

# Colonial Revolt Breaks Out in the Congo

## Belgian Police Fire On Crowd Seeking National Freedom

JAN. 13—The Belgian government is slated to issue a policy statement today promising some form of eventual "self rule" for the Belgian Congo. Meanwhile it is moving swiftly in an effort to crush the long-smoldering Congolese independence movement that dramatically broke into the open Jan. 5 when colonial police forcibly broke up a native political rally in the capital city of Leopoldville. Mass unemployment and the recent conference at Accra calling for freedom and a United States of Africa gave powerful impetus to the demand for an end to colonial rule.

Over the past week end, 300 Belgian paratroopers were dispatched to the Congo, bringing the total to over 1,000. A decree was issued banning Abako, a Congolese association now functioning as a political party dedicated to national independence. The native mayors of the two principal Negro districts in Leopoldville were jailed for securing the signatures of seven other African mayors to a manifesto demanding that the Belgians release a third mayor, Kasavubu, president of Abako. He is among 100 independence leaders now imprisoned.

### IMPOSE CURFEW

The police attack on the Jan. 5 Abako rally, under pretext it was "unauthorized," brought two days of bitter demonstration and battle. Crying "Belgians go home," the Congolese threw up street barricades against the machine guns of the colonial forces. Forty-two Africans were killed and 100 wounded. Some 150 whites were wounded and property damage in the business district was estimated by the Belgians at over \$1 million.

### Indep. Socialist Parley, Jan. 24

Supporters of New York's Independent-Socialist Party in the 1958 elections are urged to participate in a conference to discuss plans for legislative and political activity in the future. The conference will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Adelphi Hall, 74 Fifth Avenue (Near 14th St.), New York City. It is sponsored by the United Independent-Socialist Committee. The committee has mailed a "Statement of Policy and Purpose" to ISP supporters as part of the preparations for the conference discussions.

## Business Circles Hear Mikoyan With Interest

By Daniel Roberts

JAN. 14—Top U.S. policy makers are noting the favorable reception Soviet Premier Deputy Mikoyan is receiving on his cross-country tour. Mikoyan is talking to people in all walks of American life. But the State Department is watching closest his sounding out of leading capitalists in the main industrial and financial centers. The Soviet official has spoken primarily at gatherings of businessmen in Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

Though billed as the USSR's top trade expert, his talks have dealt with trade questions only as part of overall Soviet-American relations. His main theme has been the necessity to end the cold war. His tour has been described by Harrison Salisbury in the Jan. 14 New York Times as a "campaign . . . in behalf of better Soviet-American relations [that] is unusual in American annals." Mikoyan himself humorously told Mayor Pousen of Los Angeles that he almost felt as though he was running in the Jan. 14 New York Times as a "campaign . . . in behalf of better Soviet-American relations [that] is unusual in American annals."

All in all, says Salisbury, Mikoyan has made a "deep and tangible imprint upon the groups he has met. These comprise a selection of the industrial and business elite of the communities he has visited." In turn, "it is believed, [that there is] a strengthening of conviction on the part of Mr. Mikoyan that American businessmen, the chiefs of great industrial enterprises, are by no means the warmongers that they are pictured in the standard clichés of the Communist world."

To facilitate the tour—which obviously was carefully organ-

A dusk to dawn curfew is now in force and guards and barbed wire separate the Negro sections of the city from the ultra-modern European quarters. All meetings of more than five people have been banned, but according to reports, meetings of the independence movement are continuing.

The desire of the Congolese people for immediate independence is obviously deep-rooted. According to a Jan. 6 Reuters dispatch, the cops moved in on the Abako rally when the crowd began shouting, "We want independence now," after a speaker had referred to it as a future perspective.

Belgian authorities have assumed a posture of great surprise at what they described as a completely unexpected revolt against their much vaunted "enlightened" rule. But on Jan. 10, an African correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor reported the following:

"Although they have earnestly hoped it would not occur, the Belgians have long faced the prospect of some outbreak such as that which has just taken place in Leopoldville.

"It is not generally known, for example, that a team of Belgian investigators paid a quiet visit to the British East African colony of Kenya some years ago to study British methods of dealing with the Mau Mau rebellion."

The big immediate factor sparking the independence movement is that 50,000 of the 300,000 Congolese in Leopoldville are jobless as a result of the international recession. The attitude of the Belgian imperialists to their plight was expressed Jan. 6 by a colonial secretary who said that many of them just didn't want to work and lived off the generosity of friends. The fact that the jobless have nothing else to live on than such generosity was blurted out in the Belgian parliament by a Socialist deputy who revealed that the government is giving no assistance to the unemployed.

