

A Retormist Confesses His Crimes Against the Negro Masses

By CYRIL BRIGGS

THE Chicago Defender publishes in its issue of August 22 a confessional address by its publisher, Robert S. Abbott. The address is supposed to have been delivered by Mr. Abbott from the porch of his palatial home on South Parkway, Chicago. Who comprised his auditors we do not know. We do know that they were not the Negro workers of Chicago, the murderous attack on whom by the police at the orders of white and Negro landlords, meeting with representatives of the Chicago Defender and the N. A. A. C. P. his paper brazenly attempted to justify.

Mr. Abbott's address is part of the present frenzied campaign of the Negro reformists to re-establish their traitorous leadership over the Negro workers of Chicago. This campaign is directed at luring these workers away from the mass struggle, lead by the Communist Party and the Unemployed Council, against starvation and evictions, and for immediate unemployment relief and unconditional equal rights for the Negro People. It is directed at the magnificent unity of Negro and white workers achieved under the leadership of the Unemployed Council and the Communist Party. It aims to again isolate the Negro workers of Chicago and leave them defenseless before the onslaughts of the capitalists. It aims at betraying their fight for existence, their fight against hunger and starvation.

Mr. Abbott's own paper characterizes his "address" as "notable and stirring." It is indeed notable. A notable confession of the criminal betrayal of the struggles of the Negro masses by the Negro petty bourgeois class to which Mr. Abbott belongs. Mr. Abbott admits that the traitorous, reformist, fawning leadership with which the Negro masses have been afflicted for decades "surrendered rights without a struggle. We yielded our self-respect at the invitation of flattery. We rubbed out marks of determination and enthroned instead the grin of the inferior grade of man on the brow and named it diplomacy.

"... We have tried the circuitous paths of fawning. We have waiked with patience all her way. We have endured the harsh language of courthouses organized to scandalize us. Writers depict us in the phrase of ridicule. Editors of great journals deny us the stature of manhood, and preachers, who are sure of us heavenly, doubt that we are one with men below."

He further admits that the Republican party for which his class has always acted as procurers to corral and sell for personal gains the

votes of Negroes has betrayed the Negro People:

"We have been driven from the sanctuary of the political party we sought in gratitude and clung to in hope..."

"... In all places we meet either scorn or toleration. The White House, in which we found life at the point of a pen, rejects us politically and abhors an entire race as persons or citizens or humans. At the South our hopes are false..."

Mr. Abbott admits, though not openly, the role of the Negro reformists as tools and apologists for the very system under which the Negro masses are so frightfully oppressed. He says:

"What it (the Negro race) had it lost. What it sought to maintain was taken away from it by the cruel, brutal, relentless hand of oppression and through the stupid assinninity of its own products entrapped in the machinations of the damnable schemes of a fraudulent friendship. Its rights are gone. Its opportunities had to go with the loss of rights. Its good name is now mud. Its children are face to face with a bondage harder than death."

Admitting all of this, does Mr. Abbott now call for a vigorous militant struggle for Negro rights; for a struggle against the capitalist oppressors of the Negro masses? He does not! All that Mr. Abbott does is to admit the treachery of his class in the face of the growing realization of the Negro masses of that fact! All that he does is to let loose a flood of social demagoguery! He speaks of seeking "peace through strike against every wrong" of resisting "the lying, thieving ambassadors from the throne of Jim Crow as we encounter them."

But Mr. Abbott raises no demand for struggle against lynching, peonage and the starvation program of the capitalists which affects most deeply the Negro masses. He does not call for struggle against the frightful legal lynching of the nine innocent Scottsboro Negro children planned by the Alabama bosses. He has no word of condemnation for the massacre of Negro croppers at Camp Hill, Alabama. His own paper sought to justify the massacre of Negro unemployed workers in Chicago on August 3. He has no word of support for the struggle for the land by the Negro toilers of the South or for the right of self determination for the Negro majorities in that section of the country.

Negro workers! Do not be deceived by the fake struggle phrases of the reformists! They have betrayed your every struggle in the past! Repudiate the traitors! Rally to the mass fight against hunger and evictions, for unemployment relief, and for unconditional equal rights for the Negro People!