reformatory after one of them had allegedly been kissed by a seven-year-old white girl. The Committee reported on legal steps in the case in a general press release issued today.

Mr. Lynn of New York, a well-known civil-rights attorney, acting for the parents of the two boys and for the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, is getting ready to file papers in North Carolina Superior Court. He failed last week to win a modification of the boys' sentence from Judge J. Hampton Price of Monroe who had originally sentenced the children in the "Kissing Case."

North Carolina juvenile law permits the judge who presided at the original trial to order such modification, but Judge Price refused.

MIGHT GET OUT BEFORE THEY'RE 21

The two boys were originally tried on three charges of assault and of molesting three

white girls, ages six and seven. All three charges stemmed from the same incident of the five children playing together in a ditch. The boys allegedly set a kiss by one of the girls as the price of her climbing out. In condemning them to indeterminate terms in a reformatory for Negro boys at Hoffman, N.C., Judge Price informed Hanover Thompson and "Fuzzy" Simpson that if they behave themselves well they might be released before reaching the age of 21.

The newly formed Committee to Combat Racial Injustice has undertaken to supply the legal assistance required to restore the two Negro boys to their families and to prevent victimization of parents or NAACP officials of the city.

According to the group's press release, its founders include Robert F. Williams (chairman of the group) and Dr. A. E. Perry, president and vice-president respectively of the NAACP in Union County, N.C., where Monroe is located; L. E. Austin, publisher of the Carolina

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Jobless Auto Workers Organizing in Detroit

A Mighty Power



Workers at the General Motors Chevrolet Gear and Axle Division in Detroit as they took strike action last Oct. 2 when their UAW contract expired. Today, GM, Chrysler and Ford workers are combatting unemployment and company speed-up of those still on the job.

What Can We Expect from New Congress?

By Carl Goodman

How much will working men and women get out of the next Congress in the way of civil rights, jobless pay, housing and other reforms? Something perhaps, but not much. Certainly nowhere near what they need. And the Northern and Western Democrats elected with the votes of the working people are preparing their alibi right now. They'll say they couldn't get past Senator Johnson, Senate Democratic floor leader, or Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House. These two gentlemen are from Texas. They run Congress. And they are experts at balancing between the Northerners and the Dixiecrats.

But are the liberals trying to upset the rule of this pair? Furthermore, are they trying to smash the control of the Southern Democrats over a majority of the Congressional committees? Not according to accounts of maneuvering now beginning on the Democratic side of both houses of Congress on the eve of the start of the new session.

Because of the sweep of the Democrats in the Nov. 4 elections, Northern and Western Democrats outnumber Southern Democrats nearly two to one in the Senate and about seven to four in the House of Representatives. Yet all that the liberals seek is to enlarge a number of key committees to obtain somewhat greater voice and a few more votes on them. They also want rule changes to make it less easy for Southern Democrats and Republicans to bottle up even mild civil rights and social-welfare legislation. To achieve their aims, the liberals intend to put pressure on Johnson and Rayburn but not to break with them. They propose to go no further than Johnson and Rayburn agree to go.

THEY'LL COMPROMISE

As one liberal Democratic Congressman, quoted in the Dec. 15 Wall Street Journal, said, "We're proposing enough changes so there will be room for concessions and compromise with him [Rayburn]. Some of the changes he might want anyway, or at least not be opposed to." Another Congressman said of the reaction of the Southerners to rule changes: "Of course [they] won't be happy about all this. But they are politicians and can count noses as well as we. Anyway, we'll try as much as possible

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Ala. Negroes Testify on How Racists Bar Them from Polls

By Lillian Kiezel

Alabama officials have used humiliation, fear, deliberate negligence and economic pressure to prevent Negroes from registering to vote. Ample evidence to prove these charges came from dozens of complaining witnesses at the hearing of the federal Civil Rights Commission held Dec. 8. The Commission functions under the 1957 Civil Rights Law as a fact-finding body which investigates all written complaints of disfranchisement.

Lowndes County has a Negro population of 13,000 but not a single Negro registered voter. Dallas County has a Negro population of 8,000 of which only 128 are registered.

In Macon County (Tuskegee), where Negroes outnumber whites seven to one, only 510 Negroes are registered against 3,016 whites. William P. Mitchell, executive secretary of the Tuskegee Civic Association testified that only 32% of all Negro applicants have been registered in the past eight years.

He said "... the board never warns us whether we have passed [the 'literacy' test] or not."

