

Freedom

"Where one is enslaved, all are in chains!"

Vol. IV, No. 3

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JUST BETWEEN US

Are You In The Red?

NO, WE'RE NOT talking McCarthy-ite politics — this is about circulation.

And we're not talking to the man in the neighboring column. We're talking for him — to YOU.

He's a working man, worried about the future. Maybe he's one of thousands of Negroes being laid off the job in steel plants in Akron and Gary, auto factories in Detroit, Chicago's packinghouses, and the shipyards, foundries and construction projects of California.

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PRIMARY ROUNDUP

Southern Candidates Set Pace on Political Scene

As primary elections shape up throughout the nation the struggle of Negroes for political representation promises to rise to new heights and to chalk up a number of victories.

Already some notable advances have been made in some Southern localities, while in others Negroes are entering primaries for the first time since Reconstruction.

As this is written attorney Arthur D. Shores in Birmingham, Alabama is campaigning actively for a seat in the state legislature. The only Negro among 27 candidates, he is appealing to whites as well as Negroes for support in the May 4 primary. Seven seats are to be filled and Shores is the first Negro to seek one of them since Reconstruction days.

Other Alabama Races

Elsewhere in Alabama, Mrs. Jesse P. Guzman, head of the Dept. of Record and Research at Tuskegee Institute has filed in the race for Macon County Board of Education. The county population is 80 per cent Negro.

In Mobile, the Rev. Terry M. Batts, a Baptist minister, Alex L. Herman, insurance man and Clarence H. Montgomery, a barber, are seeking membership on the county Democratic Committee. Meanwhile, E. D. Nixon, former NAACP state president has already qualified for a place on the Montgomery County Democratic Executive Committee.

For the first time in the history of Nowata, Oklahoma, a Negro, John H. Morgan, plastering contractor, was elected municipal commissioner.

In Crowley, La., David L. May, principal of Ross High School and Joseph Pete, a businessman were unopposed for the Democratic nomination for alderman. This is tantamount to election, and they will be the first Negroes to sit on the board of aldermen in the town's 67-year history.

Mississippi "First"

In Joplin, Missouri, M. W. Dial, a school principal has been elected to the city council, and a Negro was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the City Council.

Another "first" was recorded in Prentiss, Miss., when Isaac Hartzog, 49, a farmer, declared his candidacy for the Board of Education in District Four in the May elections. Mrs. Elsie Hartzog, his wife, is a teacher at Oak Grove School. There are four precincts in the district and of the 777 registered voters, 224 are Negroes.

The trend of Negro political movements for appointive recognition as well as elective office was highlighted late in April by the bid in New Orleans of the Orleans Parish Progressive Voters League for the appointment of Attorney A. P. Tureaud as First City Court Judge. The post was vacated by the death of Judge William V. Seeber.

The request was made of Governor Robert F. Kennon, in a letter by the Rev. A. L. Davis, president, and Jackson V. Acox, executive secretary of the League.

"We do not seek this appointment as political patronage" the League leaders wrote Kennon, "but do so out of consideration for the fact that the contribution of Negroes of New Orleans to the welfare of our city and state is paramount to any political considerations which might otherwise be given."

Northern Developments

The Democratic designation of Mexican-American Edward Roybal for Lieutenant-Governor of California promises to bring into focus many basic issues before the Negro, Mexican-American and other minority groups. Roybal has already distinguished himself as Los Angeles City Councilman.

In Cleveland, John Holley, founder and head of the Future Outlook League, will run for Congress in the Democratic primaries. And in Baltimore, Linwood Coger has filed in the Republican primaries, as a Congressional candidate. Rumor has it that State Senator Charles Diggs, Jr. will seek the Democratic party designation for Congress in Detroit.

It is too early to discuss the various issues around all of the

(Continued on Page 2)

Ho Chi Minh is Toussaint L'Ouverture of Indo China

By PAUL ROBESON

AS I WRITE these lines, the eyes of the world are on a country inhabited by 23 million brown-skinned people—a population one and a half times the number of Negroes in the U. S. In size that country is equal to the combined areas of Mississippi, South Carolina and Alabama. It's a fertile land, rich in minerals; but all the wealth is taken away by the foreign rulers, and the people are poor.

