

Sly Slave Owner Hypocrisy Exposed in U. S. Forced Labor

By **CYRIL BRIGGS**

The sly slave owner hypocrisy of the U. S. imperialists who are trying to screen their war preparations against the Soviet Union behind the lies of "forced and convict labor" in the United States is most thoroughly exposed by countless facts and unquestionable proof of the existence of forced labor and actual slavery under the rule of these very imperialists—and not alone in the American colonies and semi-colonies and dependencies, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Cuba, Alaska, etc., but right here at home.

The tenant farmers, share croppers and agricultural laborers of the South and Southwest have daily and bitter experience with "forced and convict labor." Millions of Negroes and large numbers of whites are held in actual slavery on the plantations of the big land owners. Negroes are the worst sufferers. They cannot leave their "owners" without finding themselves arrested for debt evasion or on any one of a dozen other improvised charges.

Of the status of the tenant farmers in the South, Carter Woodson, one of the most notorious apologists for imperialist oppression of his race, admits in his book, "The Rural Negro:"

"So far as the Negro tenants are

concerned they have no law to which they can appeal. For them the law is the will of the particular planter with whom they may be dealing. To question his word or to invoke aid against the carrying out of his wishes would be a disastrous procedure for the tenants. A tenant, therefore, easily becomes a peon or slave. . ."

One of the contracts tenants are forced to sign reads in part:

"Said tenant further agrees that if he violates the contract, or neglects, or abandons or fails (or in owner's judgement violates this contract or fails) to properly work or cultivate the land early or at proper times, or in case he should become physically incapacitated from working said lands or should die during the term of his lease, or fails to gather and save the crops when made, or fails to pay the rents or advances made by the owner, when due, then in case of full possession of said premises, crops and improvements, in which event this contract may become void and cancelled at the owner's option, and all indebtedness by the tenant for advances or rent shall at once become due and payable without further notice to the tenant. . . and shall be so construed between the parties hereto, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."