ECONOMIC PRESSURE

J. Ernest Wilkins, only Negro member of the Commission, reported that in Wilcox County there are 8,000 Negroes to 22,000 whites but not one Negro is a registered voter according to registration lists. Mrs. Amelia P. Boynton who is chairman of the political action committee of Women's Clubs testified: "I know economic pressure has been applied to members of my race [in Wilcox County] and because of this they have not applied for voter registration."

Other witnesses, most of whom were professional people, testified to humiliation and threats which prevent Negroes from registering. Only one of the witnesses is a registered voter.

Under directives of Governor-elect Patterson, registration records have been impounded by Judge George Wallace in Barbour and Bullock Counties and by Grand Juries

in three other counties. Thus the Commission was forced temporarily to adjourn the hearings and appeal for a court decision. These officials have now received an order from Federal District Court Judge Frank Johnson to "produce the records or go to jail." They must appear with the records Friday, Dec. 19.

Patterson maintains that states' rights are being violated in Alabama. The Carolina Times of Durham, N. C. answers this editorially: "What the average southerner means by states rights is not the right of a sovereign state to govern itself or conduct its own affairs. He means he wants the right, without federal interference, to lynch or shoot down a Negro who attempts to vote, to maintain a lower salary scale for Negro teachers in the public schools and for Negro workers in industry, on the farm and elsewhere. In short, he wants the right to exploit and take advantage of Negroes wherever and whenever the opportunity presents itself."

Join with Employed At Chrysler to Fight Overtime, Speed-Up

By Albert Phillips

DETROIT, Dec. 13—Chrysler workers in Detroit, spearheaded by men and women from the Dodge Main plant, have given the lead in past weeks to auto workers seeking unity of employed and unemployed union members in the face of interlocking problems.

Since the changeover to new models in mid-September, the Dodge Main plant alone has worked some 96,000

hours of overtime, enough to have brought at least 300 workers off the unemployed list, had the corporation maintained a 40-hour week. In protesting this policy, the Dodge Local 3 (UAW) Unemployed Committee won enough sympathy from the employed workers to shut down the plant by demonstrating in front of factory gates on Saturday mornings. The action at the Main plant sparked similar demonstrations at Chrysler plants throughout the city.

UNEMPLOYED SKILLED WORKERS' COMMITTEE

The Chrysler jobless workers were then joined in their campaign by a city-wide committee of unemployed skilled workers. Last month, this group along with the Chrysler jobless picketed Solidarity House, UAW headquarters, demanding that the International officers act to ban overtime while unemployment exists.

The UAW brass, who up to this point had ignored the unemployed, were finally forced to issue a public statement deploring overtime as "morally wrong and socially indefensible" while workers are jobless. The inadequacy of their stand is underlined by contrasting it to their action prior to the April UAW convention. At that time, under great pressure from the ranks—and because the top leaders were coming up for reelection—the International officers defied the contract and prohibited overtime in Chrysler plants while a strike at a West Coast Chrysler factory was in progress.

Despite lack of leadership from Reuther the recent actions of the unemployed have been so effective, that the Chrysler corporation went to court to secure an injunction against further demonstrations. Twenty-three unemployed Dodge Main and Chrysler workers were summoned to appear in court. Shortly before, the court issued a temporary injunction against demonstrations and ordered the jobless to show cause why it should not be made permanent.

The International officers, apparently because of "contractual obligations" refused to give legal aid to the workers who were cited, and they had to go outside the UAW's legal department. They retained Charles Lockwood, noted civil libertarian, and another lawyer of liberal inclinations. The local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union submitted a friend-of-the-court brief through its Detroit Chapter president, Harold Norris. The ACLU agreed with the unemployed that they were being deprived of their constitutional right of free speech and assembly.

At the trial, the presiding judge continually heckled the lawyers for the jobless. Then he read his ruling—making the anti-demonstration injunction permanent—from a statement prepared before he even heard the arguments of the attorneys for the unemployed. Thus the crowd of workers who overflowed into the corridors of the courtroom were treated to a

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Militant's Fund Drive Tops 100% at Close

By George Lavan
National Fund Drive Director

DEC. 15 — Today the 30th Anniversary Militant Fund Drive achieved full and prompt success with \$19,366 contributed in the three-month period starting Sept. 15. Every group of Militant supporters met their quota 100% or over, with Oakland maintaining its banner position and hitting 151%. (See scoreboard, page 2.)

We know what energy and devotion the fulfillment of quotas entailed and we are all the more impressed and gratified by the splendid result.