I'm talking about Vietnam, and it seems to me that we Negroes have a special reason for understanding what's going on over there. Only recently, during Negro History Week, we recalled the heroic exploits of Toussaint L'Ouverture who led the people of Haiti in a victorious rebellion against the French Empire.

Well, at the same time that the French were fighting to keep their hold on the black slaves of Haiti, they were sending an army around to the other side of the world to impose colonial slavery on the people of Indo-China. And ever since then the Indo-Chinese

have been struggling to be free from French domination.

"MY CHILDREN, FRANCE comes to make us slaves. God gave us liberty; France has no right to take it away. Burn the cities, destroy the harvests, tear up the roads with cannon, poison the wells, show the white man the hell he comes to make!"

Those fiery words, addressed to his people by Toussaint L'Ouverture when Napoleon sent Le Clerc with an army of 30,000 men to re-enslave Haiti, are echoed today by Ho Chi Minh, who is the Toussaint of Vietnam. Yes, and a French general called Le Clerc was also sent against Ho Chi Minh, but like the blacks of Haiti, the plantation workers of Indo-China have proved unconquerable.

In 1946 France was forced to recognize the Republic of Vietnam, headed by Ho Chi Minh; but like the double-crossing Napoleon in the time of Toussaint, the French colonial masters returned with greater force to re-enslave the people who had liberated themselves. The common people of France have come to hate this hopeless struggle; they call it "the dirty war"; and their rulers have not dared to draft Frenchmen for military service there.

"Who are the Vietminh?" said a French officer to a reporter from the Associated Press.

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Ho Chi Minh



Toussaint L'Ouverture

SCANNING THE NEWS

CIVIL RIGHTS

Judge Barred

When the distinguished Negro jurist, Judge Hubert T. Delany was barred from membership in the 67-year-old Church Club of New York the action was promptly denounced by the Right Reverend Horace W. B. Donegan, Bishop of the New York Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Clifford P. Morehouse, president of the club, who nominated Judge Delany for membership, declared he would not seek re-election. The charge of discrimination was denied by Dr. Arthur E. Neergaard, chairman of the five-man admissions committee but other reasons for the blackball were not forthcoming.

No Room for All-American

During the same week, Fritz Pollard, Brown University All-American of 1916, was refused membership in the Brown University Club of New York. Reason? Objections of the Princeton University Club, which owns the building facilities used by the Brown Club.

Pollard, now a public relations expert, declared that he had been invited to join the club last year by its president, Jimmy Jemal, Daily News Inquiring Photographer. After he filed his application and weeks elapsed without any reply he asked Jemal about it. Jemal informed him that the Princeton Club objected because its authorities said that if Pollard were accepted it would mean that all Negro Brown alumni would be eligible and they did not want Negroes using their facilities.

Pollard revealed he and his son, also a Brown alumnus, Fritz Pollard Jr., have contributed \$2,500 to the Brown University Club Building Fund. Pollard, along with Paul Robeson, and Judge Duke Slater of Chicago were famous Negro All-American football players in their college days.

Jim Crow Pays \$38,000

After five years of slander and hardship, 14 Negro postal employees suspended under the "Loyalty" program have been awarded a total of \$38,000 in back pay. They were reinstated on appeal to the Postmaster General and the now defunct "Loyalty Review Boards." Seven of the men were from the Philadelphia Post Office.

In 1951 the Post Office rejected the claims of the men and the National Alliance of Postal Employees began court action on their behalf. NAPA Welfare Director commented on the awards: "This money, while by no means an adequate substitute for the humiliation and damage done their good names, does give them a chance to straighten out the financial mess into which sudden, unanticipated unemployment has plunged them."

