

A Blow at Negroes Too

By Doxey Wilkerson

Morris Schappes must be freed! This immediate goal of all progressive Americans is of especial concern to the Negro people.

Schappes fought for all that the Negro people cherish. His imprisonment is a travesty against the democratic traditions of our country. It is a victory for precisely those fascist forces which our whole nation now girds itself to destroy. Americans, white and Negro together, will not allow this injustice to stand.

I knew Morris Schappes many years before I joined the Communist Party. I was early impressed by his personal modesty and integrity, together with his scholarly professional attainments. Even more was I impressed by his uncompromising championship of full citizenship rights for the Negro people. In addition to his many other progressive activities, Morris U. Schappes:

1. Campaigned vigorously for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys over a decade ago;

2. Fought successfully for introduction of a course in Negro history at City College;

3. Took a leading part in the long, but finally successful, struggle of the Teachers Union for the appointment of Negro teachers in the colleges of New York City;

4. Actively opposed the presentation at City College of the anti-Negro, Ku Klux Klan-inspired, white-supremacy film, "Birth of a Nation."

5. Fought against Jim Crow residential restrictions upon Negro citizens; and

6. Wrote and spoke and acted throughout his notable career to bring about that understanding and cooperation between white and Negro Americans which alone can save and build a strong, democratic society in our land.

For this Morris Schappes is sent to prison!

Technically, Schappes was convicted for "perjury" for testifying that he knew only four other Communists on the faculty of City College. But this legalistic deceit fools no one, not even the justices by whom it was authored.

In a period when the Dies-Rapp-Coudert witchhunts were whipping up a reactionary smokescreen of hysteria at the behest of our native American fascists, Schappes was convicted because he was a fearless, uncompromising fighter against fascism. It is as simple as that.

Now that our country has, at last, thrown its whole resources to the destruction of fascism, it is simply incredible that this pioneer anti-fascist should be sent to prison. **He must not be allowed to remain there!**

The resources of the courts have now been exhausted. All that remains is the indignation of an outraged citizenry—focused upon the Governor of the State of New York. But this is quite enough.

Governor Thomas E. Dewey must face the imprisonment of Morris Schappes for what it is—the revolting persecution of a true patriot whose whole being cried out and fought for the goals which now command the allegiance of our nation as a whole.

Wire or write to Governor Dewey (Albany, N. Y.). Urge him to pardon and free Morris Schappes. Get your friends to write. **DO THIS NOW!**

Americans hate fascism and all its works—especially when its ugly head is raised right here among us. Just as millions of our British allies now clamor for the re-imprisonment of the English fascist, Mosley, so let millions of outraged Americans demand the immediate release of our valiant anti-fascist, Morris Schappes.

We still can free Morris Schappes. **We must—and we will!**

