

WORKERS WORLD

Whole World Calls U.S. Aggressor; Kennedy Gets Set To Do It Again

Give Arms to OUR People!

—Says Afro-American Leader

During the U.S.-sponsored invasion of Cuba last week, Rob Williams, editor of the Afro-American paper, the Crusader, sent the following telegram which Dr. Raul Roa read aloud at the United Nations:

To Be Conveyed to Adlai Stevenson—

Now that the United States has proclaimed military support for people willing to rebel against oppression, oppressed Afro-Americans in the South urgently request tanks, artillery, bombs, money, use of American airfields and white mercenaries to crush the racist tyrants who have betrayed the American Revolution and Civil War.

—We also request prayers for this noble undertaking!

—Robert F. Williams

Kennedy Takes "Responsibility" for Cowardly Attack And Promises to Do it Better Next Time

The whole world, including even the capitalist allies of the United States, was appalled at the open attack on tiny Cuba which U.S. officials engineered on April 17. And yet Kennedy had the nerve to make his "blood and iron" speech after the fiasco, in which he spoke of the danger to U.S. "security" and of the "tyranny" in Cuba.

The Manchester Guardian of England summed up much of foreign Big Business sentiment when it said:

"Everyone knows that the sort of invasion by proxy with which the U.S. has now been charged is morally indistinguishable from open aggression."

Of course the reason for such "moral" indignation is to be found in the great working class demonstrations that were held throughout the world, particularly in Latin America. Over 25,000 marched in Mexico City alone.

But Kennedy, representing the arrogant and still unchastened American capitalist class, made his war-mongering speech on the very morrow of the invasion's failure, and furiously warned the oppressed Latin American countries as follows:

"If the nations of this hemisphere should fail to meet their commitments against outside penetration, . . . this government will not hesitate in meeting its primary obligation."

By this, Kennedy meant that if he could not get enough stooges among the Latin Americans to attack Cuba, he would see that the United States did so, this time with sufficient planes, tanks and bombs—and Marines.

The truth is—that Cuba does indeed pose a threat to the United States. Not to the vast majority of the people of the United States, and not to the military security of the United States. But by its example to Latin America, it poses a threat to the Wall Street domination and exploitation of 230 million people in the hemisphere outside of the United States.

Most of the 180 million people in the United States itself do not even know that this super-exploitation exists. And many imagine that the 6 million Cubans are going to start attacking the United States with "Russian weapons."

But the Latin Americans are very well aware of the nature and identity of their oppressor. Their revolution against that oppressor will not be defeated nor even postponed, by Kennedy's coming adventure in Cuba.

Laos Cease Fire

Like arrogant corporations that refuse to talk to the union while a wildcat strike is going on, the British and U.S. imperialists refused to sit down at the conference table with the Soviet Union and China until there was a Cease Fire in Laos.

The Soviet Union has now called for a Cease Fire. And it appears that the revolutionary army (the Pathet Lao) will heed this call.

But once again, it has been proven that only the struggle makes the imperialists give an inch. Up until the Pathet Lao started pushing the fight against the U.S.-financed and U.S.-armed Laotian royalists, the U.S. demanded that the rulers of Laos must be stooges of imperialism.

But now they can't even think of such a thing. The best imperialism can get now is an agreement to make Laos "neutral."

Torch-Light Parade for Cuba in Brazil



Peasants in Brazil demonstrating for Cuba. There were similar actions throughout Latin America. Over 25,000 marched in Mexico City.

French Fascists Defeated — But Not by de Gaulle!

The French fascist generals in Algeria were defeated by the combined power of the French working class, the Algerian revolution (led by the FLN) and the pressure of the socialist world against the capitalist sector.

Here is the situation:

The bulk of the French Army, including its most reactionary "professionals" is in Algeria, waging a counter-revolutionary war against the Algerian liberation fighters.

