



# Half the World

*by Claudia Jones*

**WHAT ARE ONE'S THOUGHTS** on release from Ellis Island? is the question I have been asked many times over, now that I am back at work at my desk, after my nearly three weeks "sojourn" in Ellis Island, as are the 17 other splendid men and women anti-fascists who were incarcerated there with me. Of course, it is good to be at work again, helping to unite and organize American women, Negro and white, for a lasting peace, security and equality.

But to say "lost" in relation to our Ellis Island "sojourn," is only to speak half the truth. It is of course true, that we never should have been there in the first place. That the McCarran Act passed over the overwhelming majority of organized labor's protests, and the protests of the Negro people, the women and the youth, is proof that reaction and fascism seeks to ride high over the liberties of the people. But that the voice of thousands of Americans, men, women and youth were raised in our behalf, is not only confirmation of the indelible democratic strength inherent in the American people, but likewise the peoples' hatred of penalizing of American liberty; their rejection of the attempt to McCarranize (read fascize) the United States.

**NOR WAS THE EXPERIENCE** of being jailed for one's conscience and one's conviction a "lost" experience. In a very deep sense, it refuted the vain boast that jail for progressives "break the spirit" or "tempers one's convictions." For it was a mirror—the spirit of these 17 men and women—of the dedication of thousands of anti-fascists in our land to hold fast to one's convictions which are the convictions of peace, equality and security.

One thoughts, of course, also go immediately to the four other victims still incarcerated on California's Ellis Island—Terminal Island. Among them are Frank Carlson, whom I know well from his leadership in the youth movement, together with his fighting young wife, Lil, and their two charming daughters, Harry Carlisle, David Hyun and Mrs. Miriam Stevenson, trade unionist and mother of a 18-year-old draft age son. They together with the two victims in Seattle, Earnest Mangaong and Boris Sasief, and Knut Heikkinen in Duluth, and Johy Zydok in Detroit are still jailed. The same mass struggle and protests that freed the 17 and the 40 others on bail due to the excellent work of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, must now go to bring their freedom on bail, in line with previous victories.

**ONE CANNOT, OF COURSE,** fail to recognize that the victory release on bail marks the first round against the attempt of the Department of Justice to apply the McCarran Statute first, to Americans of foreign birth, and then to all Americans. But the first round of victories won in the case of the foreign born can be the "tiger by the tail" of this unconstitutional, un-American, pro-fascist statute. If we twist the tail of the tiger long enough, it will squeal like the stuck pig that it really is. We can repeal the McCarran Act.

**WHAT A FOUL LIE** was the attempt of the Immigration Dept. under the Dept. of Justice to intimate that the issue involved in our cases was not jailing of people for their progressive ideas, but to "deport" them from the United States! But all of us, long permanent and resident members of the U.S., charge that the onus of responsibility is on the Justice Department and the Immigration Department who have denied us citizenship, who all our lives have fought for American democracy and who lay claim to the revolutionary and democratic traditions of the American people. No attempt to fool the American people that the "mass-production style" hearings now being called should go unchallenged. These too, should be the occasion for mass protests, linked with the fight to repeal the McCarran Act.

Support to the splendid fighting American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born in all of its cases is still another way for progressives and particularly women, to smash the deportation hysteria, is a task in the basic self-interest of all Americans.