

Persecution of Negro and Foreign-Born Workers

By CYRIL BRIGGS

As the workers move forward to the struggle against the hunger system of capitalism, the bosses and their tools attempt every trick to split the ranks of the working-class and divert the struggle against unemployment and starvation into fights among different groups of workers: whites against Negro workers, Negroes against the foreign born workers, etc.

Discrimination Against Negroes

In the South, unemployed white workers who have been thrown on the streets to starve by the bosses, are told by boss agents that the few Negro workers still holding some miserable underpaid jobs are responsible for their plight, not that the bosses who have cynically thrown them on the streets to die

ers of the Negro masses, carry out the manouver of splitting the working-class and continuing the isolation of the Negro masses under the guise of a struggle for jobs for the tens of thousands of unemployed Negro workers. They do not demand that the bosses and their government provide jobs for the unemployed. They give no support to the demands of the unemployed for unemployment insurance, for work or wages. They treacherously oppose these demands with the usual hypocritical phrases. They do not demand that the bosses cease their discrimination against Negro workers, that the Metropolitan Insurance-Company, the New York Telephone Company and other big concerns discard the deliberate capitalist policy of confining Negro



Negro worker lynched and burned at stake.

of starvation and cold. The boss agents declare that the Negroes are holding jobs that should be held by the white unemployed, that the Negroes have no right to hold jobs when white men are unemployed. This is the boss policy of maintaining the Negroes in the class of marginal laborers—a surplus labor supply to be kept at starvation level even in “good times.”

In the South, this vicious manouver is lead by the Ku Klux Klan, the Caucasian Crusaders and other fascist organizations supported by the A. F. of L. bureaucrats and the social-fascists. In the North, we have another phase of this attempt to split the working-class to the detriment of the struggle against unemployment and hunger. Here the attack is centered on the foreign-born workers. And among the most active of the boss tools carrying out this maneuver are the Negro reformists.

In Harlem, Chicago and other cities, these misleaders and betray-

workers to the roughest, most menial and ill paid work. No, they demand that the foreign born workers who may still receive occasional employment be denied the right to hold a job.

The “solution” of the Negro reformists in the North is identical with the “solution” proposed by the white fascists in the South. Only in the South, this “solution” is directed against the Negro, while in the North the Negro reformists seek to direct it against the foreign born.

Negro workers! White workers! Fight this vicious manouver to split your ranks and weaken the struggle for real relief, for work or wages. Unite your ranks, Negroes, native whites and foreign born, and let us move forward with irresistible force in the struggle against mass hunger and misery, in the struggle for the overthrow of the starvation system, and for the establishment of a workers and peasants government.