These "professionals" represent the extreme right wing of the French capitalists and especially the French capitalists in Algeria. This group wants absolute control over Algeria and an absolute victory over the FLN.

But the main body of the French capitalist class under de Gaulle is "moderate" and wants to make a deal with the FLN—give a semi-independence to Algeria—tying an only half-independent Algeria to France as Puerto Rico, for

example, is tied to the United States.

Phony as such "independence" would be, it is still too much for the French capitalists in Algeria who would be considerably weakened and somewhat impoverished by it.

The question is—why are de Gaulle and the French capitalists at home so "moderate"? Why does de Gaulle, who only yesterday belonged to the same cabal as Challe and Salan (the rebellious generals) suddenly "defend democracy"?

And why does Kennedy, the man who took full responsibility for the fascist invasion of Cuba—now greet de Gaulle as a great democrat for defeating the French fascists?

Because a civil war in France would have brought about both the loss of Algeria to the revolutionary Algerians (instead of to the fascist generals) and the loss of French capitalism itself to the Socialist and Communist workers of France.

CIA's Cheering Section

The following is reprinted from the *New York Post*, April 19, 1961 (our emphasis):

American business men, hoping to regain some of the billion dollars of properties lost to Fidel Castro's government, today watched the fighting in Cuba with intense interest.

"We're just sitting and waiting . . ." an officer of the American and Foreign Power Co. said. Property of the firm valued at \$300,000,000 was nationalized by the Castro regime.

A spokesman for W. R. Grace and Co., which lost a \$1,500,000 paper converting mill on the outskirts of Havana, said, "We're playing it by ear."

In Boston, a vice president of the United Fruit Co. said a \$70,000,000 claim would be filed with any new government that might depose Castro.

"If a new and democratic (i.e., counter-revolutionary—ed.) government succeeds," he said, "United Fruit Co. would hope to play a part in the economy."

WORKERS WORLD

Founded March, 1959

Editorial office:

46 W. 21st Street, New York, N.Y.

Telephone: AL 5-0352

Editor: Vincent Copeland

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Vol. 3, No. 8 — April 28, 1961

Published Twice Monthly

Foreign Military Base in Cuba

While the corporation-controlled government of the United States was falsely accusing the Cuban people of harboring new military bases for the Soviet Union in this hemisphere, it was of course discreetly silent about *the only foreign military base in Cuba.*

That is the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo.

Guantanamo is a bay on the mainland of Cuba. It has been occupied by U.S. forces for 58 years. It is bristling with battleship, land-based and ship-based bombing planes, *capable of nuclear assault*, and a number of U.S. Marines ready to go into the rest of Cuba whenever ordered.

On January 6, a reporter from the New Bedford *Standard-Times* wrote that in Guantanamo "*at any given moment there are more planes than there are in the whole Cuban Air Force.*"

—Any American worker who thinks that the war danger comes from the Soviet Union, or the Cuban people should ponder these facts well.

U.S. Rulers Unite Against Cuba

The smashing defeat of the U.S.-backed invasion of Cuba in the very brief space of 72 hours provoked an immediate crisis in the U.S. ruling class.

While U.S. imperialism's new "rubber stamp," Adlai Stevenson, openly denied any U.S. participation in the invasion, a few days later the U.S. admitted it had thrown its full weight behind it.

Aside from removing any doubts that Stevenson, the "intellectual," is nothing more than an imperialist stooge-liar, the crushing defeat for U.S. imperialism and the ensuing crisis created by this defeat, showed that in times of such a crisis all sections of the ruling class are united.

Kennedy conferred with Eisenhower, Nixon, Rockefeller, and the arch-reactionary Senator Goldwater. All expressed their unqualified support for Kennedy.

Furthermore, a member of Kennedy's cabinet, Interior Secretary Udall, re-

vealed that the invasion plan was formulated during Eisenhower's administration and carried to completion during Kennedy's.

