

## OUR NEW NEGROES

A crisis of ominous magnitude which threatened the peace and security of our Negro population in Detroit has been overcome in the last forty-eight hours. The position of Negro workers in the auto industry suddenly became confused in the current struggle between organized labor and the Chrysler Corporation. It was revealed at a conference Saturday that a movement had been instigated among Negro workers of the Dodge plant to defy the picket line and enter the Dodge plant despite the strike. In short, some sinister forces had attempted to mobilize a scab army from among our people. Black workers had been maneuvered into a position to draw the fire of organized labor, a position which is not only untenable, but positively dangerous.

It was heartening to hear the civic, religious and political leaders of our community go on record in opposition to the principle of using Negro workers as scabs. Senator Diggs and a number of our leaders pointed out that for the handful of Negro workers to attempt to break a strike would certainly invite physical violence and bloodshed. Cognizant of this danger, appeals were broadcast to all officials concerned in the controversy in an effort to stave off a conflict which would lead to mass rioting between the black and white workers of this city. Our leaders were united against any movement which would pit workers of the two races against each other.

Without discussing the merits of the case of either the union or the employers, it is obvious to the colored citizenry that no labor dispute should be permitted to result in a racial clash. Our organizations and institutions have been fighting ever since slavery for social justice and the equality of opportunity in industry. We are daily preaching tolerance and interracial understanding. Prejudice and racial discrimination are irrational forces and they must be eliminated before our democracy can really work. The current labor dispute will be settled eventually and nothing should enter in this settlement which would be prejudicial to the interests of Negro workers.

The time has come when all the world should know that there is a New Negro in America. You cannot recruit a scab army from among our people and trick them into pulling other people's chestnuts out of the fire. The Negro worker is honest and courageous and he wants and demands a fair share of the opportunities in industry. He knows that he is not the pet of the employer any more than he is the pet of the union. Those forces at work to discredit the Negro worker and which seek to lead him to slaughter should be removed from society.