

GROUP WARS ON "UNCLE TOM" MOVIE

Hit Slur Parts in Castings — Want
Negroes to Act Decent Roles

The much glorified "Negro Hollywood" and Walter White's allegedly successful Hollywood campaign were blasted by Leon H. Washington, Jr., editor and publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel and leader of the recent picket line on "Tales of Manhattan" which has rocked Hollywood and caused Negro actors and bit players to organize and combat what they termed as a movement to injure Negro motion picture players.

"Hollywood," said Washington, "is the most vicious race baiting jimcrow, propaganda disseminating agency in America. We've entered this campaign with the full knowledge in order to better our conditions that we must not only fight America's best propaganda agents but also a few Negro hatchet men. Recently our activities have been publicized from one angle.

Call for "New Order"

"The motion picture industry in Hollywood is beyond a doubt the world's largest business depending upon the public for its existence. Today, it is common knowledge that Hollywood is a propaganda agency. If we are to be successful in our struggle for the complete integration of the Negro into every phase of American life we must militantly demand fair play for Negroes in Hollywood. Every theatre goer is acquainted with the Hollywood version of the Negro as a shiftless, carefree, crapshooting, boisterous, gin drinking, anti-bellum, clownish Uncle Toms and Aunt Dinah's."

"Saboteurs of our Hollywood Fair-play Campaign point out that the recent role played by Ernest Anderson in "In This Our Life" with Bette Davis, as an indication of a change in Hollywood's attitude but they failed to say that Anderson went back to his job as a service boy to other persons whose ability cannot be compared with his. Mr. White's visit to Hollywood, no doubt, was of much benefit but on the other hand we cannot believe that a leopard can change his spots. We're justified in that belief by a release this week from Harry Levette, Hollywood Associated Negro Press columnist who writes "Gossip of the Movie Lots." He pointed out that Hattie McDaniels was given a free hand to change her script in a number of pictures, principally "Can This Be Dixie?" Clarence Muse objected to kissing the hem of his mistress' dress; Louise Beavers objected to the word "nigger" in "Imitation of Life" which as Levette says "ran freely all throughout the screen story," and to a near lynching scene when Peola, pretending to be white, accused a young colored man of attempting to flirt with her. Just as they had strung him up she breaks down and screams:

"don't do it, I'm a nigger too." And just last week at Fox Studio, says Levette, there was a scene where Rochester was to be hidden in the woodpile. Benny was to tell Rochester to come out of that woodpile." Rochester objected and the scene was left out. The shooting of this scene comes one month after Mr. White's much heralded Hollywood's good fellowship luncheon conference.

Want All Lines

"These statements by Mr. Levette who is supposed to be in on the know are conclusive evidence that the studios have no intention of changing their version of the Negro unless they are forced to do so.

"In this respect we feel that we will be of vital importance to the actors and actresses. Acting is but one phase of our campaign. Hollywood employs thousands of cameramen, carpenters, painters, etc. We believe that Negroes should be employed in every field of the movie industry.

"The bit players work now and then and Negroes engaged in other phases of Hollywood could be employed 52 weeks out of a year. The publicity departments of these studios are staffed by highly skilled publicity men and we see no reason why Mr. Levette and other Hollywood writers who are opposed to our campaign should not be employed according to their abilities. Then Hollywood could contribute to the bringing about of a more friendly relationship between the darker races of the world today who are fighting with the United Nations.

The Hollywood Fair Play Committee is organized solely for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of Hollywood and 13,000,000 people.

U.P. APOLOGIZES FOR RACIAL SLUR

New York, N.Y.—In answer to a protest the National office of the N. A.A.C.P. received this week an apology from the United Press Association for the use of the phrase "one black Negro buck" in a U.P. story which appeared recently in the Muskogee, Oklahoma Daily Phoenix. The story was of the Chicago arrest of 4 Negro draft evaders.

PHOENIX FUND

Iowa City, Iowa — Negro college students of the University of Iowa have developed a plan to serve their country, buy United States War Bonds and help themselves, too.

The plan is called the "Phoenix Fund." Under it any colored student at the University may enroll and pay a ten cent War Savings Stamp each week of the school year and one dollar per month during vacation when most of the boys are employed.

No one paying into the fund is assured of receiving a single penny in return but it is planned to use the fund which is now past the \$3,000 mark to assist returning "Phoenix" members following their tour of duty in the armed forces.

The money is being invested in Series F. War Bonds.

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