Thus, the "opposition" party not only expressed its solidarity with the invasion but was a co-conspirator in planning it.

The practical arrangements of the invasion were planned and co-ordinated by Allen Dulles and the C.I.A. Allen Dulles was appointed as head of the C.I.A. by Eisenhower in 1953. But Kennedy's first major announcement after election was the re-appointment of top thought-policeman, J. Edgar Hoover — and Allen Dulles.

This all shows that the differences between the "liberal" and "conservative" wings of the ruling class are very few indeed. And in the unity of the ruling class—in its opposition to the working class, the socialist countries, and the colonial countries—there are no differences at all.

The Real Stevenson

Adlai Stevenson is one of the most skillful liars in the business of international imperialist diplomacy. But his most recent Big Lie caught up with him in record time last week.

On April 17, the day of the U.S.-supported counter-revolutionary invasion of Cuba, Stevenson declared in the UN:

"I wish to make it clear also, that we would be opposed to the use of our territory for mounting an offensive against any foreign government."

On April 23, the authoritative *New York Times* flatly stated:

"The exiles' military preparations and plans were approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (of the United States!)."

On April 24, Kennedy's press secretary, Pierre Salinger reiterated:

"President Kennedy has stated from the beginning, that as President, he bears full responsibility for events of the past days (during which the invasion of Cuba took place—ed.). He has stated this on all occasions and he restates it now so that it will be understood by all."

Adlai Stevenson is thus exposed by his own superiors as a liar.

And yet there are people of intelligence on the workers' side who had faith in this oily-voiced stooge of imperialism.

Valerian A. Zorin, for example, Soviet Ambassador to the UN, said in criticism of Stevenson that the UN had just listened to statements "that the world is not accustomed to hearing" from Adlai Stevenson. (Zorin was referring to Stevenson's harshly anti-Communist remarks).

And still others may continue to have illusions about Stevenson. But the Soviet Union and the world working class cannot afford to retain such illusions for another moment. The forces of progress must be able to distinguish friend from foe.

And Stevenson who nobly opposes "dictatorship of both the left and the right" as he puts it, will always be found on the side of the dictatorship of the right when the chips are down—as they are down, now.

May Day Rally

Washington Sq. NYC—Fifth Ave. at Wash'tn Pl.

Monday, May 1

4-8 P.M.

sponsored by

Labor and People's Committee for May Day

130 EAST 16th STREET, NEW YORK CITY

May Day Comm. Battles for Free Speech

New York, April 27 — As we go to press, the City of New York is still refusing to give a "sound" permit to the Labor and People's Committee for May Day.

After the Parks Department granted the space in Washington Square, the Police Department refused a permit for the sound-amplifying system. This decision was appealed and apparently straightened out—by virtue of a Parks Department agreement to switch the place of meeting to a spot in the square more acceptable to the police.

But again, the police refused a sound permit.

A delegation went to City Hall yesterday, the 26th, to see the Mayor — and they were not allowed to even enter the lobby of the building.

Every worker and every workers organization must protest this vicious attack on the civil rights of all labor. The New York police have been giving sound permits to speakers in the same area for many years, and therefore the present denial is obviously aimed at the labor movement.

Needless to add, the demonstration will take place with or without sound equipment, 4 to 8 P.M. at Washington Square, New York on Monday, May 1.

Britain Even Robs Nigeria Of Postage Stamps!

Editor's note: Nigeria is supposed to be a "free" country, having been granted its "independence" by Great Britain in 1960.

But the following dispatch gives a small but very important proof that the freedom is false and the independence is a lie.

It is widely known that the economy of Nigeria is largely under foreign (chiefly British) ownership, and that the average per capita income is a wretched \$80 a year because of this exploitation. But the following dispatch shows that even the POLITICAL sovereignty is a humbug as well, since even the postal system is under the domination of the British.

