

"Southern Worker" Faces Tremendous Tasks

By TOM JOHNSON.

THE appearance of the first issue of the Southern Worker marks a long step forward in the struggle of the Party for the majority of the decisive sections of the American working class. That this paper can be published at all is proof that our Party has begun to sink its roots deep in the most exploited sections of the American proletariat, the white and Negro workers south of the Mason and Dixon line.

The special features of the class struggle in the South impose great and important tasks on our first Southern paper and make its maintenance and extension a matter of importance to the entire Party. These special features are:

1. The Southern working class is sharply divided on racial lines. It is the foremost task of the Communists to smash through this age-old wall of hate and fear erected by the master class between the races. This can best be done in the struggle itself. The very logic of struggle against a common enemy breaks down the racial barriers. At the same time it is vitally necessary to carry on a careful and patient campaign of education of the white workers particularly as to the necessity of class solidarity. In this campaign the Southern Worker will become the best weapon in our arsenal.

2. The Southern proletariat in large scale industry is of comparatively recent origin. Large sections of the workers have no traditions of organization and of class struggle. The pressure of capitalist rationalization is driving them to action—they are blindly groping for a way out from their present intolerable conditions. It is the task of the Southern worker to point the way to transform the present growing blind revolt into a conscious revolutionary struggle against capitalism.

3. In the revolutionary national movement of the Negro masses the proletarian revolution has an ally of tremendous potential power and vigor. It is the duty of the Party to first of all arouse the Negro masses to national consciousness, then to give every support to the national movement as it develops, to clarify its aims and to direct it more and more into workingclass channels. In this struggle the Southern Worker will play an increasingly important role.

4. Ours is a young party in the South—a party of new members. We have no developed cadres of rank and file leaders which form the back-bone of the party in other sections. The rapid development of a native southern leadership is one of the major jobs of the Party in the South today. In this campaign of proletarian education, in this development of Party cadres in the South, the Southern Worker will be a most important factor.

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It has been no easy job to establish the Southern Worker. Its first issue has appeared in the face of the rising wave of white terror in the South. It will be a much more difficult job to keep our paper. The whole forces of the capitalist class and its state power will be mobilized to crush it. Its publication is a major victory for the southern workers and for the Party. Its suspension for any reason would be a major victory for our class enemies. Every Party member, every revolutionary worker, both North and South, must realize this.

Support the Southern Worker! Subscribe! Contribute to its fighting fund! Forward to a mass party of action in the South!