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# RACE RIOTS IN AMERICA

On Monday, 21st June, racial riots broke out in Detroit costing the lives of twenty-four negroes. The American Press has compared this with the serious racial riots of 1919. It brings to the attention of the American workers and workers in other parts of the world the degrading position of the American Negroes and the revolutionary path they have to travel to end the economic differences which lie at the root of racial differences.

It is pointed out that one of the root causes of the present trouble in Detroit is the shortage of houses. The Correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" reports: "It is ironic that plans to increase Detroit housing were thwarted by the efforts of Detroit business men, who did not foresee the unhappy results of keeping the supply of houses limited and rents and sale prices high." In effect it means that the White and Negro workers fought among themselves for living accommodation and business men prevented the expansion of housing, in order to keep the rents high.

The recent riots are only symptomatic of the deep-rooted historical causes of the Negro problem in America. It is embedded in the growth and development of American Capitalism and will be destroyed only by the united efforts of the American white and Negro workers overthrowing capitalism. It is one of the fundamental axioms of capitalism that necessary counter-poise should be created and fanned to stem the rising tide of working class militancy. In Europe it has taken the form of the Jewish problem, in South Africa as the Native problem, and in America the Negro problem.

## POSITION OF AMERICAN NEGROES - GENERAL

Roughly 10 per cent of the American population consists of Negroes. According to the 1930 Census, the Negroes are the second largest minority in America, with the "foreign born" heading the list with over 14,000,000 people. A false currency is given to the view that the problem of Negroes is mainly confined to the South and in the North they enjoy perfect equality. But in the decade 1920-1930 there was a wave of migration from South to North, with 32 per cent of the total Negro population in the North being concentrated in the three cities—New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. In the following decade, a number of race conflicts between the Negroes and Whites occurred in the North. The opinion of many American sociologists is that in some respects the Negro problem has shifted to the North.

## ECONOMIC POSITION: AGRICULTURE

As a hang-over from the period of slavery, the Negro has mainly remained in Agriculture. His position is that of a tenant or hired worker. There are thousands of white share-croppers, sharing the misery and poverty of the Negro share-croppers. The total number of Negro tenants in the U.S.A. is estimated at 700,711 out of which nearly 698,000 are in the cotton states. The system of tenant farming is a consequence of the period of slavery. After Civil War, when slavery was abolished, the Negroes had no capital, no land, and no farm animals. Out of these conditions arose the system of share cropping.

From the sample investigations made into the earnings of share croppers by the Committee on Minority Groups in the Economic Recovery it was found that the incomes averaged 105 dollars a year for a family with a monthly average of 1.75 dollars for each person. Dr. Johnson concludes:

"With such earnings it is to be expected that the standard of living would be low; that food would be reduced to pellagr-inducing scarcity and monotony; that the housing would be cramped, dreary and bare; that mortality would be high and family life on a low plane. As a result of the system in which the tenant families live and work there is a dependent and ignorant peasantry, too listless and too harassed to adjust itself, without aid, to the new requirements of American agriculture."

Consequently, there is a steady decline in the number of farmers. Between 1920-1930, 84,000 farms had been surrendered by the Negro tenants.

## POSITION - INDUSTRY

Beginning with the last war, there has been a steady influx of Negro labour into industry. Three causes contributed to this. Firstly, increasing tractorisation of agriculture drove the tenant farmers from the land. Secondly, shortage of labour during the war brought Negroes into the industrial cities of the North. Thirdly, the limitation of foreign immigration increased the demand for cheap labour.

In 1930 about 27.8 per cent of the occupied Negro population was engaged in industry.

The position of a Negro worker in industry is summed up as follows: "Often he is paid a lower wage than the white worker for doing the same job; if the job is one involving a piecework rate, the Negro is paid the same rate but is given newer, slower, or more difficult jobs, thus keeping his wage at a lower level. Finally, the Negro worker is usually the "last to be hired and the first to be fired".

Some of the Trade Unions bar membership to the Negroes. In all not more than 100,000 Negroes are members of Trade Unions.

## HOUSING AND HEALTH CONDITIONS

The death rate and the infant mortality rate of Negro population in comparison with the white population reveals the poor environment and malnutrition resulting from low economic standards. The following table gives comparative death rates.

Percentage of Total Deaths in Each Age Group: U.S.A. (1934)		
Age group, years.	Whites	Negroes
Under 1	8.52	12.88
1-19	7.04	10.49
20-44	14.25	30.07
45-64	27.30	28.05
65 and over	42.78	17.88

Infant mortality in 1933 was 52.8 among the white mortality, and 91.3 among Negroes. For every 150 whites there is one hospital bed; for every 2,000 Negroes there is one bed.

