

# On Powder Keg In Recurring Racial Incidents

Detroit officials, long noted for waiting until the last minute to do anything about serious situations, are virtually sitting on a powder keg in the race relations field.

For the past month each week has brought news of crowds of people gathering before a house bought by a Negro, hurling threats, throwing stones, putting salt on the lawn, placing snakes in the basement, harassing the occupants with threatening phone calls and otherwise molesting and attempting to intimidate.

In at least two situations, the lack

of confidence in protection offered by the police, and, or the unwillingness of the husband to expose his wife and children to possible physical danger, has resulted in the decision to leave the home they have purchased.

During all of this time neither the City Government nor the Commission on Community Relations has publicly or otherwise notified these mobs that the City intends to protect all citizens in their rights to own and occupy homes they purchase. Very little if anything has been done to prevent mobs from gathering or to effectively disperse them once they gathered.

It has not always been this way in Detroit. The period from 1949-54 saw positive and efficient action by the police department coupled with a strong policy by the Commission on Community Relations to combine to keep such incidents at a minimum.

During the years prior to 1954-55 people of the community sensed that law and order and to a degree, official policy were on the side of protection of all citizens and their property.

In recent months, however, this has been turned around a bit. There is

still the talk of "protecting property". The only catch is the protection is being tacitly shifted to the bigots, hate mongers, and exploiters of the silly fears of people.

The overwhelming impression is that officially the City will wink at those who destroy property, intimidate, Negroes harass citizens.

The Police Department, with a few outstanding exceptions has shown a tendency to "escort" Negro home owners out of a neighborhood, and less tendency to protect them in their right to stay in the homes they have

purchased.

Fortunately for all concerned no one has been shot, maimed, killed or otherwise harmed physically. But how long can we expect to give the green light to this type of thing without finally having it all erupt in a mass of violence?

The responsibility for all of the disorders of the past few weeks rests firmly and squarely on the shoulders of the City officials. If anyone is hurt, they and they alone will bear the blame.

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Democrat's Civil Rights-Mich

UAW'S BILL OLIVER: M-210-N (2412 ed)

7/12/56

## Sees Little Appeal for Racist Group in Detroit Area

DETROIT—Appeals of the South's racist White Citizens Councils for similar organized bigotry in the Detroit area "will fall on deaf ears," says William Oliver, co-director of the UAW fair practices department.

OLIVER, WHO has studied much of the literature of Ace Carter, executive secretary of the Alabama councils, pointed out the comparative peace which reigned in UAW-organized plants during the 1943 race-riots.

He quoted the statement which attorney general Biddle made to President Roosevelt after the riots: "It is extremely interesting that there was no disorder in the plants where white and colored workers side by side under union discipline."

Oliver expressed confidence in the education job which the unions have done in the Detroit area where the workers realize that they have everything to gain and nothing to lose by interracial solidarity.

THE ALABAMA White Citizens Councils have been struggling to get a foothold in Detroit and, for a time, had rented an office in Dearborn, a friendly place for anti-Negro groups under the racist administration of mayor Orville Hubbard.

The office was rented in the Woolworth Building of the Detroit suburb under the name of the "Homeowners Association of the State of Michigan." However, when Louis Smith, building owner, learned of the real intention of the group he evicted the tenant, a T. Conroy, without ever seeing him a second time.

A Dearborn postoffice box had also been rented by the Carter Co., of Birmingham, Alabama, for James Douglas Carter, younger brother of the executive secretary.

REPORTS said that the younger Carter was to come to Michigan "within two weeks" to organize a northern element of the klan-like group.

Ace Carter's claim of 125,000 council members in Michigan "is a hoax and he knows it," said Oliver. "Our members have been very cooperative in turning in the material which they receive from Carter."

Union members "won't buy what these bigots sell for a profit," said Oliver, as he noted that the same people who were fostering racial hatred in the South were the ones who instigated the 17 undemocratic "right to work" laws in these states.

"They are anti-labor as well as anti-Negro—these two go hand in hand," Oliver ob-

served.

White Citizens Councils will be fought by management as well as organized labor and they will also get political opposition which they do not have in the South, believes Oliver. He also thinks that even the Southern hate groups will wither away after the November elections.

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# Inspiring Detroit Rally Defends Civil Liberties Against the Trucks Act

DETROIT, Oct. 23 — An inspiring example for the nation-wide fight against the witch-hunt was set by the rally here this evening at the Central Methodist Church

to protest attacks upon civil liberties. In Detroit's largest meeting on this issue in years, more than 500 persons responded enthusiastically to prominent labor and liberal leaders who joined in voicing the most vigorous defense of civil liberties heard in this area since the start of the witch hunt.

Among the chief speakers, who vied in attacking the Michigan Trucks police-state law and the general drive against the rights of the American people, were Emil Mazey, Secretary-Treasurer of America's largest union, the CIO United Automobile Workers, and Charles C. Lockwood, attorney for Lieut. Milo Radulovich who was discharged from the Air Force Reserve because it was claimed his father once read the *Daily Worker*. Ernest Mazey, Secretary of the Citizens Committee Against the Trucks Law, which sponsored the meeting, made the opening remarks.

George Dean, President of the Michigan Federation of Labor, AFL, scored the apathy which has existed in the fight to protect civil liberties and urged increased continuing effort to defend basic rights. He demonstrated the direct connection between the general attack on civil liberties and the legislative attacks on labor.

## DEFENDS CP RIGHTS

UAW Secretary Treasurer Emil Mazey made the most principled defense of civil liberties heard from a top CIO spokesman in recent years. He castigated those who are for civil liberties only "for those who agree with us." He insisted it is "essential to defend the rights of all groups including the Communist Party" in spite of fundamental disagreements with them and their criminal record in "championing the denial of rights to their opponents." He referred to the support the Communist Party gave the government in its first use of the Smith "Gag" Act, against the Socialist Workers Party in the 1941 Minneapolis Labor Case. Now the government is using this same law with deadly effect against the CP.