British Push Harsh Measures in Guiana As Popular Leaders Defy Emergency Orders

By JANET JAGAN
(Special to FREEDOM)

GEORGETOWN, BRITISH GUIANA — Dr. Cheddi Jagan, deposed Prime Minister of this country, and leader of the People's Progressive Party was recently sentenced to six months at hard labor, and to an additional two months on the charge of leading an "illegal procession."

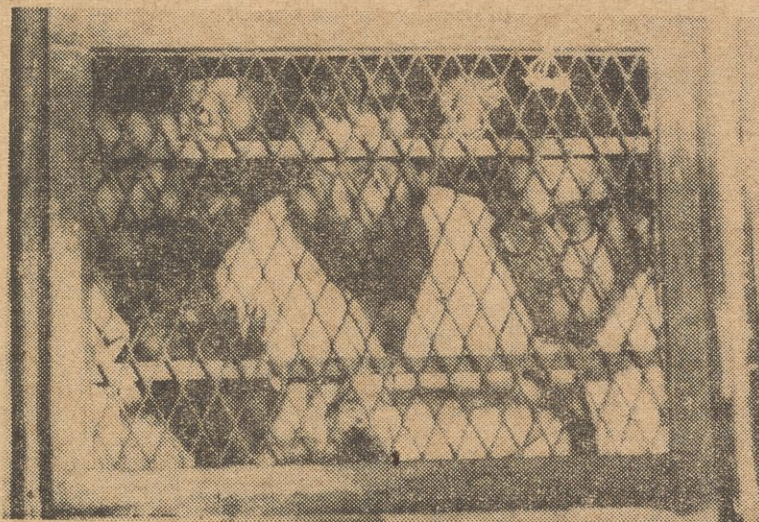
The first charge grew out of his refusal to abide by the Governor's order restricting his movements to the capital city of Georgetown and requiring him to report to the police twice a week, "with a view to preventing his acting in a manner prejudicial to public safety and order."

Rural Clinics

Dr. Jagan, who had left his dental practice over a year ago when he began campaigning for the April, 1953 general elections, made plans on his return from India in February to open dental clinics in the rural areas. Already he had established two clinics which were always busy because of the almost total absence of dental services in the country districts, except for quacks.

In a letter to the Governor, Dr. Jagan denounced the order as "flagrant violation of my democratic and civil rights. . . . I have neither committed nor have been charged with any crime. In addition, this restriction denies me the opportunity of pursuing my professional calling."

When permission was refused to attend his clinics he left for the rural area of Mahaicony nevertheless, and was arrested about 40 miles from Georgetown, brought back and held without bail for two days. The day after his arrest, his wife,



DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, leader of the PPP, is shown with Rory Westmaas, left, with beard, and Martin Carter (with glasses) as the police van carries them off to jail.

PPP general secretary, was arrested as were Martin Carter, Rory Westmaas and six other PPP members who led a demonstration around police headquarters.

Bail Denied

Huge crowds gathered on April 5, when the 10 were brought into court. The trials were postponed and they were released on bail. Twenty minutes later Dr. Jagan was arrested along with five others and charged with "illegal procession" because the people followed him down the streets. They were held without bail until the 12th.

At the trial Dr. Jagan refused to make any plea before Magistrate Sharpes, who was incidentally the brother of the man Jagan defeated in the 1953 elections.

"To enter a plea of guilty or not guilty would be to presume the validity or justice of the emergency orders. . . . This is a

court of law, not a court of justice. Justice has been dead since the British troops landed. . . . Today the whole country is a vast prison. Whether I am outside or inside doesn't matter very much. Prison holds no terror for me. . . . I am looking for the day when there will be a greater justice in this country. I will not obey the Emergency Orders and I advise the people not to obey these laws."

In the week following Dr. Jagan's arrest, over 70 people were arrested on various charges, including disorderly conduct, holding illegal processions and meetings, assault, etc. The police tear-gassed the PPP headquarters on April 7, closed it down and posted armed guards. Another office was opened in another part of the city.

In the countryside several strikes occurred on sugar estates, protesting the arrest of the PPP leaders. At Port Mou-

rant 65 workers were arrested and tear-gassed.