Supplier of 60 per cent of the world's cobalt, rich in uranium, diamonds and other resources, the Congo is a fabulous source of profit for Belgian imperialism. The day after the Leopoldville outbreak, Belgian colonial stocks dropped five per cent. It's a safe bet they will drop a lot more as the independence struggle develops.

ized in advance—the State Department exempted Mikoyan from restrictions that declare the country's main industrial areas out of bounds to USSR officials.

Asked at his Jan. 13 press conference whether Khrushchev would be permitted to come to the U.S. on the same basis as Mikoyan, Secretary of State Dulles answered, "I doubt whether it would be possible for the Prime Minister to come here in the same atmosphere of informality . . . I would just like to recall, however, that the President in his letter to the then Premier Bulganin, I think early last year, did invite the coming to this country of important persons in the Soviet Union."

Revolutionary developments in Asia and Africa, Soviet technological developments, and a popular anti-war sentiment in Europe and the U.S. have all seriously checked U.S. big business war preparations. The cold war atmosphere cannot be sustained indefinitely.

The Eisenhower administration has at least on one previous occasion—leading up to the 1955 Geneva "summit" conference—acceded to an easing of international tensions.

The big business policy makers are studying the Mikoyan tour as part of their examination of whether they ought to agree with the Soviet government to ease tensions once again.

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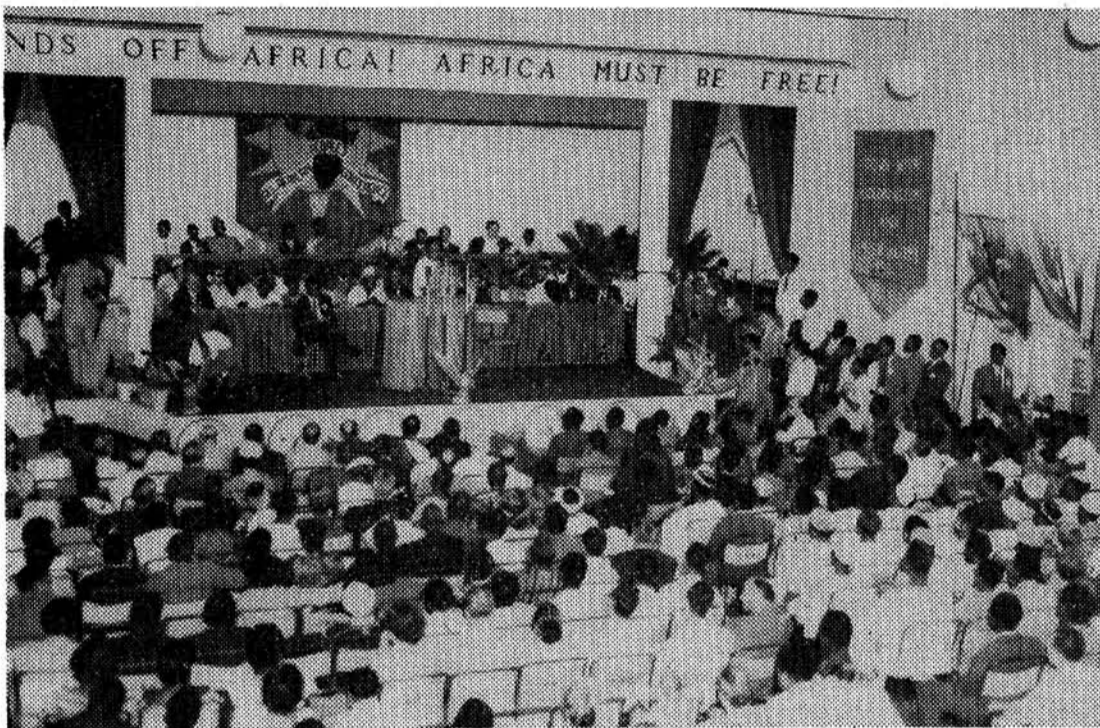
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# Carolina Governor Moves To Keep Boys Locked Up

## Freedom's New Battlefield



First All-African People's Conference held in Accra, capital of Ghana, last month. The parley heard representatives of Congo national movement (formed Oct. 5, 1958) denounce Belgian imperialism. Struggle in Congo broke out few weeks later.

## Batista's Henchmen Executed For Torture of Cuban People

By Lillian Kiesel

Murderers, torturers, and informers of the overthrown Batista regime are now pleading for mercy. Trials of these criminals are being held throughout Cuba and many have already been executed. Typical among the prisoners is Maj. Jacinto Garcia Menocal, from Pinar del Rio district, accused as a "killer" by the families of many slain youths. He was shot while trying to escape. Another, Gen. Castilla Lumpuy, from Santa Clara, accused of torturing not only rebel youth but whole families, was executed after a court-martial.

