

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BICENTENNIAL

by William L. Patterson

Continued from last week.....

Filled with fear of slave uprisings the slave holders and mercantile capitalists with whom they cooperated enlarged upon their fictional ruling class - the privilege of being hired first and fired last, enjoying a little greater job security except in moments of recession, commanding the avenues of skilled labor and with contempt for human dignity in a Black skin, millions of white workers have accepted the racist myths of the class in power and become collaborators with the enemies of all labor. The majority of white mass leaders, especially from the ranks of labor, were bribed to use the racist ideology and terror tactics to split the ranks of the exploited and oppressed along the color-line.

Through racism capitalism has enjoyed huge successes. It has made of racism a stinking weapon, the pollution from which pervades every nook and cranny of the social atmosphere.

Accepting the myth that the exploited and oppressed citizenry of color is of an inferior breed and without knowledge of the magnificent struggles citizens of color have made to extend this democracy to all, the great mass of exploited white citizens cannot recognize in toilers of color a mutuality of class interests, and in unity the secret of successful struggle. They have been hoaxed, ideologically and psychologically twisted. Now the promoters of the Bicentennial celebration will seek only the continuation of racial hostility among the masses. Let us not forget that those who determine the policies of government have savagely opposed through their courts, their F.B.I. and C.I.A. those who consistently fought against the strategy and tactics that have kept the nation split.

Non-whites have been tricked into believing that the great mass of whites regardless of their class are inherently racist; that racism stems from that source and is its property. The doctrine of "Divine and rule" has prevailed. Neither Black nor white en masse saw the other realistic terms.

In the present period of inflation and recession brought on through the greed, cupidity and aggressiveness of U. S. imperialism and its genocidal racialism, those who have so heroically and consistently fought for equality of rights for all should intensify their fight for liberation and break with the concept that racialism is the property of the white masses. The fight for unity is a process of vast political significance.

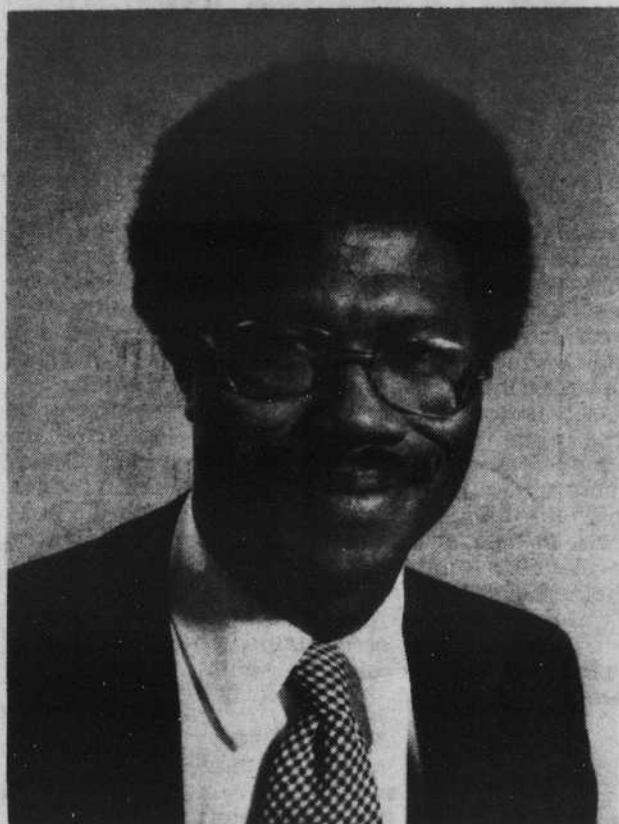
Neither the British, French nor the American bourgeoisie fought the racist myths of the fascist regime of Hitler as they attempted maintenance of their colonies and their exploitive relations with peoples of color disclose. But the government of the USSR, distinguished as a multiplicity of creeds and inseparably united nations of colors, smashed the armed forces of the enemy. It had rejected and now undermined the moral and psychological foundations of Nazi racist mythology.

The League of Nations had gone down the drain before the racist onslaught of the United Nations. This aided immeasurably the national liberation battles of the African, Asian, Latin American and other peoples struggling for national liberation.