:—:

Lagos, Nigeria—Shocking revelations of the cruel economic control of Nigeria's Postal services by the British Government were made in Lagos recently at the 12th Annual Conference of the Union of Posts and Telecommunications Workers' of Nigeria.

In revealing facts and figures in connection with the control, the Secretary-General of the Union, Mr. Gogo Chu Nzeribe called on the Federal Government of Nigeria to sever its connection with the United Kingdom Government.

Mr. Nzeribe said the United Kingdom Government through the British Post Office "is controlling and exploiting our postal and telegraph services to the bankruptcy and disadvantages of our economy."

Mr. Nzeribe revealed that the British Post Office printed and owned Postal Orders distributed in Nigeria and paid Nigeria only three pounds for every 1,000 sold irrespective of the denominations involved. He also told his listeners that the United Kingdom received a sales commission of two cents for sales of certain postal items, while the Nigerian government received just one-half a cent of this amount.

Other figures released by the Secretary-General on this economic control showed that the United Kingdom received commission of three cents while Nigeria received but one-half cent for sales of units of one and a half shillings to two shillings—and this same general proportion of legalized imperialist robbery prevailed all the way up to the highest postal rates.

If Great Britain can rob Nigeria in such an apparently sovereign department as the Post Office, how on earth can we pretend before the world that Nigeria is free?

Benefit Performance

for

ROB WILLIAMS

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Ossie Davis, Charlie Mingus

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NAME

STREET

CITY.....ZONE.....STATE.....

Thousands of North American Workers Cheer Castro and Cuba in Union Square

By George Fitzpatrick

A two-pronged dramatic climax to two weeks of daily picketing in front of the UN in support of the Cuban Revolution and against the C.I.A.-directed and financed invasion of Cuba Libre took place April 21st and 22nd.

Over 3,000 gathered in Union Square on Friday, April 21. North American, Cuban, Afro-American, Puerto Rican, Dominican and other Latin American workers loudly cheered for unconditional support of the Cuban Revolution and for the speakers' indictment of U.S. imperialist aggression.

Speakers included Carlos Moore, an Afro-Cuban student; Jose Sanchez, leader of the 26th of July Movement; Julio Medina, Organizational Secretary of the 26th; Deirdre Grisworld, Secretary of the Molina Defense Committee, who brought out the facts in that monstrous frame-up case; representatives of Advance, Fair-Play for Cuba, the Peoples Progressive Party of Guiana; Young Socialist Alliance and Catholic Worker.

Mr. Moore received thunderous applause for his all out attack on the Hitler-like role of the Kennedy administration and U.S. capitalism. He also pointed out how these international pirates block Cuban citizens from returning from "this stinking imperialist hole" to their home-land.

Sr. Sanchez climaxed an eloquent es-

pousal of Cuba's Socialist Revolution by leading the Rally in the chant, "Cuba, Si! Yanqui, No!" The spokesman for the Peoples Progressive Party of British Guiana, pledged his party (the majority party of that country) to all-out support of revolutionary Cuba.

Efforts of counter-revolutionary pickets, organized and protected by the po-

lice, to disrupt the rally were to no avail. The fascists were greeted by shouts of "Paredon! Paredon!" (To the Wall! To the Wall!) and "Cuba, Si, Yanqui, No!"

On April 22, the fight was carried directly to Washington, D. C. where 1,200 supporters of the revolution from New York, Philadelphia, New Jersey and

Washington — marched near the White House. (A group of 135 counter-revolutionaries had been given the preferred spot directly in front of the White House.)

Even as the great picket-line for Revolutionary Cuba took place in Washington, hundreds of others, unable to make the trip, picketed at the U.N. in New York.

"The War is Not Between Cubans, But Rather Between Yankee Imperialism and the State of Cuba"

By Neva Kecsemeti

Buffalo, April 22—Today, the local branch of the Workers World Party held a "Hands Off Cuba" meeting. A large number of leaflets were distributed in the Spanish-speaking and Afro-American communities, and at the State College. These leaflets boldly condemned and exposed the role of United States imperialism in the counter-revolutionary invasion of Cuba, April 16 and 17.