Senator Morse, chairman of a Foreign Relations sub-committee called for cessation of the executions. He declared that this is not the way the new regime will "win the support of free men and women around the world." Morse, who claims to have been "critical" of Batista, was joined in his appeal by the Foreign Secretary of the Dominican Republic, official spokesman for dictator Trujillo.

In an interview over CBS-TV Castro declared that all the criminals are receiving fair trials. "During the war we captured thousands of prisoners, and we never killed anyone, never tortured anyone."

In the same interview, Castro said that the 1940 Constitution would be reinstated without any change or any attempt to bring in any new economic system.

### WILL PROTECT DOLLARS

Moreover, Dr. Rufo Lopez Fresquet, Castro's Finance Minister, in an interview over ABC-TV declared that United States investments were safe and there will be no limitations on taking profits out of the country.

American big business is fairly well convinced that Castro will protect its economic interests. U.S. recognition of the Urrutia government is evidence of this faith. However, the financiers are concerned over rebel groups opposing Castro who want far-reaching social and economic changes. These groups are active in a new United Labor Front which has a membership of 1,200,000.

Castro has control of only one section of the "Front." The Sugar Workers' Federation with a membership of 500,000, is headed by Conrado Becquier, a Castro supporter. The rest of the labor movement is under leadership of various persuasions. Among them are: Revolutionary Direc-

torate (student revolutionary organization) and the Authentic organization, led by former President Carlos Prío Socarras. The Revolutionary Directorate precipitated the first crisis of the new government when it demanded a representative in Urrutia's cabinet. When severely attacked by Castro, the Directorate backed down in the name of unity and promised to turn in its arms as he had demanded. Other groups did the same.

### EITHER OR . . .

The new government stands for the re-establishment of democracy. However, this is not enough, as Herbert L. Matthews of the N. Y. Times points out. "After all, one cannot expect the people to eat democracy or clothe themselves with freedom. If a great majority of them are hungry, ill-clothed, ill-housed, diseased and illiterate—as is the case—it is clear enough that democracy must either improve their lot or face revolutionary upheavals."

American Big Business in Cuba makes no principle over whether the labor movement is controlled by a democracy or a dictatorship. Protection of its profits is the only objective.

## Finger-shaking Also "Assault" In No. Carolina

In Mississippi, Emmett Till was lynched for allegedly whistling at a white woman. In Monroe, N.C., two small Negro boys were incarcerated for "assaulting a white female" because one of them was kissed by a white playmate. And in Weldon, N.C., a young Negro attorney is fighting a conviction of assault on a white woman because he allegedly shook his finger at her.

James R. Walker Jr. is the only Negro lawyer in the six-county area around Weldon. He is counsel to Mrs. Louise Lassiter, a Negro housewife, who has been fighting for the right to vote since 1956. Her case has been through the red tape of state and federal courts. Election officials allege she failed a literacy test because, in their opinion, she mispronounced three words while reading from the State Constitution.

After Walker took Mrs. Lassiter's case last year, he was called to the election registrar's office on behalf of other Negroes denied the right to register. The registrar, a Mrs. Taylor, was testing them by having them write down sections of the State Constitution as she read aloud.

"She was reading so fast that the registrants couldn't possibly write it down," says Walker. "I insisted to her that these people had diplomas from institutions attesting to their literacy."

It was then that Walker was arrested for allegedly shaking his finger at Mrs. Taylor. He was first convicted of disorderly conduct and trespass and sentenced to a \$100 fine or 90 days in jail. He was released after several days and then convicted on the charge of assaulting a female and fined \$500. He was jailed again because he couldn't pay the fine. He was released when friends paid \$200 of the fine and promised to pay the rest later. He was also fined \$50 for "disturbing" the registrar, but this conviction was reversed on appeal. The appeal is still pending on the assault charge.

Leading citizens in the six-county area have established a Defense Fund to help Walker. The committee has the cooperation of the Southern Educational Conference. Information on the case may be obtained by writing to: Walker-Lassiter Defense Fund, P.O. Box 47, Weldon, N.C.

## Chairman



Robert F. Williams heads newly formed Committee to Combat Racial Injustice. The group seeks to free two North Carolina Negro children from reformatory.

