

Hiding Behind Nature's Skirts

By CLAUDIA JONES

A polltax filibusterer recently tried to convince his colleagues of the "folly" of making the Fair Employment Practices Bill the law of the land.

His argument, taken from the January issue of the *Manufacturers' Record*, ran something like this:

Nature is responsible for segregation of the peoples of the earth. For "practical reasons," society segregates people according to age in our schools, according to sex in rest rooms, to religion in churches, according to occupations in union halls, according to political beliefs in parties, according to height, weight, skill, etc., in industry.

What then, runs the argument, is the use of taking our cue from "leftist race agitators" and intellectuals in the labor movement, who fight for full equality of the Negro people, since Mother Nature has done such a good job since the dawn of history?

Big Business employers and their Bourbon hirelings hope to make this line of thinking prevalent—the better to achieve their purpose, not only to foil passage of the FEPC bill, but to spread the lie that the Negro people are inferior, and that race discrimination always was, is, and will be.

Slandering Mother Nature

Let us assume the arguments of the polltax Senator and his Big Business associates are valid. How would we approach the question? We would have to be at least consistent. Nature is responsible for the polltaxes in the South; it is responsible for anti-union legislation for preventing Negro veterans from voting. Nature is responsible for the failure to date of the Republican and Democratic parties to exert the leadership needed to halt the minority filibusterers. Likewise it is Nature that prevents President Truman from taking action to denounce the scandalous filibuster and specifically endorse the original FEPC bill now before the Senate!

No indeed! Such an argument will not be swallowed by the American people today. That is the road to fascism, to the Nazi ideology of the Herrenvolk, to the

doctrines of racial superiority, which Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo spread to plunge the entire world into war and catastrophe.

The people — and especially workers—know from their own experience that the unity of Negro and white is a result of their struggles and the strength of this adherence to the principles of democracy.

This Big Business argument is an old one. It is the argument which says that "human nature cannot be changed."

But even a backward white worker who is now beginning to inquire into this business of race discrimination cannot fail to relate his anti-fascist experience or those of his kin to this Big Business-Southern Bourbon espousal of fascist racial superiority.

What Science Teaches

True, the Big Business employers and the polltaxers hope to capitalize on the widespread ignorance of scientific knowledge which holds that while there are "different" races there are no inferior races; that blood plasma has the same qualities in all races and human beings; and there are no "inborn characteristics" of any peoples.

Of course, there is a deeper motive in the attempts of Big Business to blame poor Mother Nature for Jimcrow and segregation. It is to cover up the very nature and responsibility of capitalism itself. It is capitalist society that imposes false and ar-

tificial divisions between peoples in order to exploit them.

That is why more advanced workers—Negro and white—know that the ultimate results of the fight for a permanent FEPC must be the elimination of all race discrimination.

They know that while every blow must be struck to break down Jimcrow barriers, while every gain must be fought for, because the monopolies never give up their efforts to rescind these gains, the ultimate solution for complete freedom for the Negro people and the white workers will be the establishment of Socialism.

Through the fight for a permanent FEPC, therefore, labor and the Negro people are strengthening their unity against the monopolies, and against Big Business-Southern Bourbon ideology, which is fascist in content.

Unwilling tribute is paid to the Communists by the Senator and the *Manufacturers' Record* when they impute that Communists challenge this medieval idea that nature is responsible for mankind's ills.

It is because the Communists understand and have studied the Marxist-Leninist science of society, of social and class relations that they can refute this lie completely.

That too, is why they proudly point to the fact that in one-sixth of the earth, where Mother Nature also abounds, racial discrimination is non-existent, and is punishable under Socialist law.

Worth Repeating

FDR, writing on the strike struggles of 1937 in Volume 6 of *Collected Papers and Addresses*, said: "Enemies of labor were quick to condemn in 1937. From familiar circles came the old cry of the Tories: 'Something drastic must be done to curb labor; it is getting too powerful.' Of course, what these people really want and strive for is to return to the good old days when labor was unorganized and weak and starving for jobs. It used to be so easy to bargain with one man who had a family to support when 50 other men wanted the same job. But it is so inconvenient to bargain with a strong, united group of employees who know they are entitled to a fair share of the profits of an industry."