

... The Horrors of Racism in Detroit



Brave lads, these Detroiters—when it's 10 or more to one. A crowd of white rioters surrounds two Negroes who have been knocked down. One of the victims is trying to rise. The other is unconscious. Southern hillbillies who

were transported to Detroit to work in the auto plants—because they were used to low wages and no union—form the elements most susceptible to incitement by subversive hatemongers.

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crimination and told them they could take it or leave it," he replied.

The same criticism was made by R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers, CIO, who asserted that the auto manufacturers have "given us little co-operation."

Thomas charged that "there has been murder committed in this town and no charge has been brought against anybody."

"There is a substantial nucleus of KKK and Black Legion elements here," he said, "and nobody in political life has the intestinal fortitude to move in and prosecute. It's no secret that the KKK whooped it up here during the last couple of days and I'm willing to give names before a grand jury."

Thomas gave me an anti-Semitic leaflet which was distributed yesterday before the Detroit Steel Products plant by one of the workers. His name has been given to Government authorities for investigation.

The leaflet was a reprint of the infamous forged Benjamin Franklin statement about the Jews.

The pamphlet bore this postscript:

"Print as many copies of this as possible and give them to your friends, asking them to do the same. Don't patronize Jewish business places."

The community leaders I talked to told me anti-Semitism is growing here.

"It runs through the bus conversations you hear," one of them said. "Some time ago a Jewish firm here became involved in a Government fraud. The buses and street cars seethed with rumors and just plain, downright anti-Semitism. And, of course, we have our rumors, obviously organized, that the Jews are evading the draft, are making all the money and so on."

Referring to these racial animosities, Walter Reuther, UAW vice president, accused the auto industry of ignoring wartime social problems.

"As soon as they pull the troops out of here it will happen again," he said. "Our only hope is that some active committee is organized to arouse the decent people of this town so that this won't happen again."

Another problem is the Detroit police department which has proved utterly incapable of dealing with these racial tensions.

Seven hundred were injured, of whom a half dozen are expected to die.

About 1250 rioters still are under arrest.

The production decrease was between 15 to 50 per cent.

A General Motors spokesman said that four of the corporation plants had "practically 100 per cent" absenteeism among Negro workers yesterday. The over-all absentee figure in four plants was 50 per cent, he said. Absenteeism among 60,000 Negro war plant workers in Detroit ranged from 50 to 90 per cent, according to Army, WPB and plant officials.

You know the score—28 dead, 25 of them Negroes, 90 per cent of the injured Negroes, 34 rioters sent to jail for 90 days, all Negroes.

Here is a revealing paragraph from the *Detroit News*:

"Sturks and Hamilton (Detroit policemen) then entered the store and were con-

fronted by two unidentified Negroes who began cursing the officers. The patrolmen fired simultaneously and both Negroes crumpled to the floor, dead."

John Bugas, local head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said:

"I don't think that either the Germans or Japs inspired this business."

For the moment the cops have been superseded by the Army which has patrols armed with sub-machine guns, gas, bayonets, riding the streets in jeeps and trucks. But it's an invitation to trouble to allow the Detroit police to remain in charge after the troops move out.

Yesterday I walked through the streets of Detroit's East Side, where the majority of the 160,000 Negroes live. The sidewalks were littered with smashed plate glass. Many store fronts were covered with pieces of lumber. Some shops had signs out front, "colored." I was stared at, curiously and suspiciously, by Negroes on front porches and street corners. On a smaller scale it was like walking through the Warsaw ghetto.

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Rioters Raid the Street Cars . . .

Race an Issue
In OWI Row

Southerners Voted to
Abolish Agency Because It
Was Fair to Negroes

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 23.—One of the big issues before the Senate Appropriations Committee tomorrow, when it begins consideration of the appropriation for the Office of War Information, is:

What is the place of Negroes in the U. S. A.?

In the midst of the worst race riots in American history, the one Government agency which has attempted by persuasion to mitigate the racial differences between white and Negro Americans stands marked for execution—and partly for that reason.

Basis for Action

That was the basis of the outcry by Rep. J. C. Starnes (D., Ala.) when he offered the motion to kill OWI's domestic activities. Starnes charged that the OWI "is an insult to the patriotism and the sacrifices of the members of this body of the American people, whose brothers and whose sons have fallen from the skies in flaming combat."

That was the meaning of Starnes' assertion that "the type and character of the domestic propaganda foisted upon the American people through publications printed and distributed at public expense by the OWI is a stench to the nostrils of a democratic people."