PPP chairman L. F. S. Burnham was served with a restriction order. He refused to comply with the section requiring him to report to the police twice weekly, and on April 10, most of the restricted people refused to report. On Good Friday night the order was revoked. On the Queen's birthday, the people wore mourning as a sign of protest.

Thus leading the campaign of defiance of the Emergency Laws which deny the people of British Guiana their legitimate rights, Dr. Jagan became the first political leader to take voluntary imprisonment in British Guiana.

Primary Roundup

(Continued from Page 1)

projected primary candidacies since the campaigns have scarcely begun. It is clear though that much remains to be done in winning nominations for Negroes in big city contests where the machines of one or the other parties ignore Negro demands unless they are reinforced by a united non-partisan campaign in the Negro communities.

One factor that has and will increasingly become an issue in Negro communities is the acute and growing unemployment. This is particularly true in such centers as Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles where lay-offs have struck deep in the Negro community.

African Health

According to the calculations of the United Nations the following conditions prevail in the 24 African countries for which figures are available:

- Five have less than one doctor for each 50,000 inhabitants;
- Twelve have one doctor between 10,000 and 50,000 inhabitants;
- Four have one doctor between 5,000 and 10,000 inhabitants;
- Three have one doctor between 2,000 and 5,000 inhabitants.

There is no single African country numbered among the 23 leading countries of the world in this respect, which have less than 2,000 inhabitants per doctor.

Toussaint L'Ouverture and Ho Chi Minh

(Continued from Page 1)

"Where are they? Who knows? They are everywhere." And the reporter wrote:

"Ho Chi Minh's barefoot hordes infiltrate French-held territory at will in the guise of peasants, arms concealed under brown tunics. They have allies who hide them and feed them—allies who are not Communists but just people who hate the French, hate the foreigner and want him to go."

NOW, WHEN FRANCE WANTS to call it quits, Eisenhower, Nixon and Dulles are insisting that Vietnam must be re-conquered and held in colonial chains. "The Vietnamese lack the ability to govern themselves," says Vice-President Nixon.

Vast quantities of U.S. bombers, tanks and guns have been sent against Ho Chi Minh and his freedom-fighters; and now we are told that soon it may be "advisable" to send American GI's into Indo-China in order that the tin, rubber and tungsten of Southeast Asia be kept by the "free world"—meaning White Imperialism.

The whole world cries out for peace; but Dulles insists that the war must go on and threatens Asians again with atomic and hydrogen bombs.

That's the picture, and I ask again: Shall Negro sharecroppers from Mississippi be sent to shoot down brown-skinned peasants in Vietnam—to serve the interests of those who oppose Negro liberation at home and colonial freedom abroad?

What are our Negro leaders saying about this? They are all too silent.

The true issues involved are well known,

for only recently *The Crisis*, official organ of the NAACP, published an article filled with factual proof that the Vietnamese are fighting against colonial oppression. The article shows that the charge of "Red Aggression" in Indo-China is a phony, and that the sympathies of our people belong with the side resisting imperialism.

THREE YEARS AGO Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, said that "For over 100 years the French have been in Indo-China, dominating them politically, strangling them economically, and humiliating them in the land of their fathers. . . . And now it looks as though they can win, and as they are about to win their liberty, we rush up and say: 'What on earth are you all getting ready to do? . . . We are the free people of the world, we are your friends, we will send you leaders. . . .'"

"And they look at us in amazement and they say: 'Brother, where have you been. Why if we'd known you was a-comin' we'd have baked a cake.'"

Today, more than ever, is the time for plain speaking.

Peace can be won if we demand it. The imperialists can be halted in their tracks. And as we think about Ho Chi Minh, the modern-day Toussaint L'Ouverture leading his people to freedom, let us remember well the warning words of a Negro spokesman, Charles Baylor, who wrote in the *Richmond Planet* a half century ago:

"The American Negro cannot become the ally of Imperialism without enslaving his own race."