An enthusiastic audience of seventy workers and students, appalled by the U.S.-planned intervention, came to the meeting. They heard the Workers World Party organizer expose the U.S. support of the invasion and explain the reasons for it.

"The war in Cuba is not between Cubans," he said, "but is a war between Yankee imperialism and the Sovereign State of Cuba which has declared its socialist character. . . . Added to the power of Castro is the aid from the Soviet Union and Red China. . . . The conflict in Cuba has become part of the global struggle between two giant class camps. Castro's victory is a victory for the socialist camp."

There was a special report on the monstrous frame-up of Francisco Molina, a pro-Castro worker who has been convicted of second degree murder. The

meeting declared its full support to the Molina Defense Committee.

In the full discussion that followed, the students showed much sympathy for Cuba. The meeting ended in a spontaneous round of applause for a pro-Castro speaker from the floor. At a social later in the evening, the gathering viewed slides which showed the great progress of revolutionary

Cuba. Informal discussion followed to the wee hours of the morning.

The spirit of the night expressed the stand taken by the Buffalo Executive Committee of the WWP and reported earlier in the week by the Buffalo Evening News as—"hailing the victory of the revolutionary government over the U.S.-inspired counter-revolutionary mercenaries."

Youth Makes Pro-Cuban Speech In Midst of Near-Riot in Phila.

By Arié Ha' marad Ha' poel

Philadelphia, April 18 — About 4 PM today, a group of young workers and students set up a picket line at the Federal Building here, demanding that the U.S. keep HANDS OFF CUBA.

A crowd of shoppers, some hostile and some friendly and curious, gathered in a few moments. The scene became alive with the debate of the American working people who are daily becoming more and more aware of the significance of

the times we are living in.

There was a great deal of sympathy expressed for the right of the Cuban workers to decide their own destiny. But there were also voices hostile to Cuba, and after a period of loud talk and shouting, a travelling salesman ripped the picket sign out of the hands of a young student.

This incident set off a violent attack on the picket line.

The Philadelphia police, notorious for their brutal treatment of Afro-American people in this city, immediately joined the attack, and arrested four of the youth who tried to defend themselves and their comrades.

One of the youth, Leroy McRae, Afro-American student leader of Penn University was especially heroic in his defense of fellow students who were being savagely beaten.

In the very middle of the melee, practically in the clutches of the cops, (who collared him later), he made a statement to a roving TV reporter which was broadcast to the city:

"The Castro revolutionary government has armed the workers of Cuba. If they were against Castro, they have the immediate power to forcefully overthrow their government. This power was given to them by the revolutionary government itself. HANDS OFF CUBA!"

Molina Defense Committee

Invites You To A

DANCE

at Casa Cuba

Columbus at 94th St., N.Y.C.

Saturday, May 6, 9 P.M.

Contribution \$1.00



This left hand knows damn well what the right hand doeth!

Laura Albizu Campos, Now Cuban Delegate to UN, Is Treated Like a Prisoner in New York City

Printed below are excerpts from an Open Letter to the Press from Valeria Aldrich, Julius Eichel, Seymour Eichel, Conrad Lynn, Ruth Miller and Ruth Reynolds.

The letter was a protest against the capitalist press treatment of—and U.S. imperialist restrictions on—Puerto Rican liberation fighters who are now Cuban representatives at the U.N. The excerpts are self-explanatory.—ed.

April 14, 1961

Gentlemen:

Present as members of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations are Dr. Laura Meneses de Albizu Campos and Mr. Juan Juarbe y Juarbe, the first Puerto Ricans to be named by any country to its Permanent Mission.

Both have been made citizens of the Republic of Cuba by virtue of "exceptional merits," having lost their United States citizenship because of their defense of Puerto Rico's right to independence from the United States.