Those constantly fighting racism have allies everywhere. The fight against it has been made the concern of progressive humanity. The rank and file of labor, citizens of color, all who are victims of inflation, and repression, the fighters for peace should organize for the Bicentennial celebration. This historical event is not the property of those who for two hundred years have made of racism a policy of government and now are desperately seeking to keep it so.

The ruling class of these United States will go into the Bicentennial celebration as a racist state and come out by the door through which it entered -- true to its class and its racist policy. But for 25 million or more Black citizens and millions of others of color, to say nothing of the progressive forces of this country, the Bicentennial celebration calls for a program of unity and intensified struggle for peace and freedom against imperialism and its racist strategy and tactics which threaten the security of all humanity.

NEW DIRECTOR AT ERDA



Mr. Grover Lewis has been appointed Director of the Electronic Data Processing and Administrative Services Division of the ERDA's Nevada Operations Office in Las Vegas. Mr. Lewis had been Manager of the Computers Systems Department for Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) at Las Vegas since 1968.

From 1965 to 1968, he was a task leader and individual contributor on teams that designed and implemented operating systems, language processors, information storage and retrieval systems, and computer stimulations for CSC in Los Angeles.

Prior to joining CSC he was a staff member at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories for eight years where he was a consultant to scientists in the use of the laboratory's extensive computing facilities.

For several years Mr. Lewis has been involved in civic activities which currently include: Education Committee Chairman, Las Vegas Branch, NAACP; Member, Citizen's Advisory Committee, Clark County School District Emergency School Aid Act; and Chairman, Citizen's Advisory Committee, Economic Opportunity Board Emergency School Aid Act.

Mr. Lewis received his BS degree in Mathematics in 1956 with honors at Arkansas AM&N College, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and an MA degree in Mathematics, University of Arkansas in 1957. He is a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society.

Mr. Lewis and Mrs. E. Lavonne Lewis have three children, Erica, Gordon and Marianne.

OPTIMISM FOR ADC GRANT

Ruby Duncan of Clark County Welfare Rights and Women's Lobby stated her optimism about the Aid to Dependent Children program receiving 100% of need. "I was very happy to speak before the seven Senators of the Senate Finance Committee for the 100% of need in A.D.C grants a few Friday's ago. I witnessed the humanity of Senator Lamb as chairman and the rest of the dedicated men on his Committee and I want to thank them for understanding the problems of needy children and their mothers."

The Ways and Means Committee of the Nevada State Assembly conducted hearings on various welfare programs of the Human Resources Division of the State and Ms. Duncan said, "I feel very encouraged with the manner in which this committee also dealt with the proposed and existing programs of the welfare division and particularly the A.D.C budget and our proposals. We are hopeful that the two committees will come together to provide needy women and children in this state and during this period of intense inflation and unemployment with 100% of need. This would mean a substantial increase over the present \$201 a family of four now receives and which is based upon only 61% of need. The U.S. Department of Labor identifies the poverty level in this country at \$375 a month for a family of four. The state is now a tremendous \$174 a month behind the poverty level -- and how can any family live on \$201 a month (as Senator Lamb has stated) and pay rent, feed children and pay the utility bills as well as other essential parts of life. I know that this Legislature is much more understanding of the problems of poor people and I am very happy to see how receptive they are to our proposals."

The ADC program will be considered by both the Senate Finance and the Assembly Ways and Means committees again as each one looks at the state budgets and reevaluates it in terms of proposals presented to them by welfare rights advocates Ruby Duncan, Maya Miller, Diana Axley (of Clark County Welfare Rights), and Barbara Siberling of Women's Lobby.

Maya Miller also commented on the reception by the Senate Finance Committee regarding the ADC proposals of Women's Lobby which operates out of her office in Washoe Valley. "Since 1970 when the women's movement first began its activism in this state, I have believed that the Aid to Dependent Children program based on providing these women who are taking care of children alone is the very base line of the movement for equality and elimination of discrimination toward women. And today we are cheered by the Legislature's growing understanding of the discriminatory nature of the present ADC program which is made up of 98 percent women as compared to other welfare programs (which contain at least half men) and which all receive 100% of need. The welfare child receives \$42 -- the foster child \$130 for instance. The aged and blind all receive 100% of need. I wish to compliment Senator Lamb and Senator Mahlon Brown because they recognize this discrimination and are understanding of what poverty really means to women and children who are enrolled in the A.D.C. program. I am eagerly awaiting their final decisions on these budgets."

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