

Garvey Leadership and the C. P.

By CYRIL BRIGGS

AMONG the rank and file membership of the Universal Negro Improvement Association are some of the most militant Negro workers.

These workers, groaning under the savage exploitation and racial degradation of the imperialist system, joined the Garvey movement under the illusion that the leadership of the U.N.I.A. intended an aggressive struggle against imperialism and its oppression of the Negro peoples of the world.

They are discovering instead that under cover of struggle-phrases the Garvey leadership is increasingly collaborating with the capitalist enemies of the Negro masses. This was becoming clear to many of these militant workers even before the 1929 convention of the U.N.I.A. and was further confirmed by the opposition of this treacherous leadership to having the convention go on record against imperialism. Many hundreds of these workers were turning to the Communist Party and its revolutionary program for the national liberation struggle even before Marcus Garvey so completely unmasked himself, in his "Blackman" of June 28, as a servile defender of the very imperialist system which murders and enslaves the Negro people. And as it is inevitable that the Garvey leadership will more and more expose its treachery and its futility as the Negro masses, in the colonial and in the imperialist countries, move forward into struggle against their exploiters, so it is inevitable that the militants in the Garvey movement will increasingly turn to the Communist Party as the only organization of revolutionary struggle against the imperialist enemy.

It is in an effort to forestall and delay this development that the Negro World, Garvey's organ in America, attacks the Communist Party and its leadership of Negro and white workers and peddles the cheap slanders of the Fish Committee that the Negro workers in

forces. But in order that we may be able to do this, the district committee must undertake to pay very close attention to the work of every comrade in the shop nuclei, and all those comrades who in their work in the shop nuclei have distinguished themselves as active and responsible comrades, must be promoted for higher and more responsible Party work. Responsible work in each unit of the Party must be divided. By division of work there is possibility of developing new forces. For instance, a comrade, in the shop nucleus in charge of distributing leaflets and shop papers, who has successfully discharged this important duty during a certain period of time, has certainly shown capabilities for organization work and should be promoted. Comrades, who have shown success in editing good shop papers, are capable of agitprop work, and other comrades who have distinguished themselves in organizing shop nuclei, shop committees, new unions, unemployed councils, etc., are the ones who should be pushed and promoted for higher and more responsible Party work. Special attention must be paid to teaching comrades how to extend Party influence amongst the masses, how to mobilize masses of workers to support and take part in the mass campaigns of the Party.

(To Be Continued)

the Communist Party joined the revolutionary movement not because of their hatred of a system which degrades and oppresses them, but because in the Communist Party where race prejudice invites expulsion "they can dance with white girls."

The Negro World insinuates that the Communists are insincere in their demands for full political and social equality for the Negro masses, and warns the Negro masses to "remember what has happened to the Jews in Russia." For the purpose of its lying argument, the Negro World could not have chosen a worse illustration. For what has happened to the Jews in Russia is precisely this: that while under the czarist capitalist system they were hounded, slaughtered and oppressed, today, under Communism they are enjoying full equality with other Russian workers, particularly to the full in the government and in the gigantic achievements of the socialist construction which is changing the face of the country and enriching the cultural and economic life of the masses.

The right of self-determination is one of the cardinal principles of the program of the Communist International, and just as in Soviet Russia a Communist regime extends this right to all minorities, so in the United States the American section of the Communist International wages aggressive struggle for the right of the Negro masses to have their own government in those sections of the country where they form the majority of the population as they do in many parts of the South.

The Negro World resents the charge against the Garvey leadership of being tools of the capitalists, yet in this editorial it deliberately plays the game of the bosses by advising Negro workers to isolate themselves from the rest of the working class. This is the objective of the capitalists and the aim and purpose of the imperialist ideology of racial hatred and separation. The Negro World viciously peddles the cheap slanders of the Fish Committee against the revolutionary Negro workers. And it conveniently forgets the collaboration of Garvey leaders with the capitalist police in the murder of Alfred Levy, a Negro revolutionary worker of Harlem.

Nor does it repudiate in any way the treacherous and slavish advice given to the Negro masses of Jamaica by Marcus Garvey in his "Blackman" of June 28 that in their struggle against oppression they "would not dare to accept and foster something that was tabooed by the mother country." This is the same as telling the Negro masses they cannot struggle against oppression. This is spreading with a vengeance the illusion that the oppressing imperialist is the mother country of the oppressed!

With such examples before them the Negro masses are increasingly recognizing the futility and treachery of the Negro petty bourgeois leaders and are turning to the Communist Party as the Party of the Negro and white masses, the Party of revolutionary struggle against imperialist oppression, lynch terror, unemployment and war. And not all the lies of the Negro misleaders can stop the leftward move of the Negro masses