Rep. A. Leonard Allen (D., Ala.) spelled it out. Said he:

"Elmer Davis, instead of helping the war effort domestically, is hurting it. . . . His propaganda stuff has hurt the South. We in the South understand that problem and know best how to deal with it. We understand the psychology of the race problem. Davis had 2,500,000 copies of a certain pamphlet printed and sent everywhere. This pamphlet undertook to glorify one race in the war.

Pamphlet Is Target

"We in the South wish to encourage that race. We are the best friends of that race. But such propaganda raises a race issue, which ought to be kept down."

Starnes and Allen were talking about the OWI pamphlet *Negroes and the War*. It was an attempt by word and pictures to tell what Negroes are doing in agriculture, industry and in the armed services, what Negroes have to gain by an American victory and what Negroes have to lose if the Axis wins.

The booklet also outlined the progress made by Negro citizens in recent years in education, economy and in the arts and sciences.

Starnes and Allen, with predominantly Republican support, prevailed and the OWI's information service that has been helping newspapers, radio, magazines and motion pictures tell Americans about the war is to be abolished—unless the Senate votes otherwise.



Racist fanatics surrounded a street car in downtown Detroit in their hunt for more Negroes—any Negroes, not persons suspected of misdeeds—to beat up. As rioters jam the doors a woman is being helped out the rear windows.



Here, at least, is one picture that doesn't tear your heart out. It's one brave man, a white, who stands in the doorway of a street car, making a plea for tolerance to the mobsters trying to get inside and drag out their prey.

. . . And Police Break Up Mobs With Tear Gas



Two white rioters run from tear gas barrages laid down by police. But it is the arrested Negroes who are drawing prison sentences in Detroit. This picture

was taken shortly after the arrival of Army forces to restore order to the Nation's greatest production center.



A rare sight among these pictures—a white rioter fights a Negro single-handed. Of course, there were other whites standing by to help.



No cars for Negroes. White hoodlums overturned this car when they found a Negro driving it and set it afire.

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CONTINUED **Bloody Fighting On Streets of Detroit, U. S. A.**



▲ Negro victim tries to rise while three white men stand over him—the ringleader apparently ready to strike again. Thus Hitler's racist bully-boys fought in Berlin—always with the odds on their side.



A white mobster chases a fleeing Negro who is armed with a beer bottle. This



An injured Negro runs a gantlet of whites at Woodward Ave. and Mack, covering close to a fence. The nearest white man may be waving in the direction in which the victim can escape—or maybe not.



A policeman escorts a colored man who has been arrested in downtown Detroit. Apparently, in this case



Negro. He is armed with a piece of lead pipe. His friend isn't honest fighting; it's the blood lust of ignorant men

set loose upon the most easily identified minority group. Nobody bothered to ask this Negro boy any questions. What was wanted was—blood.



been hauled off a street car and attacked in at least, the officer was trying to be helpful.



A Negro, knocked down in an alley near Woodward Ave., begs for mercy. After the picture was taken, the crowd moved in upon the prostrate man and kicked him.

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The Victims of Riotous Race Hatred . . .



Negroes were by far the majority of those injured or killed in Detroit. This, however, is a white man on arrival at Receiving Hospital.



This Negro was taken into custody on Woodward Ave. A few seconds after the picture was taken, a white man struck him while he was helpless.



Sam Falk, 70 years old, was among the badly injured who were treated at Receiving Hospital.



Two white youths, one wearing an Army sweater, go to the assistance of a small colored man who has been beaten horribly by the rioters.

. . . And Those Who Were Lined Up by Police



Negro residents of an apartment building on Vernor Highway were driven out by gas. Police were seeking a sniper who shot at them from a window. The

apartment residents all were lined up like dangerous criminals while the officers searched them for weapons.



When these police prisoners were lined up, they were told to keep their hands on their heads. Note what is most significant about the picture. There

is not a white man in the line. Of the first 34 suspects sentenced in Detroit, all were Negroes.

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The Army Takes Over in Detroit Crisis . . .



Army trucks are shown lined up at River Rouge before they moved into Detroit at the command of President Roosevelt. Army detachments in battle

dress sped into the machine metropolis, and an immediate easing of tension was noticeable when their trucks appeared.



Army troops lean from a truck, ready to hurl tear gas bombs at the first sign of attack by Detroit rioters. The rioters, however, stayed well away from

them, and the troops bivouacked at intervals along a two-mile stretch of Woodward Ave., the city's main street.