## How Monroe Negroes Defend Their Rights

The brutal treatment of James Hanover Thompson and David "Fuzzy" Simpson by North Carolina authorities is part of a campaign of reprisal against the Negro community of Monroe for daring to stand up for its civil rights. The national spotlight was first put on the fight being waged by Monroe Negroes in the Oct. 31, 1957 issue of Jet magazine.

"When darkness begins to fall over Monroe, N.C., each evening," Jet reported, "a dozen or so men make their way to the home of Dr. Albert E. Perry, congregate in the basement and kitchen, or lounge around watching television. . . . They josh the doctor's wife, play a few hands of cards, talk about the weather, work, kids. But here, the innocence ends. Stacks of rifles and shotguns (16 in all) scattered throughout the house testify to the more frightful business at hand. The guns are there because the doctor has been threatened with death. The men will stay until daylight. A swimming pool is the cause of it all."

### JOINED WILLIAMS

Dr. Perry had joined local NAACP president Robert F. Williams in a fight to desegregate the local municipal pool. Jet describes how this led to Dr. Perry's arrest on the charge

## Defense Hits Racists in Court Battle

By Harry Ring

JAN. 13—Battle lines on the civil-rights front were drawn yesterday in one of the most scandalous cases in American history when Luther H. Hodges, governor of the state of North Carolina, utilized the powers of his high office to keep two Negro children behind bars.

Against this sensational move of the racists, Conrad Lynn, attorney for the boys, argued in court for their release on a writ of habeas corpus. And Robert F. Williams, leader of the Negro community in the small Southern town of Monroe, N.C., took the stand to testify in behalf of the two children and their mothers in a sharp battle against Malcolm Seawell, Attorney General of the state of North Carolina, who had been sent by Gov. Hodges to intervene in the case.

The two boys, eight-year-old David Simpson and ten-year-old James Hanover Thompson, lost this round; but hopes are high that sufficient forces will rally to their support to win their freedom before long.

The dramatic fight occurred in the Superior Court before Judge Walter E. Johnston at Wadesboro. He dismissed the writ and remanded the two boys to the reformatory where they are serving an indefinite sentence on charges of "assault on a white female." One of the boys had been kissed last October by a seven-year-old white playmate.

Judge Johnston's decision will be appealed to the North Carolina Supreme Court, Conrad Lynn announced, and then to the federal courts if necessary. The appeal will challenge North Carolina racist statutes which provide that white children accused of infractions of the law are to be treated as juvenile delinquents until the age of 20 while Negro children are so treated only until the age of 16.

The writ of habeas corpus, which compelled state authorities to produce the boys in court, was issued last Friday by Senior Resident Judge Francis O. Clarkson. Motion for the writ was filed by New York attorney Conrad Lynn, general counsel of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, who is handling the defense of the two children in collaboration

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Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn (right) and Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson gloating over election victory. They gloated again last week after beating back proposed Senate rules changes favorable to labor and the Negro people. They thereby protected the Dixiecrats without losing support of the liberals. Wouldn't you gloat too?

## "A Comfortable Old-Age Home"

By Carl Goodman

Democrats in the 86th Congress hold their biggest majority since New Deal days. Working people who voted Democratic last fall hoped that one concrete result of this big majority would be the end of the filibuster in the Senate—an instrument which Dixiecrats have successfully used, or threatened to use, to kill effective civil-rights legislation. But the filibuster, which rode out the New Deal unscathed, is safe in the hands of the 86th Congress, too.

On Jan. 12, the Senate defeated, 67-28, a motion to permit closing debate by a simple majority of the Senate—that is, by 50 votes. Then the Senate beat a motion to permit "cloture" (closing of debate) by three-fifths of the Senate, or 60 votes. The vote on this motion was 58-36. Finally, by a vote of 72-22, the Senate adopted Majority Floor Leader Johnson's proposal to "permit" cloture by

two-thirds of all senators present. A coalition around Johnson blocked the earlier, more democratic proposals. The Dixiecrats held out for no limit on debate. The present rule, under which a filibuster is virtually unbeatable, calls for a vote of two-thirds of the Senate, or 66.

By adopting Johnson's scheme, the Senate returned to the rules in force from 1917 to 1949. As the experience of that period demonstrates, there is practically no difference between requiring two-thirds of the Senate for cloture and requiring two-thirds of all senators present. On any crucial issue—such as civil rights—almost every senator will be on hand to vote.

The Johnson measure, Dixiecrat fulminations for the record notwithstanding, thus protects the filibuster. As Sen. Javits (R-N.Y.) stated in the debate, it is "an absolute roadblock to any effort to put the . . . power of the Federal Government be-

hind rights guaranteed by the Constitution."

