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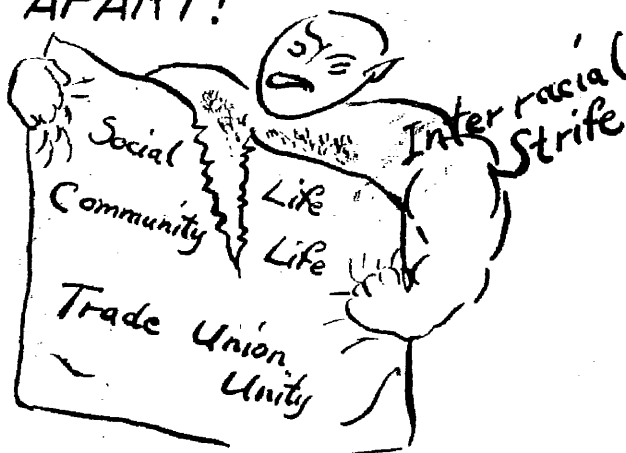
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Grave Threat to the Trade Union Movement: **SO. SIDE NEGRO COMMUNITY HIT BY PERSECUTION**

HE'LL RIP THE WHOLE
CLOTH APART!



WESTCHESTERFIELD NEEDS WORKERS DEFENCE GUARDS Local Trade Union Support Needed (EDITORIAL)

In answer to the persecution it has recently suffered, the Westchesterfield Negro Community has organized committees to begin knocking at the doors of the "authorities".

They will get the same response as they did from Park Commissioner Morris and the police department... This also has been the experience of the Committee to Combat Terrorism Against Minorities which went to see Kelly, States Attorney Touhy and Police Commissioner Pendergrast two months ago with evidence of 59 bombings resulting in two deaths. Since these visits, terror has struck four more times; the last one against a white army officer who "dared" give quarters to a Negro officer buddy with whom he fought on the Italian front.

And it was only last month that a committee headed by Paul Robeson went to see Truman and could not even obtain a statement against Southern lynching terror.

The Westchesterfield Jim-crow assaults are particularly dangerous because here we do not have hoodlum gangs operating, but the white worker doing the attacking.

IT IS THOUSAND TIMES CLEAR THAT THE ENTIRE CITY AND GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS DESIRES TO SEE THIS DIVISION. THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN WHITE AND NEGRO BEGINS IN THE STREETS, SPREADS TO THE FACTORIES AND THEN INTO THE TRADE UNIONS. THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS IS DISRUPTED. THE ABILITY TO FIGHT AGAINST THE RULING CLASS IN DEFENCE OF LIVING STANDARDS IS CONSEQUENTLY IMPAIRED. THAT IS WHY THE KELLYS AND TRUMANS NEVER TAKE ONE PRACTICAL STEP TO KILL INTOLERANCE.

People of Westchesterfield have displayed a good amount of energy. Unfortunately the people they invited to help have come out with the same sorry story. It would be much better if these workers approached the local trade unions in their vicinity (a list of them can be obtained in our office) and put this problem squarely before them. A serious organizational effort should be made to acquaint the community with the danger of Jim-crowism and to organize defense squads to protect these Negroes in their homes, the park, going to school and shopping.

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The 250 two-family housing unit at Westchesterfield (spread out around 90th and Calumet) had to fight for its right to peaceful existence since the first families moved in early in 1945. First, the well-to-do Negro families who did not want "their property value lowered" by the influx of poor Negroes (the housing units have but one white resident) then the newcomers found the whites surrounding the area hostile. Mothers going shopping on Cottage Grove Ave. were stoned; children attending the library in Touhy Park were constantly molested.

Last Thursday, Sept. 26th, small Negro boys were chosen as victims. The Touhy Park ball team comprising Negro boys from Burnside, Fenger and Vocational High Schools asked to play the Negro team from the housing unit and area. As the teams began to assemble on the field a group of whispering white spectators aroused the suspicion of a Negro mother, Mrs. Umbles. These spectators disappeared to come back in a force of about 100 armed with sticks, stones, bottles and knives. Mrs. Umbles immediately urged the Negro boys to leave. The white group pursued them inflicting a few bumps and bruises. One Negro boy had a knife pulled on him but escaped.

The police assigned to patrol the park stood around, backs turned to the scene. When one was asked to help some Negro boys get the clothes they left he just said, "Now you go back to your side."

