

see the necessity of throwing the large landowners off their backs, escaping from the tyranny of the credit masters and the usurers, and of giving land to the landless.

Seventy-five years ago, the North went to war in order to destroy the power of the slaveowners. That, too, was a revolution. But it was not finished. Our task is to finish it.

But the revolution will not stop with the seizure of the land. That will just be the beginning of a complete, really basic change in the homeland of lynch terror. For just consider where this land revolution will take place: precisely in the plantation country, where the Negroes are today the most oppressed section of the population and where they form the majority of the population. Let us imagine such a revolution taking place in the Mississippi River Delta. Here there are huge plantations. In some counties the Negroes are as high as 90 and 95 per cent of the total population; throughout this area they are not less than 60 per cent. With the power of the plantation owners destroyed, a new kind of government will be set up by the farmers and the workers in this territory. For the first time Negroes and oppressed "poor" whites will really enjoy democracy. The Negroes will play the leading role both in the land revolution and in the new revolutionary governments.

The same will occur throughout the plantation area—from southeastern Virginia, down through the Carolinas and central Georgia, across Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, reaching even into Arkansas and parts of Tennessee and Texas. Now will be the opportunity to really establish the basis of Negro freedom. This land, on which the Negroes have been enslaved for generations, can then be made into a free land. It can be proclaimed as a new country, in which the land has been freed from the exploiters, where the majority—the Negro people—rule with the cooperation of the white masses in the territory.

The white masses on the land will support this new government for it will mean that their right to land is also recognized, that for the first time they, too, will have the benefits of free public school education, freedom from usury, etc. The old South will no longer remain. The Negroes will come into their own.

The real test of freedom for the Negro people in the Black Belt lies in their right to self-determination. Unless they can choose freely for themselves what the relationship of this new

government will be to the United States as a whole, they will not be free. If the capitalists are still in power in Washington we can rest assured that they will oppose and try to crush the rebellion of the Negro people. The Negro people need powerful allies to carry through and to defend this revolution for freedom. They will have such an ally in the working class, the leading force in the struggles of all oppressed sections of the population of the United States against capitalist exploitation.

We must now consider the revolution which will take place throughout the country.

The Proletarian Revolution

Capitalism is giving birth to revolution. The United States was created as the result of a revolution against British domination. It strengthened itself as the result of a revolution against the slaveowners in 1861. Now capitalism is decaying. It can no longer supply the needs of life to those who produce. It is an outworn system. It must give way to a new system of society. A complete transformation must take place, which can come only as the result of a social revolution.

What basic change must be produced in order to do away with wage-slavery, unemployment, war? Capitalism is based upon the private ownership of machines, factories, railroads, land and all other means of production. The means of production are in the hands of a small class, the capitalists. The greatest principles of capitalism are private property and profit. Millions of workers produce together the necessities of life. But these necessities become the property of those who own the machines, the land, etc., while the workers do not have the money with which to buy them. Crises occur, masses of people suffer. Colonies are seized by the capitalist powers in a race for profits and booty. Capitalism gives birth to war.

Only one thing can do away with the basis for the existence of capitalism: the expropriation of the capitalists. Take the means of production away from them, place them in the hands of the workers who will produce, not for profit, but for the needs of society. The working class is in a position to bring this change about. It alone, by its own organized efforts and supported by the rest of the oppressed population, can really and truly change, transform the system under which we live. This change is inevitable. The workers are driven towards it by capitalism itself.