## POLITICAL POSITION

Legally, the Negroes have the same rights of voting as the whites. But by a series of measures they are barred from voting in the South and insurmountable difficulties are placed in their way in the North.

The following eight methods have been listed by which the Negroes are debarred from voting.

1. Literacy. Voters must be able to read and write.
2. Property. Voters must own a certain amount of property.
3. Poll Tax. The voter must have paid his poll tax within the year or for a number of years.
4. Employment. The voter must have regular employment.
5. Army service. Soldiers who fought in the Civil War or in certain other wars, or the descendants of such soldiers may vote.
6. Reputation. Persons of good reputation who understand the duties of a citizen may vote.
7. Grandfather clauses. Persons who could vote before the Negroes were enfranchised, or descendants of such persons, may vote.
8. Understanding clause. Persons may vote who understand some selected clauses of the constitution and who can explain these clauses of the constitution to the satisfaction of the registration officials.

More intimidatory and violent methods are used in the South, as shown by a poster in Florida elections reproduced by the Crisis:

**"BEWARE"**  
 Negro Citizens, as long as you keep your place  
 We will protect you,  
 But  
 Beware,  
 the Ku Klux Klan is Again Alive  
 And Every NEGRO who approaches a polling place Next Thursday will be

**A MARKED MAN**  
 This is a White Man's country, boys,  
 so save your own life next Thursday  
 Ku Klux Klan  
 Miami Chapter.

P.S. Don't think for a minute that we don't know you. A white man will be at every polling place with his book. Don't Get in That Book."

To conclude: The American capitalists shed crocodile tears over the racial theories and the persecution of the Jews on the continent. Quite rightly the American Negro retorts: "There is a glorious chance for you to prove your professions of racial equality in America. No one believes you unless you can end this monstrosity here."

The American Negroes are no longer satisfied with great phrases and empty promises. They are increasingly relying on their own militant struggles. Finding their way into industry, inevitably barriers of colour will be broken by the class solidarity of white workers. Such a solidarity will be forged in common struggles against the bosses to end exploitation, and to end racial discrimination.

# "MISSION TO MOSCOW"

## WARNER BROS. WITHDRAW A SCENE

Warner Brothers, the Hollywood company which produced the picture "Mission to Moscow" from the book by ex-Ambassador Joseph E. Davies, itself provided the proof that it was a historical frame-up when it admitted that it had inserted into the picture a scene showing Leon Trotsky, one of the leaders of the Russian Revolution and founder of the Red Army, meeting with the Nazi von Ribbentrop in the German Embassy in Oslo, Norway!

The Davies' book and film give the official Stalinist version of the infamous Moscow Trials of 1936-37, which were staged to discredit and eliminate many of the working class opponents of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the U.S.S.R., and which were rejected by world labour opinion as crude frame-ups. The trials were filled with all kinds of false charges against Trotsky, all of which were later irrefutably disproved—but neither the trials, the Davies' book nor the worst Stalinist slanders ever dared charge Trotsky with having met von Ribbentrop.

### ONE BETTER THAN THE TRIAL SLANDERS

Nevertheless, the Stalinist authors of the movie scenario and the Hollywood whitewashers of the bloody Stalin regime decided to go the Moscow Trials one better and to insert this scene. After all, what is one more lie in a picture full of falsification?

But apparently somebody in Hollywood acquainted with the official Stalinist lies about the trials saw this scene and pointed out that since it was an easily exposed falsification, its inclusion would do more to hurt than to help the purpose of the picture. Consequently, according to the most recent reports, it has been eliminated.

The report that the picture would show Trotsky meeting with von Ribbentrop was first printed in the New York daily, P.M., on March 17. The historical truth of this scene was immediately challenged in a letter to P.M. by Daniel Bell, managing editor of the New Leader, U.S. Social Democratic newspaper.

### WITHDRAWN, BUT NOT REPUDIATED

On March 19, P.M. printed Bell's protest, together with an answer and a movie still from "Mission to Moscow," showing actors supposed to represent Trotsky and von Ribbentrop. P.M.'s answer said in part:

"We asked our reporter (in Hollywood) to check and he reported back yesterday by wire this statement from Warner Bros.: 'We had ample authority for truth of this scene. This week, however, it was decided to drop scene since Trotsky's denials amply exposed in trial sequence'."

In other words, the scene was so obviously phoney that the producers cut it out—but they still pretend to stand by its "truth". They are careful not to reveal who was the "authority" for it. That's not necessary when they can slander Trotsky and other Bolshevik co-workers of Lenin in the "trial sequence"—for which they at least have the "authority" of Stalin and the G.P.U. and the "revelations" of Davies four years after the trials, in 1941 when Hitler's attack again made Stalin into an ally of Washington.

