

racists have the whole floor, every other white will think he ought to be a racist, too. Why is that? Social pressure, maybe. Moral cowardice, perhaps. But the point is that the racism *can* be reversed. And white working people can be led by anti-racists as much as by pro-racists, if the leaders are strong—and they seize the time at the right time.



It was a victory for Willie and it was a victory for justice. But naturally Jimmy thought it was kind of a victory for *him*, too. He felt pretty good for the next couple of days. And as you might expect, he overdid things a little bit.

You know how sometimes you make a hit doing things one way and then you try the same thing over again and expect to do better than you did before, and suddenly you fall flat on your face? Well, that's about what Jimmy did.

He saw the gang accepting Willie and figured—maybe correctly—that Hank Rogers and Van Waggoner were a little isolated. So when Van Waggoner made a nasty remark a couple of days later, Jimmy walked up to him in front of four or five other guys in the tool house and gave him a real good scolding, much better than the first time—called him a dirty no-good racist and so on. Van being so big and tough, this made Jimmy look pretty good—at first.

But when Van answered Jimmy back, it was a little different. What he called Jimmy wouldn't look good in print, so I won't put it down here. But it not only wouldn't *look* good, it didn't *sound* good to the other guys and it was plain that they expected Jimmy to fight Van Waggoner—physically.

That's what I mean by Jimmy overdoing it. He couldn't have licked Van Waggoner under any conditions, and he knew it. But he had got himself in a position where he had to fight or be labeled sort of a coward by a lot of the guys.