

EDITORIALS

Legion Beats War Drums

THE CITY-WIDE FUNMAKING and high jinks indulged in by American Legionnaires who invaded New York last week for their organization's 29th Annual Convention served perhaps to divert the attention of many New Yorkers from the grave significance of the Legion's policies and the ominous note of preparedness for war sounded by the main speakers and Legion leaders.

The Legion conclave was held in an atmosphere of dangerous jingoism, and the policy-making had a distinctly sinister flavor. The "get-tough-with-Russia" school emerged stronger than ever with a mandate to intensify Legion pressure for a more belligerently aggressive U.S. foreign policy. The report of the convention's Foreign Relations Committee sounded like a call to war. It should have contained the sober recognition that the peoples of the world want peace and that peace can be maintained only on the foundations of the Four Freedoms and One World as envisaged by the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Legion represents one of the most powerful lobbies in this country. It is disturbing to see this lobby being exerted against the best interests of the 3,220,000 members of the Legion, and the millions of veterans who won the victory of World War II but who are being misled and betrayed by the present leadership of the organization.

The Legion's membership must critically examine the policies of their leaders and ask themselves: Is this what we fought for?

Negro Legionnaires especially must play a stronger role in preventing the Legion from being used to push this country into another war by its national leadership which is essentially a big-business white-supremacist group. Negro Legionnaires have got to take issue with the "Kingmakers" who dominate the Legion and call the shots. The Legion's "Kingmakers" are closely connected with Wall Street and live of the labor and progressive political organizations of opposed to the common people of this country, and to the Negro people's aspirations for equality and a better life. Above all, Negro Legionnaires must understand that the Legion's vaunted "Americanism" will always be spurious as long as Negroes are Jimcrowed in the organization, kept out of the exclusive "Forty and Eight" division, and denied a really effective voice in determining policy.

West Indian Unity

THE CARIBBEAN LABOR CONGRESS which opens on September 9 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, will draft proposals for the formation of a federated West Indies which may well be the making of the first Negro dominion in world affairs. The Montego Bay meeting will be largely representative of the labor and progressive political organization of the Caribbean colonies, and will be followed by a second, official conference to be presided over by the British Secretary of State for the Colonies.

That the British Government has been forced to reorganize the urgency of the federation issue is a tribute to the militance and growing political maturity of the people of the West Indian colonies. The majority want nationhood. They want higher standards of living and full extension of the benefits of modern industrial society to themselves.

These things which have traditionally been denied them under British rule will become more easily attainable if the 3,000,000 inhabitants of Britain's Caribbean colonies win their political freedom. West Indian independence would be a major step towards the islands' economic emancipation from colonial feudalism and shocking exploitation by foreign capital.

It is not inevitable, as is frequently stated, that the economic future of the West Indies is bound up with that of Great Britain. West Indian economic development must be based on the welfare of the citizens of the new state, the outlines of which we hope will emerge from the two conferences to be held in Jamaica this month. This means that the new country must be guided by self-interest alone in fashioning its trade and economic policies. The rise of strong trade unions and militant political parties in recent years supports our belief that the creation of economic democracy will be one of the first objectives of a federated West Indian dominion.

In the field of international relations Negro people will gain increased respect and influence from the presence of representatives of a predominantly Negro country at the United Nations and other official international gatherings.

The People

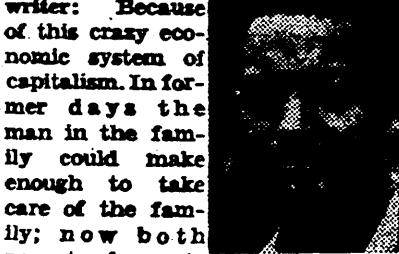
Say

WHAT MAKES KID GANGS SHOOT AND KILL EACH OTHER?



Calvin Ashe, 2530 McCullough st., Baltimore, waiter: Kid gangs shoot and kill each other because of lack of home training, and proper guidance, and because of lack of education of the parents. Give these kids playgrounds, things to do, things to occupy their mind—in other words clean entertainment, and there'll be no more kid gangs. Another reason is because both parents offer work and can't guide the kids.

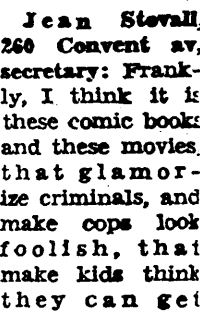
Howard Johnson, 504 W 103 st., writer: Because of this crazy economic system of capitalism. In former days the man in the family could make enough to take care of the family; now both parents have to work. Another reason is the overcrowding of the school system, so that the teacher can't possibly give any individual guidance. And with rats, roaches in these overcrowded, dark apartments, home has become a place to escape from, not to go to.