A community mass meeting was called the same night and a delegation was appointed to see the police captain of the area to get protection for the Negro children who had to go to school the next day. Burnside and Fenger are lo-

HARD WORK + LOW WAGES = BIG PROFITS FOR RUBBER CO. 288 URWA-CIO FIGHTS COMPANY BUILT ON RICH WAR PROFIT

By the simple use of workers' sweat at low wages, in cheap and dismal working conditions, the American Industrial Rubber - Illinois Plastic and Rubber Co. has raked in thousands of dollars in profits during the war and is still raking it in.

Before going into details it is interesting to note how this outfit is willing to use its money. In the past few weeks the management of this company has begun a futile campaign to "buy out" the militants in the plant of local 288 URWA-CIO who are leading these workers in their determined demand for better wages and working conditions.

One steward was offered over \$200 just to quit the job. He refused. Two other stewards on the night shift have been given the title of assistant supervisors. They do their same work but must take some responsibility when the foreman is absent. If these men have gotten any raise in pay it's been kept a secret, so local 288 has announced its intention to ask for a wage in-

crease for these two men. Another militant was told that if he saw things the right way he would get more overtime and some "gravy jobs."

Such company moves fool no one - especially not the workers of local 288. After years of sweat and experience they know this company's record and its attitude. They know why it can well afford to try to bribe a few union militants.

Let us see why.

In 1943 the starting wage for women was 40 cents per hour; experienced women workers, 50 to 55 cents. Men got 75 cents - night and day shifts. Later in 1945 men on nights got 85 cents. Throughout the war and after these pitifully low wages remained the same until June of this year when, on threat of strike, the company raised women to 67½ and men to as much as 95 cents in the mill-room; \$1 in the press-room. Many men in these departments are still classified as "labor" and get 80 to 85 cents.

Negro Community Persecution

(from other side)
cated in a white neighborhood. Protection was promised but Friday morning not only was there no special protection but the usual policeman was 15 minutes late. Another delegation visited the police station and by noon two police squads came. They immediately instructed the Negro mothers who had come to fetch their children from school to leave. The same day Negro children were stopped by the police from entering the park and Negro Women from shopping in white areas.

This same day, Friday, committees also went to see Park Commissioners, Morris, and the principals of Burnside and Fenger. Morris claimed that he was but one man and there was nothing he could do to further race relations than to call for police protection. However the committee visiting Morris finally got hold of the clothes left in the

park the day before. They found some BURNED CLOTHES and spied nearby chalked on the pavement, "You niggers keep on your side."

At Fenger the delegation at least met with sympathy from the principal but at Burnside principal Thandler's comment on Negro youth of his school being molested while going to the park library was, "Why don't they use their own library?" A library which, incidentally, is nonexistent.

A Saturday night meeting found the little community even more enraged with the past days' events. Meanwhile some outside contacts were made and representatives from the United Farm Equipment Workers, CIO, Rev. Follino from the "Protestant", Bullock, chairman of the Committee of Racial Equality, Latimer from the Civil Liberties Union, and other organizations attended. They advised the contacting of sympathetic groups - churches mainly - in the neighborhood and the appointment of committees to visit various authorities. Latimer even promised that if sufficient pressure was put on, certain of-

Meanwhile, what was happening to the income of Mr. Trilling, owner of the plant? Workers look at the fact that he now owns two cars--a Cadillac and a new Packard "Clipper" --and they pretty well know the answer.

Also, they look at the new machinery that has come into the plant--machinery bought from high profits--and they again know the answer. According to workers in the plant, in 1942 this company had only one press and four mills in the plant. By 1943 there were four presses. War contracts for airplane parts were rolling in. Now there are fourteen presses - one large hydro-matic one estimated at \$20,000 - five mills and four tubers. Other presses are standing around not yet set up. The cutting and trimming room has two punch presses and three new cutters. A machine shop with die-cutting apparatus has been added. In the last six months the company has obtained a new truck (1942 Chevrolet).

With all this machinery literally bought with the daily sweat off the workers backs, this company wants them to continue to work for starvation wages - not to mention the decrepit working conditions of the plant.

The workers of local 288 have another idea.

Officials could be removed. The community consequently organized new committees.

Further conferences of the community also brought in Dr. Jack from the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination and McGee from the NAACP both advising the same action decided upon by the Saturday meeting.

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