

'GONE WITH THE WIND'

"Gone With The Wind" has opened with a great hurrah in Atlanta, Ga. A new wave of hatred against the black people—tenth of our country's citizens—gets another push forward. "Gone With The Wind" is propaganda, pure propaganda, crude propaganda. It is anti-Negro propaganda of the most vicious character. It is un-American propaganda. It is subversive.

All of the factors which create contempt and hatred for a people are turned loose in "Gone With The Wind." The black man is pictured as a docile willing slave; he is pictured as a happy, carefree, buck-dancing, banjo-thumping "darky," the old "Uncle Tom" type. He is depicted as a raving beast, a rapist, a menace to "civilized and cultured" white womanhood.

In this respect then black womanhood is degraded and slandered. The Negro woman becomes by inference the free prey of any sex-crazed beast. The ravishing of any and every black woman is justified. The lynching of any black man is shown to be "legal" since all of them are equal to the commission of any and all crimes. This is the essence of "Gone With The Wind." It makes mockery of civil liberties.

All of the elements to create a mad lust for a lynch holiday are included in "Gone With The Wind." It is one of the most openly vicious pictures which have ever passed the sanction of Film Czar Will Hayes. "Gone With The Wind" is the voice of the lyncher coming from the screen.

The response? What do you believe the response to this viciously un-American and subversive propaganda can be? Can it be other than a basis for an "open season" of attacks upon the democratic rights and civil liberties of black men and women? Of course not.

Mob hysteria is being whipped up on a national scale. The lies and slanders of the landlord slave owning, lynch inciting South are being sold on a country-wide scale. The black man is becoming in America the victim of a Hitlerian campaign of a savage nature.

"Gone With The Wind" is the campaign of vilification that precedes a new wave of mob terror against black people. Who is responsible?

The newspapers of President Roosevelt's "Economic Royalists" praise the picture. Is it not known to be a falsification of history? Certainly it is. It is as much a distortion of the Civil war as it is of the place of black men in America's past. Yet it is lauded. Why?

Because those who are gambling and profiteering in foodstuffs, raising the price of bread, butter, milk, meat and potatoes are also seeking to inflame the racial feelings of one group against another. In this way the unity of the American people against the profiteer will be prevented. This is a well known trick of the enemies of the Negro people. Big Business looses the "wind" of hate against our people.

Into the face of a people who want freedom and equality and who are prepared to struggle for what is Constitutionally theirs, some movie magnates stand ready to throw mob-incited white America. At the throat of black America, "Gone With The Wind" is poised like a dagger. And men in the highest places of the government are strangely silent. Is this to be the course of our boasted civilization in the years immediately ahead? This is Fascism.

We put the question to the members of the Race in America: Is it not time for a mass protest? Does "Gone With The Wind" mean anything to Martin Dies and Frank W. Murphy? The one is supposed to suppress the subversive, the other to protect a people from a monstrous conspiracy of hate.

Let our pulpits voice their protests and our public men get busy. If we do not fight our own battles we are a lost people. The attack sweeps from the economic and political fronts to the cultural front. We must organize our indignation. The National Negro Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have a task ahead.