Sam Helfetz, 1800 E 12 st., Brooklyn, counterman: Lack of recreational activities where juveniles can get together and get off the streets—that's what causes it. Another reason is the congestion of living here in Harlem, the overcrowded schools up here. Give juveniles recreational sport that they can indulge in, and there'll be no more kid gangs and shootings.



Jean Stevall, 260 Convent av., secretary: Frankly, I think it is these comic books and these movies, that glamorize criminals, and make cops look foolish, that make kids think they can get away with it. This glamorization of crime makes it look easy to rob \$10,000 from a bank. Who wouldn't rob \$10,000 from a bank if he thought he could get away with it?



Mrs. L. A. Henderson, 2124 Bardette, Omaha, Neb., housewife: This sort of thing happens because these kids don't get enough wholesome activity to take up their minds. And then, too, these kids come into contact with these publicized criminals right here on the streets and they think that they should imitate them. This happens particularly in big cities like New York. In Omaha, a much smaller town, it doesn't happen.



Here in Harlem a colored man decided to offset that democratic spirit by taking a life of a white man after a chance acquaintance in a bar. The white man, since being an ex-soldier of the late war, most certainly had training in dirty fighting. So I am sure that the attack upon him was a sneak assault or otherwise he may have been able to defend himself. Had that happened to one of us in a white community by a white man a committee of colored folk would be on its way to see the mayor, but it is OK for us to kill a brother of the race to whom we look for justice. In killing that man the criminal has certainly hurt us and we have no right to the white man's

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Letters to the Editor

ANOTHER WALLACE REPLY

Editor: In reply to Mr. Wallace's letter of July 26, I must classify myself as one of those "dumb Negroes" who choose to live in the South. I shall attempt to answer Mr. Wallace's question. What has a black man got in the South that he could not as well have in the North plus a safe skin? Nothing.

Now I suppose you want to know why we stay in the South. First, we do not believe that the solution to our problem or any problem can be found away from the problem, but that the solution can best be achieved by fighting the evils and causes where they exist.

Second, we do not feel that any fight is ours alone. We believe that the struggles of the Negro of the South are the same as the struggles of the minorities of the world.

Third, we believe that as a result of World War II, a new world must reach the South. We have hope and faith in a new South and a new Negro in that South. The New South must provide all the rights of democracy to all its citizens. That new Negro will recognize his right, duty and responsibility in a democratic America.

Fourth, we have faith in the ability of liberal organizations to cope with many of the problems of the Southern Negro.

THE MOTE IN OUR EYE

Editor: May I ask when are we colored people going to exercise democracy among ourselves? During this week we learned of a colored ex-GI who in North Carolina won a fine car in a legal raffle only to be denied the right to claim it by the sheriff of the law in the town. Fair-minded white people got wind of the shameful act and have decided to do something to rectify it and restore the fellow's confidence in the white brother.

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Had that happened to one of us in a white community by a white man a committee of colored folk would be on its way to see the mayor, but it is OK for us to kill a brother of the race to whom we look for justice. In killing that man the criminal has certainly hurt us and we have no right to the white man's

deeds in the South. We are doing it here also.—Jose Lopez, NYC.

CHIDES NORTHERN NEGRO

Editor: Just a line to answer this person Edmund Wallace, who in the People's Voice of July 26 calls Negroes in the South "dumb" and says that if they stay down there, they love Bilbo and Rankin, whom Wallace says, "they elect." Wallace better wake up. Those Negroes in the South, particularly the ex-GIs, who testified against Bilbo—some 50 of them, cannot be praised too highly for their courage and intelligence, for risking their lives so that democracy might be extended to them. Those Negroes who, like Maceo Snipes, dared to vote and then lost their lives in consequence, have my undying gratitude. And those Negroes in Columbia, Tennessee, who fought back with guns against the whites who tried to invade the Negro section to lynch the vet who knocked down a white man for slapping his mother. I only hope that I would have such courage under such circumstances. And I hope that Mr. Wallace would have too. But meanwhile, I'm getting tired of these Northern Negroes who throw insults at our southern brothers who have the guts to stay and fight it out at home—from the comfort and security of New York City.—Larry Barrow, Bronx.

GOT SOMETHING HERE

Editor—I am constantly hearing how much we advance. I find that we don't advance as far as we should. In order to do so, we must break down the color caste among ourselves and band together as a race without segregating individuals.—Rafael Aupre, NYC.