

(This final part of the paper by the four ex-RU members from Detroit was accidentally omitted. It comes between pages 95 and 96 of this Red Papers).

### RU JOINS HANDS WITH REVISIONISTS OF 1950's

During the 1950's the CP was engaged in a struggle over the Party's position on the national question that ended in the eventual decision to reject the Party's Leninist position based on the 1928 and 1930 resolutions. The struggle culminated in the spring of '58. Harry Haywood, a leading Black Communist, who helped formulate the original position, wrote a polemic entitled For a Revolutionary Position on the National Question, refuting the Party's revisionist position. Most of the following information is taken from this document, and we urge everyone to read the entire paper.

James Allen, J. Jackson and D. Wilkerson, leading spokesmen for the revisionists, maintained that Blacks would eventually be integrated because of the "long range economic trends, with the forces of capitalist expansion industrializing and bringing progress to the South, eliminating the semi-feudal plantation system (the historic source of Negro oppression) and, along with it, the Negro population concentration in the South's Black Belt." (HH, p.3)

Wilkerson based his arguments for the possibility of full integration on the "changing pattern of Negro population distribution from predominately Southern rural farms to increasingly nationwide and urban," the impact of which has been "progressively to shrink and dissipate the Black Belt area of Negro majority population." (HH, p.4).

Even a liberal Southern democrat could agree with this line. Harry Ashmore, then editor of the Arkansas Gazette, claimed that "industrialization and farm mechanization in the South are automatically solving the major problems of that region and wiping out the effects of the 'peculiar institution' (slavery). These trends, he contends, are eliminating the plantation system, wiping out the effects of peonage, reducing the margin of Negro majority in the Black Belt, and thereby achieving eventual integration." (HH, p. 10)

James Jackson continued the chorus of "direct integration." He said, "The sharecropping system, which was the distinguishing feature of the '30's, is no longer a major characteristic of production relations in agriculture in the South today." (HH, p. 11) And that because of "the rapid tempo of urbanization and industrial growth...the economic essence of oppression of the Negro people in the country as a whole and in the Southern states (is now) manifested in the discrimination against, and economic exploitation of Negro working men and women by industrial capital and monopoly." (HH, p.10)

The RU revisionists have joined these scoundrels of the fifties, going even one step further by saying that the agrarian question HAS been solved. Haywood's arguments against the liquidators of the Black national question then, ring just as true today.

First, in general, the revisionists "have been all too eager to seize upon the 'facts' and 'irreversible long range trends' to prove that the Negro question is being automatically solved within the framework of imperialism--without revolutionary change." (HH, p. 6)

In response to Jackson, Haywood wrote that "by a stroke of the pen Jackson downgrades the struggle of the Negro population for national liberation in the South to a mere labor question, reducing the national element in this struggle to the fight against discrimination, which he evidently considers a superstructural hangover from a nearly extinct system, whose economic base is being rapidly and automatically destroyed by the 'rapid tempo of urbanization and industrial growth.'" (HH, p. 11)

Haywood continues by saying the "historical condition of the development of Deep South agriculture, in which the plantation has been and remains