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# Negro Author Sees Disaster if CP Gains Control of Colored Workers

by Claude McKay

Published in *The New Leader* [New York], vol. 21, no. 37 (Sept. 10, 1938), pg. 5.

My attention has just been called to an article on the Federal Writers' Project in the issue of *The New Leader* of July 23 [1938], in which it was stated that I have fought against "Communist domination of the Negroes on work relief." It would be more correct to say that I have resented Communist persecution of non-Communist workers.

To fight Communist domination I would have to fight the union of the unemployed and WPA workers and I stand by the principle of unionism. It must be admitted that more than any other group the Communists should be credited with the effective organizing of the unemployed and relief workers.

From the Administration today they won the right of Federal relief workers to organize and it is inevitable that the Communists will be politically powerful in the unions they control just as, for example, the Socialists formerly dominated the needle trades unions.

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I am opposed to the Communists, not, like the Trotskyites and other opposition Communists, on account of their special opportunist interpretation of Marxian ideas, but because I do not accept the basic political ideology of Communism.

(1) I reject absolutely the idea of government by dictatorship, which is the pillar of political Communism.

(2) I am intellectually against the Jesuitical tactics of the Communists: (a) their professed conversion to the principles of Democ-

racy, which is obviously fake, since they defend the undemocratic regime in Russia and loudly laud its bloodiest acts; (b) their skunking behind the smokescreen of People's Front and Collective Security, supporting the indefensible imperialistic interests of European nations and deliberately trying to deceive the American people; (c) their criminal slandering and persecution of their opponents, who have remained faithful to the true traditions of radicalism and liberalism.



More important than the fear of Communists dominating the Negroes on work relief (especially through the talents of their colored members among the Federal writers!) is my concern about the Communists capturing the entire colored group by cleverly controlling such organizations as the so-called National Negro Congress.

Experience since the Emancipation should have taught the various colored leaders that it is a mistake to deliver the colored people over to any one political party. The colored minority has special problems to face and should itself organize its powers for social and political preferments, similar to other American minorities.

It would be bad enough for the colored minority to be owned by any purely American party, as it formerly was by the Republican Party. But it would be disastrous if it were captured by a Communist Party, which, despite its professions to the contrary, is the highly-controlled Propaganda Bureau of the Communist International, which is dominated by the Russian Government.

For in the eventuality of a crisis developing between the United States and Soviet Russia, the colored minority might find itself in a very vulnerable and unenviable position. As a member of this group and also as a radical thinker, I am specially concerned about its future and the danger of its being maneuvered through high-powered propaganda into the morass of Communist opportunism.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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