Dr. Laura Meneses de Albizu Campos is a Peruvian by birth, and became a United States citizen upon her marriage in July, 1922, to Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos, President since 1930 of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico.

During her husband's ten-year absence from Puerto Rico (1937-1947) as a political prisoner in Atlanta Penitentiary and subsequently as a patient in the Columbus Hospital in New York, Dona Laura and their three children lived for seven years in Peru.

When she wished to return to Puerto Rico in 1948 she discovered that her

United States citizenship had been cancelled, and she re-joined her husband by virtue of a "safe-conduct affidavit" issued by the United States Consul in Lima.

Two years later she went to Cuba to visit her son, then a student at the University of Havana, and has not been permitted by the United States Government to return to Puerto Rico since.

Her husband has been once again a political prisoner since 1950, and since 1956 has been so badly paralyzed that a special guarded cell has been provided for his incarceration in the Presbyterian Hospital in San Juan.

Although he has been considered several times to be on the verge of death, Dona Laura has consistently been denied a United States visa to visit her husband.

Mr. Juan Juarbe y Juarbe has lived outside Puerto Rico since 1936, traveling throughout Latin America in his capacity as Delegate or Foreign Secretary of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico, seeking moral support through diplomatic channels and non-governmental organizations for the independence of Puerto Rico.

Since 1960 he has been Editor of HUMANISMO, a Latin American political and cultural review. When he sought to leave Puerto Rico in 1936 he was denied both a United States passport and a certificate of United States citizenship, and had to secure a foreign passport in order to leave the island. Like Dr. Laura Meneses de Albizu Campos, he has been a "stateless person" until the Republic of Cuba recently extended citizenship to him.

Upon their arrival in New York late in March, these two Delegates were notified by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service that they are on "parole" for the duration of the current session of the United Nations General Assembly, and that their movements are proscribed.

They are permitted to travel only between 28th and 97th Streets, and between the East River Drive and Eighth Avenue between 49th and 97th Streets, being allowed to go as far west as Ninth Avenue between 28th and 49th Streets.

The above information has not been published in the metropolitan dailies, either English or Spanish.

On the other hand, when Theodore Moscoso, Administrator of the Economic Development Administration of the insular government of Puerto Rico, made a one-day appearance as a Delegate of the United States Government to the United Nations Committee for Industrial Development, metropolitan dailies published extensive data regarding himself and his work.

Even in this instance, however, vital information was withheld. In the name of the United States Government Mr. Moscoso advocated "Operation Bootstrap," the industrialization program which he has administered underdeveloped areas.

Yet nowhere has the press informed the public that under this program American businessmen average a 35 per cent annual return on capital investment, and pay wages approximately one-third of the standard scale on the continent.

Africa Speaks

(But Afro-American Author Will Not Listen)

THE RELUCTANT AFRICAN—By Louis E. Lomax, Harper Brothers, New York, \$2.50

"'We heard about the Africans in America. But you are the first one we have ever seen.' Then he placed his arm across mine. In the light of the dim kerosene lamp, he matched our colors. Then his face broke into a big smile.

"'We are brothers,' he confirmed, 'Welcome home.'

"'He's been away a long time,' Grace said jokingly. 'We must make him remember.'"

(—From "The Reluctant African")

But his brothers in Kenya could not make Louis E. Lomax remember.

Lomax is an apologist for the capitalist ruling class in the United States. And he writes his book, *The Reluctant*

African, entirely from that point of view.

True, he recounts some of the crimes of European colonialism in Africa, but only in order to warn the U.S. imperialists not to make any "mistakes" there.

During the time he wasn't hobnobbing with the State Departments officials or slumming with African statesmen and revolutionaries, he was defending U.S. capitalism against, the "natives." In Egypt, he says:

"Civil servants drew me aside to talk about our common enemy, the white man. 'What are you going to do about Little Rock? Mississippi? . . .'