Though the proportion of liberal Democrats from the North and West is much bigger in this Senate (they outnumber Southerners by a ratio of about seven to four), the move to kill the filibuster this year actually fared worse than it did two years ago. At that time, a motion by Sen. Anderson (D-N.M.) for the Senate to adopt new rules of procedure—a prelude to an attack on Rule 22 which protects the filibuster—lost 55-38. This year a similar motion by Anderson lost 60-36, and the anti-filibuster cause went from bad to worse from that vote on. Anderson himself deserted to Johnson's side on Douglas' motion to permit cloture by simple majority.

It would thus seem that, despite the intentions of the voters, the bigger the Democratic majority the worse the outlook is for civil rights. Prospects in the 86th Congress, says William

V. Shannon, columnist in the New York Post, is now for the "passage of only two token pieces of legislation—an extension of the life of the Civil Rights Commission for an additional year and an appropriation to assist Southern communities wishing to desegregate. The prospect for the revival of Title Three which was knocked out of the 1957 civil rights act and which would have given the federal government power to intervene in civil rights cases other than right-to-vote cases is now poor."

### "OLD-AGE HOME"

Editorially the Post, a staunch supporter of the Democratic Party liberals, wails that "If the Johnson formula prevails, Georgia's Russell and Mississippi's Eastland may find the Democratic Party a comfortable old-age home. But how long can men who believe in equality dwell placidly in the same place?"

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# ... Carolina Case

(Continued from Page 1) with the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Lynn acted in behalf of Robert F. Williams, chairman of the committee and president of the Monroe NAACP.

In an unusual move Gov. Hodges assigned Malcolm Seawell and an assistant to the hearing. Lynn handled the case against the state. He was assisted by Frank Reeves, a national assistant general counsel of the NAACP and several state attorneys of the same organization.

The only witnesses at the hearing were Williams and Acting Juvenile Judge J. Hampton Price, who committed the two children to the reformatory. When Lynn requested that Price take the witness stand, Judge Johnston informed him that in North Carolina an applicant for a writ of habeas corpus must testify first. He ordered Williams to the stand.

As Williams went forward, one courtroom observer said, Attorney General Seawell winked broadly to the judge, who returned an equally broad wink. Seawell, who has a liberal reputation among some North-

erners, was anything but liberal in this case. He sought to divert attention from the illegal actions of the state against the two children by trying to smear the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice which is defending them.

"Anyone at that hearing," said Conrad Lynn on his return to New York today, "would have thought the committee was on trial in that courtroom, not the state of North Carolina."

### WILLIAMS TESTIFIES

On the witness stand, Williams quickly established that the boys had been held incommunicado, they had been denied counsel; the white complainants were heard at a separate hearing so that no confrontation of witnesses was possible; and the boys were under the age prescribed by the state for incarceration in the reformatory.

Asked by Seawell about his recent trip to New York where he sought support for his committee's defense of the children, Williams replied that he made the trip to solicit funds "to bring justice to this social jungle called Dixie."

Seawell then inquired if Williams was aware that a member of the defense committee, Carl Braden of Louisville, Ky., had been convicted of bombing a home and of "sedition." I know that he tried to rent his home to a Negro, replied Williams.

[The bombing charge against Braden was thrown out of court and the "sedition" conviction was reversed on appeal.]

Turning his smear attack to Dr. A. E. Perry, vice president of the NAACP in Monroe and a founder of the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice, Seawell asked Williams if he knew that the doctor was a "convicted abortionist."

Williams responded that he knew that Dr. Perry had been framed up on such a charge. Pissed as to how he knew this, he replied that the original conviction of Dr. Perry had been reversed by a higher court and that the second trial was on the same charge as the first. He then firmly repeated that it was a frame-up and that he believed Seawell knew it too.

Asked what organizations he belonged to, Williams started by listing the Red Cross and the National Rifle Association. His mention of the rifle association visibly startled Judge Johnston, who repeated the question to make sure he had heard right.

When Williams affirmed this a second time, the judge asked him the question again, you mean "r-i-f-l-e"? Yes, Williams said, I mean "r-i-f-l-e."

"He was a magnificent example of courage and defiance on that stand," Conrad Lynn said today. "He was a real inspiration for the Negroes in that courtroom."

There were about 800 people in the courtroom, including quite a few whites, Lynn said. An impressive feature of the hearing, he added, was the visible absence of hostility on the part of the whites in the audience. "It was obvious," he said, "that they were gripped by the drama of two mothers seeking the return of their children and, even though Southerners, they were so absorbed in what the outcome would be that they were able to forget that the mothers and children happened to be Negroes."

