

Militant 'Negro Worker' Haunts Reformist Leaders

THE NEGRO WORKER, official organ of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, for sale at 2162 Seventh Ave., New York City. Five cents.

Reviewed by
CYRIL BRIGGS

THE "Negro Worker," is well on its way to becoming a very disturbing, nay, tormenting "ghost" for certain Negro reformist leaders.

It was but two weeks ago that the Pittsburgh Courier had the magazine snugly shrouded and buried—"at the orders of Moscow," of course. But, alas, the militant magazine, variously buried by imperialist oppressors and Negro misleaders alike, inconveniently refuses to stay "dead." It has a disconcerting knack of regularly turning up in the very vanguard of the world struggle for Negro liberation, to confound the wish-fathered lies of the bosses and their agents. Its latest issue, dated for September, was received in this country just a few days ago.

In addition to a leading editorial which has an important bearing on the Courier's report of its death which, to quote a famous remark of Mark Twain, "was greatly exaggerated," the magazine contains much rich material on the conditions and rising struggles of the toiling African masses. In this is included a trenchant exposure of the development of fascist terror by the agents of British imperialism on the Gold Coast, West Africa, and of the heroic resistance of the Negro masses to the fascist attacks; an analysis of the bitter rivalry of the imperialist bandits for control of Abyssinia, and articles on the growing danger of a new world war, with reports of the anti-war and anti-Fascist struggles of Negro and white toilers throughout the world. The pretensions of Japanese imperialists of "championship" of the "darker peoples" are exploded in another article.

ITS leading editorial deals with the new sedition law in British West Africa, and the attempts of the imperialists to bar the magazine from the colonies. The Gold Coast sedition act and the attacks on "The Negro Worker" are doubly significant, both as an indication of the growing imperialist offensive against the colonial masses

and of the co-operation of Negro misleaders with the imperialists, both at home and abroad. Not only have the imperialists tried to bar "The Negro Worker" from the colonies, but the Belgian imperialists have attempted to ban the printing of the magazine in Belgium, whither it moved after the Hitler regime drove it out of Germany. In this the Belgian imperialists are guided both by their own slave interests in the Congo, where there have been frequent uprisings during the past five years, and by the frantic demands of the British imperialists for the suppression of the magazine.

The attempt of the imperialist powers to suppress the magazine was the real, but unrevealed, source of the Courier's story that "Moscow had ordered the magazine closed." The Courier, true to its tradition of whitewashing every crime of the imperialists against the Negro people (Scottsboro, etc.) at once distorted the facts in order to slander the Communist International.

"The C. I. was betraying the struggles of the African peoples," the Courier wailed with a sudden "interest" in the liberation struggles of the African masses, and in the manner of Judge Hawkins of Scottsboro infamy shedding crocodile tears as he pronounced the death verdicts against the innocent Scottsboro lads.

The Negro people were "being betrayed again by the C. I.," the Courier tearfully lied in an attempt to whitewash its imperialist master, and at the same time saddle their crimes on the C. I.

MEANWHILE, in London, Sir P. Cunliff-Lister, British Colonial Secretary, pays an unconscious tribute to "The Negro Worker," with the statement to a Gold Coast delegation which went to England to protest against the Sedition Act, that "thousands of copies of this foul and obnoxious tract" (producing a copy of "The Negro Worker" which he angrily flung on the floor) were pouring into the colony.

The hatred of the imperialists and their Negro agents is the best tribute to the effectiveness of the work of "The Negro Worker" in rousing the colonial masses and giving them guidance in their struggles.