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Union That Produced 'Salt of the Earth' Can Also Make Great Film of Negro Life

Discerning moviegoers have realized for years that the best moving pictures in the world are not produced in Hollywood. For an evening of celluloid entertainment which truthfully reflects and heightens the drama of real life—rather than distort and degrade it—one usually has to seek out the best film products of France, Italy, the Soviet Union. From time to time, the British turn out a realistic and gripping piece of work.

Hollywood devotes its energies to the production of froth, filth and fantasies. Negroes are painfully aware of the part movies play in stimulating the most prejudicial and harmful stereotypes of Negro life, and have long battled for a new deal in Filmland, U. S. A.

Bessemer in 1954?

Negro film fans will, therefore, welcome "Salt of the Earth." For here is a film which, while it does not deal with the "Negro question" as such, does deal with problems and struggles of Mexican-American workers so closely related to our own that it might well have been written for a predominantly Negro cast. What is more, the picture was produced by an American trade union, The Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union; and if a union can turn out such a magnificent work of art concerning the life of Mexican-American workers then the same union, or another, can produce an equally great film of Negro life. (In fact, nothing would be more exciting in the cultural world than that the Mine-Mill Union should put a group of technicians to work in 1954 filming the heroic struggles of Negro and white ore miners in Bessemer, Ala.)

"Salt of the Earth" is the story of a strike. It takes you into the harsh and barren hills of New Mexico, into the shacks and shanties of Mexican-American miners, into their union hall, onto one of the most unique picket lines



JUAN CHACON, in the role of the strike leader, listens in puzzlement as his wife (Rosaura Revueltas) speaks of the determination of the women to have an equal part in their common battle for a decent job, a real house to live in and simple human dignity.

in the history of the labor movement—into the thick of a heroic battle for decent pay, safety devices (and running water!) against a ruthless and greed-driven company.

When the company mobilizes the full power of the "law" to break the strike with violence all seems lost. And all would be lost, except that the women who have up to now been confined to the drudgery of washing clothes, preparing meals and making "homes" of the miserable company hovels, demand a part in the battle, and win it.

Women Win Respect

The miners resist the "intervention" of their wives. Union business is a man's business, they reason; and the picket line is a dangerous affair. But the women are not to be denied. They take over the picket line when the company gets an injunction against the local union, battle the sheriff's deputies hand to hand and sing their way into and out of jail. While the women are in the lockup the men learn first-hand something about keeping house and bring-

ing up children, gain a greater respect for women's "special" demands and for their fighting qualities.

Throughout, the anti-working class arrogance of the employers is heightened by their particular contempt for the Mexican people, and the Anglo union leaders have a few lessons to learn on this score also.

Rosaura Revueltas, the outstanding Mexican movie star, is sparkling as the wife of union leader Juan Chacon, who steps from his real-life role as union president into the film part of strike leader with amazing naturalness and skill. Will Geer, a well-known professional, is the sheriff, and practically the entire remaining cast is composed of union men and women who participated in the actual strike in 1951 which inspired "Salt of the Earth."

Go see it. And get your friends to go. And call upon movie houses in your town to show it. It is a landmark in U. S. movie making and a tribute to a great union and a great people.

—L. E. B.

Court Restrains Brownell In Case of Lawyers Guild

An important victory for civil liberties has been registered with the recent announcement that the National Lawyers Guild has won its fight to restrain Attorney General Herbert Brownell from proceeding with actions aimed at branding this progressive organization of lawyers a "subversive" organization.

The decision, reached in the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, reverses a previous decision of District Judge Keech, who had denied the Guild's application for a stay of all proceedings against it.



Earl B. Dickerson

Constitutional Question

The Guild had asked for the stay pending a trial on the issue of whether the action of the attorney general and his regulations in connection with the listing of so-called "subversive" organizations is constitutional and legal.

The Appeals Court decision means that the Guild will not be required at this time to file answers to interrogatories submitted by Brownell to them, and that all action on the attorney general's part to stigmatize the Guild must await trial.

