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# The Negro Problem is Important

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The Negro problem is one of the most important problems facing the Workers Party. Fundamentally an economic problem, but intensified by racial antagonism, it demands our special attention and careful study.

The Negro population constitutes one-tenth of the population of the country, and is a most important factor for the success or failure of any working class movement. It is overwhelmingly a proletarian mass. It is the most ruthlessly exploited of any working class group.

Eighty percent of the Negroes live in the South. Here is where the class struggle rages in its most brutal form. Oppressed and exploited beyond description in order to pile up huge profits for the land-owning class, the Negro can barely eke out a miserable existence. Peonage is rampant. He is disfranchised and segregated. Lynching and burning at the stake has become a famous American pastime.

That gigantic butchery — the World War — shook the very foundation of Capitalist society and destroyed its equilibrium. It has also shattered the apathy of the Negro workers; they are now sharply conscious of their wrongs as Negroes. One may reflect upon the part played by the Negro in the Washington and Chicago race riots. They did not let themselves be shot down as dogs, instead, they put up an effective and organized resistance. There is also developing a revolutionary element among the Negroes. This element recognizes clearly the source of their exploitation and the reasons for their oppression.

Disappointed and disillusioned by the constant failures of the political reformers to secure any redress of their wrongs, many Negroes are turning to radical movements and are acting as a haven for the masses. They are at present race-conscious. It is the duty of the revolutionists to turn this race-consciousness into class-consciousness. But

it requires persistency and tact. It is the duty of the Workers Party to attract this section of the American working class. And the Party must in all seriousness undertake to win the support of the Negro workers. Just as they are used by the ruling class today as strikebreakers, so will they be used in the future to crush any revolutionary attempt on the part of the white workers. And the capitalist class is preparing for this event. They are building a new Armory in the Negro district — what for? Well, you man guess.

Comrades, it is your duty to aid these masses in their struggle against peonage, and against economic exploitation. It is your duty to rally the Negro workers under the revolutionary banner of the working class movement. Comrades, go to the Negro masses!

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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