Protests against the film must be reaching sizeable proportions. On March 14 The Worker said that the

picture is being attacked "by a small clique of Trotskyite and Social-Democrat supporters of the Hitler agents, Erlich and Alter. But let them rave—nobody will listen to them."

Three days later, however, the same paper admitted that Warner Brothers "are being showered with a stream" of protests and appealed to its readers to send letters to Warner Brothers "congratulating them for a faithful rendering of an epoch-making book."

Warner Brothers' intentions in producing the picture, and the State Department's aim in authorizing the scenario, have been made perfectly clear by the episode of the Trotsky-von Ribbentrop sequence.

### JOSEPH E. DAVIES, STALIN'S NEW-FOUND FRIEND



J. E. Davies, wealthy corporation and banking lawyer, poses with a section of his valuable Russian Art collection. "I am definitely not a communist. I am a capitalist. I am proud of the designation," said Davies to Stalin.

## What of Britain's Role?

In the third Moscow trial, held in March, 1938, Bukharin and others were made to confess that they had been plotting not only with Germany and Japan, but also with Britain and Poland.

Stalin's prosecutor at the trial, Vyshinsky, stated: "Implicated in this case are the remnants of . . . at least, as has been exactly established by the trial, four foreign intelligence services, the Japanese, German, Polish and British—and it goes without saying, all the other foreign intelligence services which maintain friendly, so-called operative contact with the above-mentioned intelligence services."

Thus, if the official version of the Moscow trials is to be believed, the defendants were plotting to overthrow the Soviet Union with Britain and with other of the present "United Nations," including presumably the United States!

If you catch a man in a lie, his whole story is placed in doubt. Davies should be compelled to publicly state whether or not he accepts this part of the official version of the trials; and if he rejects it, on what ground he pretends to accept the other parts.

## Demonstration in America against Film

Socialist Workers Party branches in New York and Los Angeles led demonstrations at showings of "Mission to Moscow" last week to acquaint the public with the real facts about the film and the Moscow trials.

The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party conducted a second protest demonstration against Warner Brothers' whitewash film "Mission to Moscow" last Sunday night. The purpose of the demonstration was not to prevent people from entering the theatre but to call attention to the lies in the motion picture and to the truth about the Moscow frame-ups.

Thousands of copies of *The Truth—About "Mission to Moscow" and the Moscow Trials*, a four-page tabloid, were distributed. In this exposure of the lies and slanders contained in the film, the latter is branded as a "100% Stalinist lie" produced with "unofficial" government blessing.

The demonstrators carried placards calling for the defence of the Soviet Union and denouncing "Mission to Moscow" as a white-wash of Stalin's crimes against labour. The demonstration attracted the attention and interest of thousands of theatregoers and passersby. So great was the interest of the crowd that gathered to read the placards, that the theatre management attempted to "dim-out" their effectiveness by extinguishing the marquee lights. When this failed, the management tried to serve the demonstrators with cups of coffee in the hope that the passers-by would thereupon construe the demonstration as an advertising stunt.

Stalinist plug-uglies milled about the theatre obviously seeking for a pretext to break up the action. They were prevented from using their customary hoodlum methods by the disciplined and firm conduct of the distributors and placard bearers.

A warm reception was accorded the tabloid *The Truth*. Hundreds of people who had seen the picture or who had become acquainted with the controversy in the capitalist press around "Mission to Moscow" were eager to acquaint themselves with the Trotskyist analysis of the Moscow trials.

After the first demonstration of the Socialist Workers Party conducted against "Mission to Moscow" when it opened at the Hollywood Theatre on April 29, many letters were received by the party's New York office, 116 University Place, asking for further information on the trials.

been written by the Nazi propagandists themselves.

The Nazi press is full of this Vansittart resolution. Look! says Goebbels, even the Labour Party will suppress the whole of the German people. Do not think you will be treated any different from Nazi party members. We will all be annihilated and suppressed together. There is no other way but to fight.

If the Labour Party Conference had demonstrated its complete break with an anti-German position; if it had placed on record its complete hostility to the oppressive peace that the capitalists are preparing for the German workers; if it had informed the German and European workers that British Labour stands for a United Socialist States of Europe, the whole situation could be transformed. This would give courage to the revolutionists to continue the underground struggle. It would strike a weapon out of Goebbels hands and give hope to the mass of the German workers who have for so long suffered under the domination of Hitlerism.

The task of the Socialists in the Labour movement is to fight for the overthrow of this disgusting Vansittart policy, re-establish the independence of the Labour movement from capitalist ideology, and demonstrate in deeds to the German masses, that they really stand for a free Europe and a free world.

# ANTI-GERMAN PROPAGANDA HELPS HITLER

By ROSE GARSON

The daily press has reported that serious strikes have broken out in the Ruhr factories. Workers have refused to go to work at night for fear of the terrible air raids. This can be readily understood and appreciated by British workers. They remember what took place at Coventry during the winter of 1940, when the British workers also refused to report for work during the terrifying and destructive bombing.