"They knew everything about Little Rock except who eventually won the argument."

According to Lomax, the Afro-Americans won the argument in Little Rock and integration has been successful there!

"I wiggled in my seat waiting for the Egyptians to come to the last reel—you know, the part where the U.S. Attorney General erupts, troops march in with banners flying, tanks rumbling, and place the American government on the side of equality.

"But the Egyptian version of the American black man's ordeal never gets that far. In the gospel according to Cairo, black Pauline is still tied to the rails, the roaring train bears down on her saintly image, while the white-skinned villain cackles in the bush just beyond the trestle."

Is it any wonder that Lomax traveled all the way from Cairo to Capetown without becoming converted to the African revolution, when he feels so smug and superior about the Afro-American struggle at home?

Lomax pleads for white participation

in the African governments after "independence" is achieved. He does this, he says, out of "humanist" considerations, for better "understanding" and so on, and so on. He just leaves a trifle unsaid: the fact that the whites in Africa, in most places he visited, represent *capitalism*—and not only capitalism, but the super-exploitation of the African masses by *foreign imperialism*.

In several African countries, there are three to four hundred Africans to each European. Lomax fails to mention this inconvenient fact, and of course makes his most eloquent plea for minority rights (!) in South Africa where the Europeans are outnumbered "only" four to one!

"The shattering moment comes when one realizes that the Africans are saying that the ethnic majority should form the government in its own image. This argument becomes even more egregious, at least so it seems to me, when the Africans contend that an indigenous people have a right to form a government. This means, for example, that Europeans who have been in South Africa longer than Afro-Americans have been in America, have, at best, only squatters' rights.

"This, of course, is turn-about. What one sees in Africa is change, not progress; betterment for the black man, but disappointment for the humanist. And for this reason, I find virtue in the fact that Africans don't have enough trained people to run their governments. (!) Practical necessity is integration's last hope in Africa."

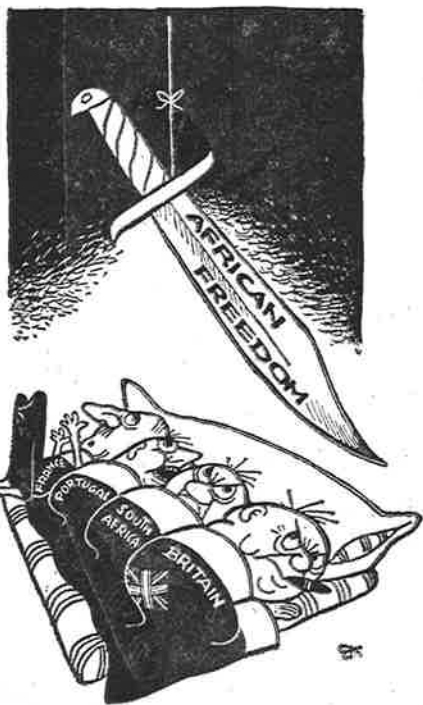
Here Lomax is not defending white people from extinction. He is defending imperialism from extermination.

The Africans' "anti-white-ism" which so disturbs Lomax is only the African form of anti-imperialism. Naturally its racist form is repugnant and inferior to



its revolutionary essence. (The black troops of Tshombe have been hurting African freedom as much as the white troops in the U.N. forces.)

But Lomax of course, is not interested in helping the African revolution to become more consciously and sharply anti-imperialist. He only weeps about the destiny of the "white man" and spouts "humanism" as a cover for defending imperialism against the African revolution.



Unemployed Workers Union Still Fighting Slave Relief Laws

Buffalo—Thursday morning, April 20, a group of thirty workers who labor under the Erie County Work-for-Relief Program staged a protest at the office of Mr. Paul Burke, Commissioner of Welfare, 210 Pearl Street, Buffalo.

The workers gathered to discuss with welfare officials a number of serious and deplorable conditions under which they are forced to labor.