Mazey cited the increasing domination by the military and Big Business as the source of the attacks on civil liberties and called for a struggle to eliminate the stranglehold of militarists and monopolists on this country.

## NEGRO RIGHTS INVOLVED

Dr. Preston Slosson, history professor at the University of Michigan, analyzed the Trucks law and also assailed the current threats to academic freedom.

The special problems of racial minorities in relation to the attacks on civil liberties were stressed by Reverend Robert Bradby Jr., of the Greater King Solomon Baptist Church. He demonstrated the connection between the fight for democratic rights and the Negro struggle for equality.

Jerry Raymond, National Representative of the Mechanics Educational Society, an independent union, urged the defense of the rights of all groups, no matter how unpopular, because "when any section of the people lose some of their liberty we all lose part of our liberty."

## RADULOVICH CASE

The issues in the Radulovich case, described in the Oct. 19 *Militant*, were forcefully presented by Mr. Lockwood. Quoting from the transcript of the case, he revealed the Air Force procedure as a mockery of a fair hearing, devoid of justice. He especially scored the press statement by Defense Secretary

Wilson on the afternoon of the hearing as highly "improper and prejudicial to the appeals to which we are entitled even under the Air Force procedures."

Lockwood pledged every effort to carry the case into the federal courts. The biggest ovation of the evening greeted the introduction of the father and brother of Lieut. Radulovich who were in the audience.

## COMMITTEE'S WORK

Walter Bergman, Detroit educator who last summer encountered passport difficulties while in Europe largely because of his association with the Citizens' Committee Against the Trucks Law, was unable to speak because of illness.

Ernest Mazey reported on the work of the Citizens' Committee Against the Trucks Law under the leadership of its temporary officers. He traced its fight from the first day when the law was passed as an aftermath of hearings here by the House Un-American Activities Committee. He contrasted the bold, arrogant attitude of state officials immediately after passage of the law, when they threatened mass round-ups of alleged "subversives" and deprived the Socialist Workers Party of its ballot rights in the 1952 elections, with their later retreat under pressure. He described how the state officials amended the law following institution of court suits challenging the law's constitutionality by the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Party.

The chief public pressure was brought to bear by the efforts of the Citizens' Committee Against the Trucks Law, which was formed by some 200 prominent Michigan citizens, including leading labor, liberal, civic, educational and religious figures.

## STATE'S DILEMMA

Ernest Mazey pointed out that while amendments providing hearing procedures and other changes altered nothing fundamentally in the law, this must be considered the first partial victory in the fight to remove the law altogether.

He reported that the state finds itself on the horns of a dilemma in the suit filed by the Socialist Workers Party in Judge Lila

Nuenfelt's court. If the state now decides that the SWP does not come under the law or is entitled to a hearing under the amended law before it can be made subject to the law's provisions, the state must admit its original action against the SWP's ballot rights was in error. If state officials attempt to defend their original action, they face far greater obstacles to winning court approval for their police-state legislation.

The Socialist Workers Party and its attorneys are awaiting a state answer, long overdue, to their amended bill of complaint. From many indications, the state desires to get the SWP suit out of court in order to proceed with a court test of the law confined to the Communist Party suit, which has far more limited support.

The Citizens' Committee from its inception has lent its support to the SWP court test because of the arbitrary inclusion of that party under the law and the denial of its ballot rights. Moreover, the Committee felt that the SWP case lent itself to mobilization of far broader support to test the law's constitutionality.

## OFFICERS CONGRATULATED

Ernest Mazey concluded his report with a plea for continued support and cooperation with the Committee. The gathering gave enthusiastic support to the motion to give the officers permanent status with full authority to act in behalf of the Committee. A motion was passed to congratulate the Committee's officers, Rev. I. Paul Taylor, Chairman, who so ably presided at the meeting; Kenneth E. Boulding, Vice-Chairman; Rev. Robert Bradby Jr., Vice-Chairman; Charles C. Lockwood, Vice-Chairman; Ernest Mazey, Secretary-Treasurer; and Al Barbour, Edgar Currie and Helen Moore Polaner, Trustees.

The call for the meeting received widespread publicity. All three local daily newspapers carried notices. Two Negro community papers gave it feature write-ups. The Michigan CIO News, Ford Facts of UAW Local 600 and the Voice of Local 212, Briggs, gave the meeting prominent publicity. Most UAW locals aided in distributing announcements of the meeting.

# Flay 'Softer' Rights Stand

DT 1/15/58  
Republicans Attack  
Williams' Program  
Civil Rights - Mich  
By William Kulsea.

Lansing — Michigan Republicans said Friday perhaps Gov. Williams, chairman of a 12-states conference on civil rights, is going "soft" in his stand on civil rights.

The governor Thursday outlined a strengthened civil rights program for Michigan, including a bar against discrimination in the sale or rental of "all housing of four or more contiguous situated units."

## Named Chairman.

Last month in New York Williams was chosen chairman of the conference which is dedicated to a crusade for the rights of minorities. The position has him committed to urge a federal fair employment practice act that would apply to interstate commerce.

"Limiting the law to four or more housing units," said GOP State Chairman Lawrence B. Lindemer, "must mean the governor is qualifying his strong stand he took in New York last month."

House Speaker George M. Van Peurse, (R-Zeeland) said a section of the recommendation that real estate brokers and agents be barred from accepting discriminatory listings or discriminating in the handling of sales was unenforceable.