

# Who Needs Commies? Whit Young Writes On Reds and Rights

By WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR.  
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THE STRANGE FACT that most Negroes trace their family history back to the "old country" is one of the most formidable reasons for the abject failure of the Communist Party to penetrate the Civil Rights movement or shake their loyalties.

During Hitler's rise to power, the Nazi Bund attracted throngs of German-Americans to its rallies in our big cities. Although nearly all German-Americans loyally rejected Hitler as soon as they discovered his global designs, their nostalgia and respect for Germany made them, for a time, susceptible to Bund recruiters and rallies.

Likewise Russian-Americans. The Communist Party here grew to record membership during the era of U.S.-Soviet "good feeling" during World War II. Americans of Russian extraction cheered Moscow's contributions to the war effort and some took out party cards.

Negro Americans, on the other hand, can't trace their origins to any foreign country, unless you want to count Alabama and Mississippi. And most that I know of do not have many nostalgic feelings for Governors Wallace and Johnson. Today, we share great pride in the accomplishments of the emerging African nations. But, as no particular country is involved, this concern and interest is comparatively general. Probably it is more like the spiritual bond which American Catholics have for the Vatican rather than, say, the pride Italian-Americans had for Mussolini until he poured the mustard gas on the Ethiopians.

### Big Strike

So the Red recruiters started off with one very big strike against them. They further antagonized Negroes by attempting to grab the legal defense in a number of southern trials of innocent Negroes. For some, it meant the kiss-of-death.

And Negroes who didn't suspect Red manipulation of the Scottsboro case for the purposes of anti-U.S. propaganda soon learned the American Communist Party was pro-Russian, not pro-Negro. I remember clearly how it advised Negroes in 1940 not to join the Army, even as the war clouds darkened, because Stalin and Hitler had signed their infamous non-aggression pact. But this tune changed radically as soon as Hitler's tanks rolled across the Soviet frontier.

By the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, the party's slavish chase after Moscow's twirling coattails with its almost daily twists and turns, had totally discredited it in the Negro community. The few remaining Negro Communist Party members dropped their membership. And only one of the score of turncoats that fell for North Korean brainwashing was Negro.

### In Korea

Negro troops in Korea, particularly in the bleak, early days of the war, distinguished themselves gallantly. Many saw in the Korean invasion not only a naked power attack against a small country but the dawn of a new attitude by their own nation toward Negro fighting men.

Only two years earlier, President Truman had issued his historic executive order banning racial bias in the armed services, and Negro troops felt that change was in the wind. They were right. Formerly all-Negro units — many which had been repeatedly wasted and humiliated during World War II — were integrated; more promotions were made on merit rather than race; and the appetite of colored troops for this new equality proved voracious.

As the chains of Jim Crow began to snap, Negro troops and civilians responded by a display of even stronger loyalties than in the past. Racial integration had thus slammed the door on the last of the party organizers and wary Negro leaders



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION—Among those wishing "many happy returns" to Mrs. Curtis Hall (second row center) at recent birthday party hosted by her parents, Rev. and Mrs. I. W. Wilson, were (front from left) Mrs. Jerry Hoggard, Mrs. Isaac White and Mrs. Joe Haynes; (second row from left) Margaret Crawford, Curtis and Lorayne Hall, Mrs. Percy Penn and Mrs. Catherine Andrews; (rear from left) Rev. I. W. Wilson, Jerry Hoggard, Mrs. H. P. Fitzgerald, Capt. Percy Penn and H. P. Fitzgerald.

have spared no effort to keep them from infiltrating the rights movement.

America's Negro citizens don't need a Khrushchev or Kosygin to tell us that rats are biting our kids up in Harlem. We've known all about it for some time now. And when the book is written on the story of America's Negro citizens I think historians will record that, for loyalty, patience, and patriotism, their record has been nothing short of miraculous.

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