Twin Cities Fund Director Fannie Curran sent a check of \$325.75 right on deadline and reports: "We had an excellent Anniversary celebration last Saturday. It was the proceeds from this affair plus our entire treasury which enables us to send in this payment. Farrell Dobbs really did us a very great service by staying over for our celebration. The spirit and attendance was wonderful and the results unprecedented here for many a year."

Clara Kaye of Seattle wrote: "We held three house socials in the past three weeks to help raise our fund; also, a number of friends raised their original pledges. With unemployment plaguing us, we feel very happy that we were able to fulfill our quota."

This is the second successful fund-raising effort of Militant supporters and Socialist Workers Party members in 1958. In the Spring Socialist Expansion Fund \$20,678 was raised; with the results of the Militant 30th Anniversary drive this makes a total of \$40,044 raised by socialist militants this year.

Advertisement Advertisement

New York

Special Meeting of Militant Labor Forum to Hear

Conrad Lynn

on the

CAROLINA "KISSING CASE"

Mr. Lynn is serving as attorney for Hanover Thompson, age 9, and David Simpson, age 8, who were sentenced to reformatory by a Monroe, N.C., judge until they are 21, because one of the Negro boys was kissed by a seven-year-old white girl. Mr. Lynn will report on court action he is preparing to initiate in North Carolina to release the boys.

Monday, December 22 — 8 P.M.

116 University Place (Off Union Square)

Contribution \$1 — Proceeds to North Carolina Defense

Principle of Class Struggle in Politics

By Murry Weiss

Reporting last month's Cleveland Conference of American Socialists for the National Guardian, Dec. 9, John T. McManus pegged two "hardrock positions" in the discussion of socialist electoral policy: One position held by the Communist Party advocates "operating within the labor movement." The other position is held by the Socialist Workers Party "which refuses to support candidates of 'capitalist' parties, and advocates challenging them with independent socialist candidates in every possible situation." McManus said that a large number of participants in the discussion "took the floor to argue for middleground maneuverability between" these positions.

Obviously McManus does not pretend to do more than identify the different views. And as far as it goes, I would say, it is a fair summary of the two basic positions.

In my opinion the main task of the discussion of the 1958 election experience and of the perspectives for socialist political and electoral action is to clarify the difference between the two "hardrock positions." As for the middlegrounders, I would prefer to see their view elaborated before commenting. At the moment it is hard to see where a "middleground" position can lead when fully developed except to either of the "hardrock" positions.

ON SIDE OF LABOR BUREAUCRACY

As I said in my article last week the Communist Party and social democratic concept of "working in the labor movement" really means working with and for the labor bureaucracy. This is not the same thing as working in the labor movement. More accurately, the CP and the social democrats support the class-collaboration principle and practice of the

labor bureaucracy as against the socialist principle of the class struggle. That is why the dispute over socialist electoral policy is a dispute over principle and program and not a mere difference over tactics and maneuvers.

It has become fashionable to sneer at principles and make sly jokes about those who take principles seriously and use them as a guide to action. I like a good joke as well as the next person but I cannot help observing that the spoofing of principle became popular almost in direct proportion to the decline of the socialist movement. To my mind, a new rise in the socialist movement will be marked by a return to serious examination of basic Marxist principles; the atmosphere of snickering and skepticism when principle is introduced in a discussion will be dispelled. Certainly the youth coming to socialism will not fail to make a serious study of the princi-

ple foundation of the movement.

The SWP openly states that it bases its view of the structure and function of the two capitalist parties on the Marxist principle of the class struggle. This principle holds that there is an irreconcilable economic and political conflict between the monopoly-capitalist ruling class on the one side and the industrial working class along with all other working people on the other. The class struggle in modern society leads to the struggle for power and finally to the establishment of the democratic rule of the working class. From this standpoint it is nonsense to regard the historically shaped political parties of capitalist rule as subjects for clever manipulation and transformation by the labor officialdom—with or without the assistance of "socialist" advisers.

BALANCE SHEET

And facts have abundantly verified Marxist theory. So far

the most statesmanlike speeches of Walter Reuther and David J. McDonald have not succeeded in repealing the law of the class struggle. And so far, no one has shown a single example in history where the workers succeeded in transforming a party of the ruling class into a party of the working class.

But, of course, the CP leadership and the social democrats will say they have no illusions about taking over the Democratic Party for labor. It is only a question of helping the labor movement break with the Democratic Party and form a Labor Party, they will claim. To do that it is necessary to be where the labor movement is, namely, within the Democratic Party. However, over a span of two decades, their scheme has been mere talk. The real policy was set by the labor bureaucrats who have become more and more enmeshed in the capitalist party structure

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