

movement in our country. The achievement of this goal will create conditions for gigantic leaps forward, not only for Negro rights, but for social advances in every field of endeavor. It will lay the basis for building a broad and pro-democratic and anti-monopoly coalition which alone will guarantee that America will travel the road of progress and not become the last outpost of world reaction.

What then is required to do the job? Obviously, such a gigantic task will require doing many things. But, at the present time we should look for the main links that can move the whole chain of events. Some of these links are: 1) Increase the size of the Negro electorate in the South. 2) Organize the un-organized in the South. 3) Compel the Executive branch of the government to take a bolder and more consistent position on civil rights. 4) Organize to defeat the Northern counterparts of the Dixiecrat bloc in the coming Congressional elections. 5) Prepare for the coming municipal elections. 6) Understand the need for a strong Communist Party.

Actions are already proceeding on the first of these propositions. For several months a drive to register Negro voters in the South has been taking place. The drive has been conducted without much fanfare but it is achieving results.

Fight to Register Negro Voters

The following organizations are cooperating in the drive: 1) The Southern Christian Leadership Conference. 2) The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. 3) The Congress of Racial Equality. 4) The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. 5) The National Student Association. 6) The Legal Defense and Education Fund.

U.S. News and World Report reported recently that the movement received large sums of money from various foundations and is receiving support from some Administration officials. The objective of the drive is to enroll 500,000 additional voters by 1964.

One hundred thousand voters have already been enrolled. If the objective of two million is reached by 1964, then one of the conditions will have been created for reflecting a change in the political system in the South. But it is important to understand that while the registration of Negro voters can produce substantial

results, it will not basically alter the political structure of the South. *U.S. News and World Report* states that a successful drive could put the Negro voters in the position of being the balance of power in a number of states. This is true.

Negro voters in the last presidential race were the balance of power in a few Southern states and this is what helped turn the tide for President Kennedy. An additional enrollment of several hundred thousand voters would make this possible in several additional states, a development which would have a profound influence on the politics of the North as well as the South. But here again, let us not overestimate what Negroes can do alone. The Negro vote can retire a number of diehard Dixiecrats. It can elect a number of pro-labor and pro-liberal candidates. But its main effect will be in the election of so-called moderates of the Lyndon Johnson type. While even such a development would represent progress, it would not create the conditions for a revolutionary change. To do that, other things are required.

No one has stated what is required more eloquently or more clearly than did James E. Jackson, outstanding Communist leader and Editor of *The Worker*, who wrote several years ago, in his pamphlet *The South's New Challenge*:*

"To seriously effect a serious political realignment in the South it will be necessary to greatly enlarge the size of the electorate, to swell its number with the six million potential Negro voters and the ten to fifteen million white toilers who are now disenfranchised. A nationwide campaign for full Negro suffrage rights in the South and a national campaign to organize the unorganized industrial and agricultural workers would result in such an increase in the percentage of Negroes and workers in the total electorate as would constitute the firm basis for substantial victories by the forces of democracy."

Organizing the Unorganized

Comrade Jackson advocates a two-pronged approach as the basis for affecting substantial change—a position projected over

* New Century Publishers, N. Y. Price 15 cents.