

Red instigated!

venting a common front on the main issues. As we have indicated previously, the Negro movement has, by and large broken with gradualism, and seeks revolutionary solutions to its problems. But labor and other pro-civil rights forces are still contented to make changes gradually. This contradiction has caused friction among these great social forces. In some instances it has resulted in a parting of the ways. As a consequence, the Negro movement has often had to go it alone. Long before the Negro movement began to act in this way, Comrade Benjamin J. Davis provided the rational for such actions. In 1950, at the 15th National Convention of the C.P.U.S.A., he said:

"The second main danger to assuring the fullest support of the Negro liberation movement by the working class, beginning with the Left unions and other peace forces, is a mechanical application of the sound Leninist theory that the working class lead the Negro liberation movement. In practice it has amounted to holding back the Negro liberation movement to the level of the most backward sections of the white workers. This has nothing in common with the Leninist concept of national and colonial liberation movements' tactical consideration. Leninism is at all times designed to advance national liberation, not hold it back."
(Emphasis mine — C. L.)

The power of Negro action has been a chief factor in wresting whatever civil rights concessions the Negro people have won in this period. But it is now demonstratively clear that no basic and fundamental change in the Negro's condition can be effected without unity of the Negro and labor movement and all other democratic forces, or in an atmosphere of rabid, hysterical, irrational, unchecked anti-communism.

Anti-Communism Hampers Freedom Fight

Anti-communism has hampered the ability of the most conscious forces among white Americans to wage the fight for Negro rights. It has helped to prevent an adequate mobilization of labor in the civil rights struggles.

During the '30s, with the birth of the CIO, white Communists played an outstanding role in mobilizing the working class to understand the special problems that the jim crow system has produced. Unions in the CIO, in which Communist leader were prominent, had the best records in the fight for Negro rights. They integrated Negroes in the top levels of union leadership, and even today the remnants of what was formerly called Left-led unions, have more Negroes at the top policy level than all of the AFL and CIO put together. *This is proof!*

The anti-communist views which resulted in Communists being purged from the trade unions did not aid Negro freedom, but on the contrary weakened that fight. If Communists had been as prominent in the 50's in the American labor movement as they were in the '30s and '40s, the picture in the fight for civil rights would have been much different. Historians will one day make a full assessment of this fact. During this period, when Communists were being purged from the trade unions, many Negro leaders joined the chorus under the slogan, "We cannot add to the burdens of being black, the burden of being red." This slogan was coined to buy immunity from reaction. But anti-communism did not buy immunity. It made little or no difference to the Bourbon South that the NAACP Red-baited, purged Communists from its ranks, and aided the isolation of the Left-led unions. As long as the NAACP even mildly fought for Negro rights, it was suspect and was considered a peddler of a dangerous foreign ideology, namely Negro freedom.

Time was when only Communists, or alleged "Communist fronts," were called on by governmental bodies to produce membership records. Time was when, under the Smith Act, only membership in the Communist Party was a crime. Notwithstanding the NAACP leadership's compliance with an anti-communist program, the Supreme Court decision and the struggle that followed stirred the wrath of Southern reaction to the point where the NAACP was labelled subversive and membership in several Southern states is regarded as a crime. Anti-communism has proven to be a costly burden to the Negro movement.

At this late date in history, there are still Negro leaders who engage in Red-baiting orgies. They do so in the hope of appeas-