

THE JOBLESS, MONEYLESS, LEADERLESS, NEGRO WORKER
by
Frank R. Crosswaith

UNEMPLOYMENT, by general consent, represents one of the most serious questions facing modern society. Published reports from every nation - the highly industrialized as well as those still anchored in the less stormy waters of an agricultural economy - tell of the increasing seriousness of unemployment. Here in the United States, blessed with unlimited natural resources and with marvelous scientific and technical devices for producing in abundance all that the people need, the number of unemployed workers is said to be from anywhere six to nine millions.

IN EVERY LARGE CITY the breadlines are growing longer, lodging houses are over-crowded, and free soup kitchens are unable to feed the hungry, desperate men whose right to life, liberty and happiness politicians love so well to recite at election time. On every hand we see established Relief Committees to aid the unemployed; foot ball games are staged, special sermons are preached by leading clergymen, municipal employees and others are taxed and bigger and better drives are conducted to raise funds to alleviate the misery of the millions who live by "the sweat of their brow". Yet unemployment, with all the tragedy it spells for the workingclass, continues to grow more serious with each sunset.

IN THIS TORTURE CHAMBER of private capitalism it is the Negro who suffers most. Moneyless, jobless, leaderless and generally disfranchised and unorganized, he faces today the most serious problem in his entire history in the Western world. In the larger industrial cities, not only must he face the ordinary rigors of unemployment which all other workers face, but in addition he is confronted with race prejudice and discrimination in the distribution of relief, and more cruel than all else he is confronted with the problem of freeing himself from the coils of the unscrupulous human vultures who see in his every plight an opportunity to prey upon him and enrich themselves.

HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM? Is the question which statesmen, the clergy, scientists, educators and workers are eagerly asking. In an attempt to find the answer to the question Legislatures make special appropriations out of public moneys realized thru taxation, and private committees and charitable organizations raise huge sums by popular subscription. These efforts are praiseworthy and indicate a deep-rooted sense of social-mindedness on the part of society. However, these measures cannot solve the problem, for at best they are directed not at the source of the evil but at the effects.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS THE RESULT of our unsocial and planless method of producing and distributing wealth. By wealth we mean all those factors that go toward the satisfying of human needs. As long as industry is operated primarily for private profit and only incidentally to satisfy human needs, as long as the natural resources of the nation remain the property of individuals, unemployment will haunt society like Banquo's celebrated ghost.

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE is public ownership and democratic control of industry and of all other agencies upon which jointly our existence depends. This of course is Socialism, and according to Mr. Hoover and other apostles of prosperity for the few and poverty for the many, "the rugged individualism of the American people" would never tolerate Socialism. Socialism would "destroy the home" and "drag all men down to a common level" it would uproot "love of country" and negate the "steadying, spiritual and moral influences of religion" and besides, Socialism "is contrary to human nature" say the blind, the selfish, the unthinking, who in every age have tried in vain to dam the stream of human progress by the same sort of nonsense. However, while cowards sneer and the selfish berate and persecute those who read aright the signs of the times, unerringly our whole industrial and economic order lumbers on to the next mile post in social evolution, the while it inflicts unnecessary pain upon untold millions of the workingclass.

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FRANK CROSSWAITH TO TOUR

Frank Crosswaith, editor of the Negro Labor News Service will start on a nation-wide tour for the Socialist party and the trade unions, the evening of March 6. He will leave New York that day, and travel south and west to Los Angeles. He will spend two weeks there in helping in the election campaign of W. W. Busick who is running for city council. Then he will move northward along the Pacific coast to Portland and Seattle, returning east along the northern tier of states, thru the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, and back to his home.

It is expected that the tour will take at least two months. Organizations interested in securing Mr. Crosswaith's services are asked to write for details to the Social Problems Lecture Bureau, 2653 Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

WOULD END BAR AGAINST NEGRO DRIVERS

MADISON, Wis.-Discrimination against applicants for insurance because of their color or race is hit in a bill which Assemblyman Ben Rubin, Milwaukee, Socialist, has introduced in the Wisconsin legislature.

Negro drivers have been refused insurance protection by private insurance companies in Wisconsin because "they are of the wrong color," an investigation by Mr. Rubin shows.

In a test case brought in circuit court at Milwaukee it has been held that the court could not punish the insurance companies or agents under any of the existing laws of the state.

The proposed bill would make insurance companies liable to personal damages of \$10 and costs, to be paid to the individual refused insurance, and a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$200.

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