The appeal of the lawyers group was argued by its president, Earl B. Dickerson of Chicago, and Osmond K. Frankel of New York, two of the nation's outstanding constitutional attorneys.

Civil Rights Advocates

One of the major aspects of the work of the National Lawyers Guild has been its activities in recognition of the professional standing of Negro attorneys and its many projects and campaigns for civil rights and full observance of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments.

While the full implications of the decision cannot im-

mediately be foreseen, it is clear that it lends a considerable impetus to the nine organizations now contesting the Attorney General's designation at one stage or another of proceedings before the Subversive Activities Control Board.

Twelve progressive organizations have been designated as "subversive" thus far. Three of them, the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy, the May Day Committee, and the American Slav Committee no longer exist. The International Workers Order has been declared subversive by the Board and dissolved by the New York State Insurance Department.

Among the others the Council on African Affairs works largely among Negroes and is headed by distinguished champions of African freedom: Paul Robeson, chairman; W. E. B. DuBois, vice chairman, and W. Alphaeus Hunton, secretary. Another, the Civil Rights Congress, headed by executive secretary William L. Patterson, has long pioneered in defense of the civil rights of the Negro people and working class victims of McCarthyite hysteria.

Stories for Children: Jan Matzeliger Invented the Shoe-Lasting Machine

Shoes, shoes, shoes! A million different kinds of shoes on how many feet going how many places all over the world!

Did you ever stop to think of the many different places to which your shoes have taken you? As you grew, your shoes grew with you. They showed by their scuff marks, by the creases in the uppers, by the way the heels were worn and by the way the laces hung just how you got into them every day and the places they took you. They were good friends going with you wherever you went: to school and home again, to the park and maybe even to baseball games. Then there were your dress shoes which always looked so fine but which mother said must be saved for special occasions because they were your "good" shoes. Where did they take you? Perhaps you went to parties or to the circus or to church or to school on the first day of the term in them.

But let us think about it for a moment—a shoe for each foot, two feet to each person, about two billion people all over the world not all having shoes but surely needing them. Needing them to do all the work that has to be done in the mines and in the factories, on highways, in

fields growing plants for food and clothing, building homes and so many other things! How in the world are all those shoes made? They cannot be made by hand, for there are not hands enough to make all the shoes that we need. Of course they are made by machines in factories. In this way large numbers can be made faster and cheaper than by hand.

How did this shoe-making machine come to be and who invented it? To find that out we go back to the last half of the 19th Century.

At this time, there was taking place throughout the world, and especially in the United States, what was called an industrial revolution. Now one of the most striking things about this industrial revolution was that many, many things that had previously been made by the hands of many working people were now being made by machines.

In this development of new machinery several Negro scientists and inventors played an important part and their inventions helped the growth of such industries as meat-packing, sugar refining and railroading. One of the processes affected in this way was shoe-making.

In 1883, a young Negro cobbler of 31 years who had worked in Philadelphia and Lynn, Mass., developed a machine which brought new and amazing changes to the shoe-making industry. His name was Jan E. Matzeliger and the machine which he invented was known as Matzeliger's Shoe-Lasting Machine. This machine held the shoe on a wooden form and gripped it so that the leather could be pulled down around the heel and the nails put into place. Then a complete shoe could be produced in one smooth motion. This made production much faster and reduced by one-half the original cost of making the shoe. Matzeliger sold the patent to his machine for only a fraction of its true value and six years later, in 1889, he died a poor man. But it is to him that we owe thanks for the start of a process which has brought you the shoes you wear today.

Have a good look at them. Think of how important they are to you in much that you do. Imagine that importance multiplied over and over again on millions of pairs of feet and you will begin to understand the true value of Matzeliger's Shoe-Lasting Machine.

Conversation From Life

By ALICE CHILDRESS

MARGE, DO YOU EVER ask yourself, "What is it all about?" I mean livin' and dyin' and the long stretch of struggle that comes in between.

