

Negro Trade Union Militants Show A.F.L. Sellout of Porters

On the occasion of William Green's arrival in New York to speak before the Pullman porters whose strike he together with the rest of the A. F. of L. Executive Council betrayed, the Department of Negro Work of the Trade Union Educational League issued a statement which follows in part:

Fellow Workers:

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will address you this Sunday afternoon, upon the invitation of your leaders.

Will William Green tell you why the Brotherhood's strike was betrayed at the instigation of the American Federation of Labor? Will he tell you why he and the others of the reactionary clique which controls the A. F. of L. were so reluctant in recognizing the Brotherhood and the right of the Negro employees of the millionaire Pullman Company to organize for a living wage? Or why, after they reluctantly recognized this right of yours, they proceeded to issue local charters to your various locals instead of an international charter for your organization as a whole? What was their purpose in thus seeking to prevent your unity of action? Why did they prevent and betray your strike at a time when even your national organizer admitted that the chances of success were excellent? Why did they insist on giving the Pullman Company warning of your intention and time to organize strike-breaking measures.

The Negro workers are rightly

suspicious of the A. F. of L. Our memory may be short, as our oppressors believe, but we well remember how the A. F. of L. betrayed the strike of the Negro laundry workers of New York City, going the length of calling off this strike and recalling their charter when these terribly exploited workers tried to abolish some of the heart-breaking misery existing in the laundry industry. It was the A. F. of L. leadership that consigned these Negro workers back to the hellish exploitation of the pitiless laundry bosses from which they sought to escape by organization. Yes, the Negro workers have cause to remember the treacherous role of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy!

Fellow workers of the Brotherhood! Join the fight against the rotten, treacherous A. F. of L. leadership!

Join the struggle for the removal of the color bar in all working class organizations, for the abolition of race hatred and racial separation, for the abolition of lynching and white ruling class terrorism which will only be abolished by a united working class.

Join the new trade union center. Send delegates to the trade union unity convention in Cleveland, August 31.

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(Endorsed by the American Negro Labor Congress.)