The militia was called out, martial law was declared and the factories guarded by soldiers with fixed bayonets while the Riot Act was read. No civilians were allowed in or out of the city for several days. The reactions of the workers to the murderous air raids was similar in Germany, while the measures taken by the Nazis had their usual brutality. The "News Chronicle" reports:

"The strikes which have spread throughout the entire area, resulted in a series of searches in which it was hoped to find the ringleaders. As these proved fruitless, the Germans shot 100 workers out of hand, most of them foreigners."

From this it is clear that the majority of the people in the Ruhr were in sympathy with the strikers, since they did not allow terrorism to induce them to expose the leaders of the strikes. It shows also that foreign workers were used as scape-goats.

The riots in Munich appeared to be of a more political character. The recent execution of Students and a University professor not only belie the complete unity of the German nation, it also shows active opposition to the regime. Particularly is this important since the German Students and Professors were among the first to accept Hitler's "ideals" and to join the Nazi Party in large numbers. To-day we see that the University of Munich, cradle of National Socialism is the seat of the main opposition to the Nazi regime. Hans Scholl the leaders of the Student's revolt, was a typical product of the Nazi regime. He was a member of the Nazi Students' organisation and was trained as a soldier in the Nazi Army. He was imbued with a contempt for every conception other than the National Socialist "philosophy". He fought with his regiment at Stalingrad but was sent back to

resume his studies before the final defeat. The terrible ordeals which he suffered and the awful shambles, to which Scholl was witness, seems to have changed his outlook. On his return to Germany the whole regime appeared in its true light. As a result of his change of ideas he and his sister brought out a leaflet in which he stated:

"What Hitler and his confederates mean by freedom and honour they have shown only too well in ten years of destruction of all personal freedom, all freedom of thought, all moral principles of the German people. The eyes of the most stupid Germans have been opened by the terrible blood bath in which they endeavour to drown all Europe in the name of the freedom and the honour of the German Nation. The German name will remain forever dishonoured if German youth does not at last rise, revenge, atone, destroy its tormentors and help build up a new spiritual conception of Europe."

There was widespread response to the call of these students and it resulted in an anti-fascist riot prior to Scholl's arrest.

Scholl was not betrayed by his fellow students or the professors of the University, since it is known that between ten and twenty professors were arrested for implication in the "plots". He was betrayed by a porter, one of the spies that exist in every university, every school, every hospital, every workshop and every tenement throughout Germany. Hans Scholl, his sister and four others, as well as a professor were shot, but their heroic opposition is not ended. Disturbances, unrest is reported not only from Munich but from Karlsruhe, Heidelberg, and Leipzig.

It is quite clear that not only are the German workers not responsible for Hitler and his gangsters, but that they are daily suffering torture and risking their lives in a struggle against Hitler and the fascist regime. With each day that passes the mood of the German masses becomes clearer.

On June 13th, the "Voelkischer Beobachter", the voice of the Nazi Party, stated:

"We in particular must acknowledge our close links with the Party, even though this may require a good

deal of "civic courage". It is easy, and it may appear advantageous to profess membership of the Party on festive occasions, to appear and act as a Parteigenosse (party comrade) in everyday life and at all times is incomparably harder and by no means easy."

An analysis of this statement made by the Party shows a clear admission not only of the unpopularity of the Nazi Party, but of the dislike that members have of admitting membership of the party, as well as an unwillingness to act as a member at all times. This statement alone clearly exposes those traitors to the working class in the British Labour Movement who have succumbed to the lying propaganda of the British imperialist ruling class.

Despite the murderous Nazi regime and its propaganda, despite the lies and slanders of the so-called socialists of Britain, the German workers are beginning to regain their confidence. They are beginning to see, if not a clear alternative, at least who are their enemies.

John Gurney, writing from Stockholm on Thursday, June 10th, reports a significant statement from the German underground movement:

"It is by ourselves alone—not the invaders—that we shall get our freedom."

This statement shows a consciousness and determination that does honour to the oppressed, beaten and terrorised people of Germany, a consciousness not even contemplated by the so-called free socialists of Britain. If the British workers do not immediately take steps to wipe out their leaders' shameful betrayal of internationalism, they will not only strengthen the machinations of their oppressors, who need to divide the workers of the world in their own interests, but they also strengthen the power of the fascist criminals.

The events of the war are fast undermining the support which the Nazis had among the German people. Instead of assisting the movement of the German workers and student revolution, the leaders of the Labour Party, are giving Hitler plenty of material to bind the wavering to his regime. The Vansittart policy could not have been better framed had it

Continued next Column.