Earlier that morning, a work for relief crew was transported by bus to a work site on South Highway, East Aurora, New York. There, disputes arose over poor working conditions.

In the course of the dispute, the foreman in abusive language ordered the men to return to Buffalo and to take their complaints to 210 Pearl Street.

Grievances aired at the meeting included a protest against working in a water-filled drainage ditch up to their hips. The men cited this as an unfair and unsafe labor practice.

In addition, they demanded a rescheduling of buses which transport them to their jobs. Poor scheduling often results in a 10-11 hour work day—for much time is lost in traveling.

A third grievance voiced by the group was that those who work for relief be treated with dignity by foremen as well as welfare officials, and that abusive and insulting language must cease.

The Union of Unemployed Workers Opposed to Forced Labor supports the demands of this group of workers who are protesting against deplorable and unsafe working conditions. In a public statement before the Buffalo Common Council on January 17, the UUWOFL stated that workers on welfare have a choice of working for relief or starving. The Union characterized the county work-for-relief program as slave labor.

It also pointed out that the work-relief program forces those on welfare to work at a time when one out of every

twelve workers in the Buffalo area is unemployed. It stated that jobs welfare clients are forced to do should be filled by the unemployed for wages.

James L. Kane, President of the Buffalo AFL-CIO Council representing 300 unions and 100,000 workers on the Niagara Frontier took a firm stand against the establishment of a work-for-relief program on a city level.

Once again, the Union of Unemployed Workers Opposed to Forced Labor appeals to the area labor movement to wipe out the slave labor program and urges their support to abolish this law on a county level.

Hung by His Heels!

Torture Victim Speaks Here

Rev. Ashton Jones and Conrad Lynn will speak on Sunday, April 30, at Salem M.E. Church at 129th Street and 7th Avenue, New York, at 6 P.M.

Rev. Jones was arrested in Louisiana last year for fighting against segregation. He was hung by his heels in prison and beaten almost steadily, for 13 days.

Buffalo Bus Drivers Beat Company Lock-Out

By Fred E. McCormick

Buffalo, April 17—A show of high militancy, reminiscent of the organizing days of the CIO, backed the Niagara Frontier Transit Company right up to the wall this past week.

The bus drivers, members of Division 1342, Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees (AFL-CIO) took on the combined forces of the NFT, the slick anti-union newspapers, the court

injunctions and the Buffalo city officials for eight solid days.

A company lock-out arose when Roswell F. Thoma, president of the NFT, insisted upon instituting a new week-end work schedule without proper consultation with the union as the union contract requires.

Mr. Stephenson, president of the union, stated to Mr. Thoma, that the union would need a week to explain the situation to the drivers to give them the opportunity to pick their runs according to seniority. He further explained that the new schedule would then go into effect and any differences would be mediated. To this, Mr. Thoma stated: "If they need time, let them take the week off."

The lock-out was on.

Needless to say, the company went to the courts for an injunction to bolster its false and arrogant position. The terms of the injunction directed the union to return to work. The newspapers immediately placed the responsibility for the bus stoppage on the heads of the drivers, thereby influencing public opinion against them.

The drivers answered the court injunction and the newspaper pressure by rejecting the injunction and refusing to go back to work. And soon afterward, the Niagara Falls bus drivers (who also work for the NFT) also walked out in sympathy.

Faced with the unanimous defiance of the drivers, the Mayor of Buffalo set up a Citizens Committee to meet with both sides and resolve the dispute.

The outcome was a complete victory for the bus drivers and a lesson in militancy for all workers.

THEY WANT THEIR RACKET BACK!

Why does Kennedy hate the Cuban Revolution?

Because his brother capitalists in the U.S. lost a 100-million-dollar-a-year racket in Cuba!

What does Kennedy mean by "striving for a free Cuba"?

He means that the U.S. capitalists' racket should be brought back to Cuba, and he doesn't care how much blood is shed to do it.