But Acting Juvenile Judge Price, on the witness stand, defended his imprisonment of the children without any such concern. Repeatedly using the word "nigger," he sought to smear Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Thompson as unfit parents. He also

## They Need Your Help



David "Fuzzy" Simpson (left), age 8, and James Hanover Thompson, age 10, shown at North Carolina reformatory where they have been locked up for indefinite term. With NAACP aid, the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice is fighting to free them. The Committee's address is Suite 1117, 141 Broadway, New York 6, N. Y.

claimed that the boys were put into the reformatory on the basis of a previous "criminal" record, including stealing food.

**DAMAGING ADMISSION**  
But under cross-examination by Lynn, Judge Price was forced to admit that the official juvenile record on the boys does not contain a single reference to any alleged previous misdemeanors. The record cites only the charge of "assault on a white female." The same is true of the felony warrants that he issued for the children.

The theft charges did appear in the judgment that he drew up after the hearing. When Lynn demanded to know what record these charges were based on, Price blandly replied that there was none. He simply had it in his head, he explained.

"We have a strong basis for appeal," says attorney Lynn. "Besides the illegal procedure, the two juvenile delinquency statutes which treat whites as

delinquents until they are 20, and Negroes until they're 16, are unconstitutional on the face of it."

"Just two weeks ago," he added, "A 16-year-old Negro boy in Monroe was sentenced to 110 years in prison on a manslaughter charge after a white boy was killed in a fight. The people down there say he didn't even do it. I don't know. But if that boy was white he would have gone to a reformatory. But being a Negro, they could send him up under this statute for the rest of his life."

Meanwhile, it was reported today that Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Simpson, with the rest of their families, have been moved to new homes in Charlotte, N. C. They said they were relieved to get away from the hostility in Monroe, but their main concern remains the return of their two children.

Governor Hodges has admitted receiving several hundred letters and wires of protest from here and abroad. The number should continue to grow as the facts become more widely known. The plight of the imprisoned boys was given important new publicity this week with a prominently featured article on the case in the Jan. 17 issue of the Nation.

## ... Self-Defense In Monroe, N.C.

(Continued from Page 1) of performing an abortion on a white woman. (He was twice "convicted.") The State Supreme Court reversed the first conviction. He is now appealing the second.)

At the time of his arrest, Jet reported, "A phone call to his wife set the grapevine in motion, and within minutes, an estimated 45-100 Negroes had rushed to the town square, crowded white policemen out of the headquarters building, and confronted Police Chief Al Mauney."

"Where's the doctor?" they asked. "What's he being held for?" "We want to see him." And when the chief seemed slow about arranging bail, and bringing the doctor up from the basement, where he was being held alone, the crowd got fidgety, surged against the doors, fingered their guns and knives until Perry was produced."

Before the swimming pool issue, there was the successful fight for integration of the local library. "In May, the colored center and its books were destroyed by fire," the article continues. "Williams called city officials and asked what they intended to do. 'Nothing,' was the answer. 'How about integration,' Williams wondered? 'Colored people don't read anyhow,' the city fathers responded. 'Would you like to go to court, or do what's right?' Williams asked. The library integrated."

"... some few things begin to stand out about Monroe, and especially its Negroes," Jet observed. "The Negroes are through being docile, finished with fear of the white man."

# The Taylor Case - New Setback for Witch-Hunt

By Henry Gitano  
Rather than submit its "subversive" blacklist to a Supreme Court test, the government is once again squirming, dodging and retreating.

Over eleven years ago, the attorney general's list of organizations was made public as Truman launched the postwar witch-hunt. Since then, thousands of workers, accused of membership in these organizations, have been deprived of their livelihood through faceless informers in violation of the basic right of the accused to face his accuser.

In what amounts to a confession of guilt, the witch-hunters on Jan. 2 reversed their previous decision in the case of James Allen Taylor after the Supreme Court agreed to review his case.

Taylor was a toolmaker at Buffalo's Bell Aircraft from 1941 until he was screened in 1956. Two separate "hearings" found him a "security" risk.

As recently as three months ago, the Defense Department, basing itself on the ratting of six secret informers, reiterated that Taylor paid Communist Party dues and held a membership card. Taylor denied the charges, and demanded unsuccessfully the right to face and cross-examine his accusers. On the constitutional right of confrontation in loyalty-screening proceedings, Taylor's case reached the Supreme Court.

The Jan. 3, N.Y. Times reports: "One factor in the Government's decision to clear Mr. Taylor plainly was a desire to avoid a Supreme Court decision on the case. . . . The Defense Department did not indicate how it had reconciled Mr. Taylor's clearance with the previous decisions based on the statements of confidential informants."

