

TURNING POINT IN FREEDOM ROAD

THE FIGHT TO END JIM CROW NOW

By Claude Lightfoot

Reds will effort!

January, 1963 marks the hundredth anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; it is also nine years since the historic Supreme Court ruling on school desegregation. It is time for all forces dedicated to freedom's fight to make an inventory on how matters stand in this struggle.

Our country faces a national crisis. It is a crisis without precedent in our history. For sixteen years we have lived in a cold war atmosphere, and there is no relief in sight. Our economy, notwithstanding continuous cold war budgets, is ailing seriously. Automated industries are creating a permanent army of unemployed. Our civil liberties are being constantly invaded, and the danger to them becomes even greater with the emergence of a powerful pro-fascist, ultra-Right movement. In all areas of national life, as well as in civil rights struggles, the nation faces an impasse. We are in a sort of twilight zone in the fight to maintain world peace, broaden the base of popular liberties, improve the living standards of our people. *Reds help negroes!*

One of the major problems before the country is to define and to sharply point up the things that will be required to effect a fundamental change in the status of 18 million Negroes. Toward that end, it is necessary to review some of the developments which followed the Supreme Court rulings on school desegregation. Roughly, nine years have passed since that historic decision. What does the balance sheet show?

Balance Sheet on School Desegregation Ruling

The Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that the doctrine of "separate but equal" which had been established by the same court in 1898, in *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, was fallacious, and that all schools should

TO THE READER

Claude Lightfoot, the author of this pamphlet is a leading Communist spokesman and an important voice among the Negro people. He was indicted, convicted, and later freed, in a federal trial for the "crime" of being a member of the Communist Party under the fascist-like provisions of the Smith Act.

Mr. Lightfoot's case drew wide support as a test of the doctrine of "guilt by association." But more than that, his defense was based on the American Bill of Rights, of the right of all Americans—Communists included—freely to think, speak, write and exchange their views and opinions in the public arena.

He is the author of *An American Looks at Russia: Can we Live in Peace?, Not guilty!*, and numerous articles and essays which have appeared in *Political Affairs* and other periodicals.

UNDERLINING, MARKS, AND REMARKS MADE
BY CARL MCINTIRE