I was over to my cousin Nellie's house and she had just come through a great store of trouble and it looked like a fresh supply was due any minute. . . . Well, honey, she threw up her hands and said, "Why? Why? Why? What is it all about? I go out to work every day on a hard, low-payin' job, I live in this broke-down, high-rent apartment and I just barely manage to buy enough food so's I can keep my strength up to go back to that low-payin' job, and things go 'round like that year in and year out. . . . For what? Why!"

You should have heard her, Marge. "Folks goin' off to war," she says, "killin' other folks . . . hatred scattered everywhere near and far, everybody actin' like dog eat dog and the devil take the hindmost! Every Sunday we get together and sing 'Nearer My God to Thee' and then go back to the same old scuffle come Monday mornin'."

And she's right, Marge! Ain't it awful? Just think—a man is headed for the grave. . . . Excuse me, Marge, I meant no disrespect, let's say he's headed for Heaven, but before he goes he's got a mission to accomplish, so he says, "Before I go to Heaven I'm gonna own all the old shanty buildings in my town and charge the poor folks so much rent that I'll be able to buy me a car and a big house with a swimming pool."

"And before I go to Heaven I'm goin' to see that all the schools stay Jim Crow so's that different races can keep hatin' each other. I'm goin' to keep black people off of juries, also—before I go to Heaven. I'm going to drop bombs on people and also raise the food prices. Furthermore—before I go to Heaven



I'm goin' to vote against free hospitals for children. I'm goin' to build houses of prostitution and more jails to put the prostitutes in. Before I go to Heaven I am also going to build me an atom bomb shelter, so that I will not go to Heaven too soon."

"Before I go to Heaven, I'm goin' to join the Klan and burn crosses on folks doorsteps . . . and burn folks if necessary. And last but not least, before I go to Heaven, I'm goin' to give away 50 Christmas baskets every year to the poor, regardless of their race, creed or color!"

CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT, Marge? . . . You're absolutely right, girl! Life should be more than grabbing and getting. Like I told Nellie, "Ain't it plain to see the mission is—loving and working to glorify the earth and all that's in it? It's to heal the blind . . . not only with operations and glasses but with knowledge and learning . . . to cure the sick . . . not only in hospitals but the folks who are sick at heart . . . to feed the hungry! Divide the loaves and fishes among all the children in the world and see the great amount we'll still have left over. . . . It's to find delight in one another and bring about the true brotherhood of all mankind."

Well, Marge, Nellie smiles at me and says, "Mildred, the last man that taught those things got crucified, and if he was back here today he'd get it again!"

"Don't I know it!" I said. "But what did he say?" "Lo, I am with you always!"

"Look around, Nellie," I said. "Every age has somebody teachin' those things, but the golden age of peace and joy will come when we stop the crucifixion!" Well, leastways, Marge, that's how I think—or else, as Nellie says, "What is it all about!"

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BACKGROUND IN KENYA

Land Hunger, Forced Labor, Political Tyranny Provide Basis for KAU Demands

An African student in New York City was asked for his views of the events taking place in Kenya. He said: "If a man comes into your home, and begins taking your possessions and beating your wife and children, what is there left to do but fall upon him with all the strength your body can command?"

This is the fact that people of the United States do not yet comprehend about Kenya. So a short backward glance will throw into bold relief the campaign of "extermination" the British are waging against the Kikuyu and other peoples of this brave land.

As early as 1903, 220,000 acres of choice farm land in Kenya was transferred to 342 Europeans. In that same period the East African Syndicate was given 320,000 acres, the Up-lands of East Africa Syndicate got 350,000 acres. The Grogan Forest Concession got 200,000 acres, while Lord Delamere was given 100,000 acres.

Gold and Cattle Stolen

In 1931 when gold was discovered in the Kavirondo Reserve, the Kavirandos were driven off their lands and the Kenya Legislative Council, composed of white men, passed a law giving concessions to Europeans to come in and take the gold. The Africans got nothing. Then in 1937, the Kikuyus were evicted from their farms in the Trigoni district. And the next year the people of the Wakamba Reserve were driven from their farms, their cattle rounded up and sold to a big meat packer.