Taylor's attorney, Joseph L. Rauh Jr. — who won a smashing victory against the government's witch-hunt in the Kutcher case, where Kutcher openly admitted membership in the Socialist Workers Party and regained his job — said that he would urge the Supreme Court to retain jurisdiction as a test case against faceless informers in security hearings.

### MARITIME CASES

A similar strategic retreat by the government occurred when a group of merchant seamen who were screened under the "port security program" which covers about 500,000 seamen and longshoremen, took their case to court. They charged that secret files, secretly compiled from secret sources, deprived them of their constitutional rights.

In a sweeping decision handed down in October 1955, the Circuit Court of Appeals in California said: "Is this system of secret informers, whisperers and talebearers of such importance to the public welfare that it must be preserved at the cost of denying to the citizen even a modicum of the pro-

tection traditionally associated with due process?"

The court decision emphatically asserts the right of the accused to face his accuser in the Coast Guard screening program. "The government," according to the July 14, 1956 N. Y. Times, "after long consideration, decided not to appeal to the Supreme Court. One reason was a fear that the court might rule against the government thus increasing the significance of the ruling for the 'confrontation issue' as it applies throughout all government security programs," which cover ten million Americans.

The government knew that its phony charges of "subversion" could not stand examination; and so the squealers must remain hidden. Since this runs counter to constitutional guarantees, a court test had to be avoided. If the stoolpigeons were forced to come up out of the bilges into the light of day, the "industrial security program" covering three million workers in private industry would be exposed.

### BUREAUCRATS JOIN HUNT

The Coast Guard conformed to the ruling by means of a flanking operation. Seamen's papers were issued to screened men, but they carried a special stamp: "Validated. To be given same effect as all similar documents issued without [court] order." At that point, the union bureaucrats took over the blacklisting of union militants. Synchronized with a policy of abject capitulation to the ship owners, union officials refused to register seamen with the Coast Guard brand.

To get the National Maritime Union picards off the legal hook, an amendment was added to the NMU agreement in April 1957, whereby "loyalty to the U.S." was made a condition for the right to work. Thus after the courts had ruled that these seamen were wrongfully deprived of their jobs, labor fakers, who are unable to defend their stewardship of the union in open debate, victimize and blacklist union militants who fought for a better life aboard ship.

Currently 14 seamen have a suit pending before the Federal Court charging that the union "picked up where the Coast Guard left off." Organized in the Seamen's Defense Committee they are suing the NMU and six major shipping lines. Another court case filed in the N. Y. Supreme Court was reported in the Nov. 23, N. Y. Herald Tribune. Attorney Simon Haberman charged the NMU, 25 American shipping companies and the American Merchant Marine Institute with concluding a company-union agreement which conspires to deny employment to former "security risks."

On the West Coast, Superior Judge Gerald S. Levin ordered the Marine Fireman's Union to reinstate Alexander S. Milanovich who had been expelled from his union after the Coast Guard declared him a "security

risk." Following the court's verdict holding the Coast Guard screening procedure unconstitutional, the union bureaucracy performed the dirty work against which even the court had lashed out.

A revealing translation of the term "security risk" and how to fight it, was spotlighted by James Schuetz, who told his story to the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights in November 1955. Schuetz was a union steward who had worked at Bell Aircraft in Niagara Falls since 1940. In 1949, Local 501 of the United Auto Workers went on a five-months' strike. Schuetz was one of the strike leaders. A year and a half later, he was fired as a "security risk." At the hearing board, he discovered that security clearance had been withdrawn because of "picket line offenses" during the Bell strike. The Board said he had shown "poor discretion" and "lack of responsibility."

Then the union went into action and, with the Workers Defense League, fought the firing. Within five months he regained his job and later on his back pay.

### PYRRHIC VICTORY?

Charles Allen Taylor has been officially cleared. Will it be another Pyrrhic victory comparable to the seamen's fight in 1956? The seamen remain as effectively barred from employment through the cooperation of the union and shipowners as previously by governmental decree.

The California court in the seamen's case said: "In considering the public interest in the preservation of a system under which unidentified informers are encouraged to make unchallengeable statements about their neighbors, it is not amiss to bear in mind whether or not we must look forward to a day when substantially everyone will have to contemplate the possibility that his neighbors are being encouraged to make reports to the FBI about what he says, what he reads, and what meetings he attends."

