

THE NEGRO AND A NEW POLITICAL ALIGNMENT

by
Earl Lawson Sydnor

America's greatest authority on education, John Dewey, explained Thursday night, March 5th, at the Twentieth Century Club, Boston, Mass., the details and general principles of a new political alignment; a subject to which every Negro should lend an ear. Professor Dewey stated that the League for Independent Political Action would avoid making the same mistakes other progressive parties have made in the United States, namely building a political campaign around an outstanding personality only to have the organization (if it could be called such) Houdini'd out of the picture a few weeks after election.

"To assure a firm foundation for a new political alignment," said Dewey, "we must foster a program of education which must be taken to the masses of people."

Boston Negroes, for some strange reason, seem to respond less to progressive movements than do their other urban kinsmen, despite the fact that they have a greater advantage. None of the Boston Political Lights of the Race were there to hear Professor John Dewey, a scientific reservoir of study on the matter of a new political alignment. The Republicans and Democrats have a way of rigging up our "leaders" with a political job, and thereafter all that's necessary is the pressing of a button and the Race man cries, "Hurrah for the Good Old Party!". Even with proof of an admittance on the part of Parker that he didn't think the Negro in America was ready for citizenship, he was not without support from such Negroes.

Du Bois, a member of the Executive Committee of the League for Independent Political Action, undoubtedly represents the Negroes in this country; but such a gesture is futile if the rank and file of the race doesn't show some interest in this new political movement. This movement is gaining momentum among other groups, and I hope the Negro will not be the last one to wake up and join the march.

One must admit that such politics that are carried on in Democratic New York and in Republican Chicago cannot gain economic independence for the masses of dark America; that being so, it is up to the Negro worker, trained and untrained, to put his attention to a movement which will assure to the workers a New Emancipation.

The new movement proposes to place the country's natural resources under a public control and also seeks to bring our transportation system under a more adequate social control. Such a change in the policy of our government would open to the masses of Negroes jobs that have heretofore been closed under private ownership. In federal hands many industries would be compelled to open their gates to citizens regardless of race or creed.

The inadequate wage of the present day workingman is insufficient to save for old age, thus most Negroes are dependents in their declining years. An old age pension is advocated to insure a

respectable income to these veterans of industry who have worked all their lives for human progress. Something is radically wrong somewhere! A man gets a bonus for killing in the war yet our old people can't get a pension for devoting their lives to the country's economic advancement. All the new political alignment seems to do is to apply Christianity to our economic system.

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MUTE

by Earl Lawson Sydnor

I see the winter's gale
Curl silver whips on silent hills,
And do not hear the echoed lashes
Spent on Negroes' backs.

I hear the wind moan spirituals
Through bare brown branches,
And fail to recognize
A black man's password to eternity.

I see the sun deserting day,
And wildly scatter vivid red upon the wind....
I have no thought
That this might cheapen blood.

CROSSWAITH WINDS UP GREAT WEEK IN OHIO

CLEVELAND--In nine mass meetings and numerous additional smaller conferences, Frank R. Crosswaith, famous Negro orator and labor organizer, has aroused white hot enthusiasm in his seven-day visit to Ohio. He has spoken before students, labor union members, church audiences, and in general mass meetings open to the public, with capacity crowds in every case, and overflow audiences at times.

After organization campaigns in Chicago and Milwaukee ending March 26, Crosswaith will have several vacant dates until the beginning of his organization work for Colorado, on April 6. Groups between Chicago and Denver desiring his services should get in touch with the Socialist Party, National Headquarters, 2653 Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill. After Denver, Crosswaith will spend two weeks in Los Angeles.

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