A memorandum submitted to the United Nations in September, 1948, by the Kenya African Union, charged that "Over 30,000 men, women and children of the Ol-Enguone settlement were served in 1948 with removal orders from their homes. Their cattle and goats were confiscated on the ground that the Natives had disobeyed the order to request their children to go and pick pyrethrum at a European Keringet Estate."

Mbiyu Koinange, in his pamphlet "Land Hunger in Kenya" declares that, "This act of dispossession meant much to us Africans in Kenya. It meant in brief, the alienation of 16,000 square miles to 2,000 European settlers, and the reservation of 50,000 square miles to five and a half million Africans. The balance of 158,000 square miles of land and water left 'unallocated' was left, that is, to the decision of the government civil servants who are often settlers as well. . . . But even our 50,000 square miles have been reduced by various proclamations which have 'set aside areas' for trading centers, administrative and police posts or various reserves and wherever African lands are suspected of bearing mineral deposits such lands are declared to be 'restricted areas.'"

Annual Income: \$16.80

Thus forced off their land, the Africans constitute a vast pool of cheap labor, more than often conscripted to work by the government. They are thus forced into the unspeakable slums of Nairobi and other cities, there to work for miser-



Jomo Kenyatta
Leader of the KAU

able wages and to die of numerous diseases. In 1949, according to a report of the UN Economic and Social Council, the average yearly income of Africans was the equivalent of \$16.80.

As for political rights about 5,000,000 Africans are represented in the Legislative Council by six "nominated" Africans, several of whom are civil servants, while about 29,000 Europeans have 40 elected and

nominated representatives and about 100,000 Indians are represented by six elected members.

KAU Demands

This is the background for what is going on in Kenya. And the British terror is the usual imperialist answer to the Kenya Africans demands that this situation end. The memorandum submitted by the KAU demands:

"That the policy of the paramountcy of African interests pronounced by the Government over 20 years ago, should be in fact and not simply in words the guiding principle of Government policy. This applies above all to the full control by the African people of the land and natural resources of Africa.

"The African people shall enjoy the right of Assembly, free speech and personal liberty, etc., and shall no longer be deprived of these human rights.

"That the African people of Kenya, constituting the overwhelming majority of the population, should advance to Self-Government with the utmost speed and that their right to Self-Government be absolute."

Who Are The Savages?

Kenya will be left to the "stewardship of savages," moaned Scripps-Howard columnist Robert Ruark in the N.Y. World-Telegram and Sun recently, if the British are forced out by the people who really own the land.

The following will help to show who are the real savages in Kenya:

● According to the conservative figures of the British Colonial Secretary up to March 1, 1954, 3,649 Africans have been killed in Kenya since October, 1952, and 165,462 have been arrested, many of whom are still held in concentration camps.

● A 19-year-old British soldier named Hayward was found guilty of strangling Africans with thongs and burning their eardrums with cigarettes. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment and fined 100 pounds.

● A prize of five pounds was offered by a commanding officer to the first unit to kill a "terrorist" as it went into action. . . .

● According to the magazine East Africa and Rhodesia for Feb. 4, 1954, relating gruesome details of the extermination campaign against the Kenya Africans, "it was accepted . . . practice to cut off either one

or both hands from a body where the body could not be brought in and there was no other means of identification. The hand was brought back in order that finger prints could be taken from it."

● A letter smuggled out of Kenya, which appeared in Crossroads, an Indian publication, described what is happening to the women of Majuga: "When a woman says she does not know about the Mau Mau oath boiling water is kept nearby, and is poured on her breasts until her skin comes off. . . ."

● According to the N.Y. Times of Feb. 28, 1954, "The full strength of the British and native military forces fighting the Mau Mau in Kenya at present is about 20,000 men, including 10 infantry battalions, an engineer regiment, an artillery battery, a squadron of light aircraft and a flight of medium bombers equipped with 1,000 pound bombs.

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