# ... Comfortable Old-Age Home

(Continued from Page 1)

To make the position of those who urged working people to vote Democratic more untenable, the "hero" of the filibuster fight (it really was more like a waltz than a fight) turned out to be Vice-President Nixon — the same Nixon whom liberals exhorted the working people to stop last November "at all costs." In the encounter over the filibuster, the Northern Democratic and Republican senators who sought to change Rule 22 needed the help of "Tricky Dick" Nixon to get their propositions on the floor against Johnson.

Commenting on the Jan. 9 vote on Anderson's motion to adopt rules, Max Lerner, another columnist in the N.Y. Post, writes, "Let's face the facts, and admit straight off that the Senate liberals have suffered a bad defeat."

That is not quite true. The American working people suffered a defeat — yes. And they should hold all those who advised them to vote Democratic, instead of building their own party, responsible. But even if

being on the losing side of the vote is considered defeat, labor-endorsed Democrats were not all defeated — half of them voted on the winning side. They joined Johnson's coalition, that also included Dixiecrats and the majority of Republicans.

**NEW ONES, TOO**  
Among those backing Johnson throughout were Kefauver and Gore (Tenn.), Murray and Mansfield (Mont.), Chavez (N.M.), and Green (R.I.). Eight of the 15 new Democratic senators voted for Johnson. They included such shining lights of liberalism as Ernest Gruening of Alaska, once editor of the Nation. One of Johnson's allies — Kefauver — was the labor leadership's favored candidate for presidential nomination in 1952 and 1956.

(It might be argued that liberals swung to Johnson under pressure. The Jan. 13 N. Y. Times reports that "Privately, there was some grumbling among the Democrats about the manner in which Mr. Johnson had scored his victory. Some of the members, for example, indicated that their votes had been cast against the realization that their committee assignments might depend upon how they voted." But this only underscores the validity of what socialists have repeatedly contended — namely, that shining-light Democrats are not free agents but subject to party-machine control.)

Crusading ardor did not distinguish those liberals who had pushed for a more meaningful curb on the filibuster. And that, too, helped Johnson gain his victory. This is indicated by the fact that in the midst of the contention over Rule 22, Johnson (a Texan) was unanimously reelected majority floor leader. It would be safe to say that the liberals on the losing side of the filibuster vote did not feel defeat too keenly. Had they been as strong for passing pro-labor and pro-civil rights legislation as they claim, they might have conducted a filibuster themselves to dramatize the importance of changing Rule 22 and to rally labor and Negro support.

**EYES ON 1960**  
Their forces were made up, however, of politicians concerned more with vote-getting in

1960 than with principle. That explains why Kennedy (Mass.) and Symington (Mo.) — both favored by Southern Democrats but both prominent presidential contenders — voted against Johnson. It also explains the vote of Humphrey (Minn.) who, according to the Jan. 11 New York Times Magazine, has graduated to the inner core of the Senate Democrats — that is, made his peace with the dominant Southern group. Humphrey also has presidential ambitions. Nixon's role in the proceedings, too, can be ascribed to presidential aspirations.

Other Democratic senators, such as Douglas, coming from major Northern and Western industrial areas, have gone through the same motions in the past. They mounted a "fight" against filibuster, then allowed themselves to be outmaneuvered by the foes of civil rights.

Finally, a group of Republicans expressed the concern of leading Eastern big business circles for certain concessions to the Negro people. A similar concern was voiced by the New York Times, which often speaks for the guiding sections of big business. The Times printed three editorials reproving Johnson and urging a liberalized cloture rule. It reminded the Democrats that their sweep last November was a mandate for reform legislation.

The top circles of big business in this country are very much aware of the difficulties the Southern Jim Crow system causes them abroad — especially among the Asian, African and Latin American masses. They are also fearful of the potentially revolutionary character of the Negro struggle in the United States. They wish consequently for some tactical adjustment — a few curbs on the worst Dixiecrat outrages. They are annoyed and impatient that the Southern ruling class should display such rigidity on the question.

These big business policy makers, however, do not seek a showdown over civil rights. The Dixiecrats play too important a role as anchor on the right for big business rule. Their most useful function is as counterweight in the Democratic Party — the more popularly based of the two big business parties — to the labor element of the coalition. The Dixiecrats are also convenient scapegoats for the failure of liberals to fulfill their election promises to the labor and Negro movements.

The crime of the top labor officials is their connivance in this shell game. They have kept the labor movement tied to the Democratic Party and hold out the illusion that it can be reformed through electing a sufficient number of Northern and Western liberals. The 86th Congress wasted no time in disproving that contention for the umpteenth time. Only through building labor's independent political party can civil rights and all other demands of the working people be won.

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