

'Gone With The Wind'

A REVIEW

By

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Lies About The Civil War

It Glorifies Slavery

Sons of Rebels Cheer It

A Farce On Democracy

"Gone With The Wind" is the Christmas gift of the economic royalists who own Hollywood body and soul to Negro America. No need to say of it "beware of Greeks bearing gifts." The film literally speaks for itself. It has lied about the Civil War period shamelessly. It has distorted and twisted the history of the era which saw democracy fighting for its life against the inhuman system of human slavery.

"Gone With The Wind" has glorified slavery. In glorifying the slavery of yesterday it has deliberately thrown down the gage of battle to those who are seeking to advance democracy today.

"Gone With The Wind" has martyred the southern plantation owner. In martyring this relic of barbarism "Gone With The Wind" not only

"morally justifies" the slave breeding pen and the degradation of Negro womanhood and manhood, it has scorned upon and desecrated the love that democratic white America has for freedom and truth.

The smell of the slave market is upon the picture. Let me say here, that the slave market of yesterday with black man and woman upon the block is "morally justified" in "Gone With The Wind," in order that the terror of the landlords, the klan and the lynching bee of today will be favorably understood and accepted. The return of slave conditions is the objective.

It is no accident that this sequel to "The Birth of a Nation" comes when it does. Infinitely more vicious than "The Birth of a Nation," "Gone With The Wind" gains its added infamy by reason of the time at which it is launched. The task assigned "Gone With The Wind" is the destruction of the Emancipation Proclamation.

"Gone With The Wind" has made of the Negro man a grotesque and ravishing beast—a rapist, an impossibly low and debased creature for whose elevation there is no hope. It has made of Negro womanhood a wanton wench ready to accept the advances of any man.

This is a propaganda attack of the first magnitude against Negro America. This is the moral justification for the denial of all demands for full and complete democratic rights.

But if "Gone With the Wind" were true it would be the greatest condemnation of American democracy yet written. If after 300 years American democracy in the hands of its economic royalists has put the Negro in this low estate then the vitality of that democracy, its power to solve the problems of mass unemployment, of child labor, of illiteracy, of relief, of social security are small indeed.

"Gone With the Wind" is a weapon of terror against black America. It is a weapon of lies and misrepresentation calculated to turn white America away from the democratic struggle and against Negroes.

The New York Times gives one the image of its success. "Atlanta is won by film of the South," it says. Speaking of the audience the New York paper continues, "They cheered and applauded the dramatic announcement of war with the North." That is they cheered the efforts of those who sought to destroy our nation that the bestial institution of human slavery might be extended.

"The local newspapers," we are told, "had managed to restore the latent spirit of the confederacy that seems to persist in most Atlantans. These editions even carried grave instructions to the populace on how to give the 'rebel yell.'" And the rebel yell rang out.

In other words black Atlanta was warned of the coming day when the old slavery will return again. "White supremacy" reigned supreme. And white supremacy, of the period of the days of the Confederacy, meant what? It meant that the poor whites of the hills had less than they have now when the successors of the slave owners have made of the South the No. 1 economic problem of our country, a place of hunger and want.

"Gone With the Wind" is aimed at the white sharecropper, the jobless white workers, the poverty stricken white migrants roaming the country in their jalopies, the illiterate white youth who are cut off from school because the landlords looted the school treasury. "Gone With the Wind" is aimed at American democracy. That is the reason why the press of the economic royalists will laud it.

Negroes were barred from its Atlanta premiere. It was taken to

the South to strengthen all the barriers created between the starving whites and the bitterly oppressed black people. Hollywood produced it for that purpose. Will Hayes, movie censor, released it for that purpose. One has only to seriously consider the moment when it is released to understand that fact.

Millions of Negro and white workers are today unemployed. Production is higher than 1929 and yet there is no place in the productive life of our country for these jobless Americans. But Americans will not starve in the midst of plenty and those who control and own work and food know that well.

The government is preparing further relief cuts. Billions are appropriated for cannons, but nothing is given for the unemployed to buy bread and butter. Millions are desperately looking for a way out. The economic royalists have no perspective that means recovery for the people. They have war but that is only death in another form.

The course now taken by those who control the government is the course which in 1917 carried us into war despite the efforts to decry the war danger. This is in part a general picture. But a survey of the Negroes position gives us a scene much worse.

Approximately half of the Negro population of the country is without work. This is a conservative estimate. Millions are without relief of any kind. Those among the Negroes who are working are carrying those who are not, and the Negro employed are the poorest paid of all Americans. Their burdens are terribly heavy.

The Negro press in every issue is relating the discrimination in the machinery of social security. Difficulties increase for black men to get on the WPA. Private jobs are harder still.

The klan is riding. In Atlanta on the 25th of November 8000 klansmen marched. Undoubtedly they have called for "Gone With the Wind." On the economic, political and cultural fronts conditions grow worse for Negroes.

At the same time the Negro people are beginning to appreciate that there is need for national unity. Ours is a people's struggle. We begin to see it so. This understanding marks a great political advance. Negroes could not successfully be used as strike breakers in the Detroit auto strike. There were independent strike struggles by Negro workers such as in Cairo, Ill.

In Miami the Negro people defied the Klan and voted. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is tackling the jimcrow school question. A fight is developing against peonage led by Atty. William Huff of Chicago and the International Labor Defense. The National Negro Congress is intensifying the struggle for civil liberties. The Negro people are stirring. Their efforts to better their conditions coincide with those struggles of the jobless white workers and the landless white farmers.

These two lines of struggle are converging. Their meeting point marks the place where better conditions start. Unity of white workers and poor farmers and black America spells jobs, relief, democracy and recovery for the people.

"Gone With the Wind" comes at such a moment. Can any one doubt by that its release was a conscious matter. Big industrialists know what they want.

In 1919 when economic and political conditions were desperate for the great masses of the people we had race riots in half a dozen cities. We know today that such papers as the Hearst press, the Washington Post and the Chicago Tribune provoked these clashes.

The problem of those who are raising food prices, who are profiteering on war materials and who cry for more relief cuts is to keep



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the people divided. The division along the color line is the easiest because of the age old prejudices and hatreds big business has ingested against the Negro people.

The entire preparation for the disgraceful premiere of "Gone With the Wind" and the still more provocative manner in which it was carried through with its rebel yells and Negro baiting not only is proof of its un-American character but is also proof of its purpose.

"There was," says the New York Times, "a revival of the spirit of the old South."

It is time that America in general became alarmed. It is time Negroes stopped to think. The attack is against our constitutional rights. The 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments are at stake. The anti-lynch bill is in grave danger.

"Gone With the Wind" is a warning that cannot go unheeded.

Frank W. Murphy has been notified concerning the existence of peonage. He does nothing. The growing activities of the klan are called to his attention by the Department of Justice only acknowledges receipt of letters and does not always do that.

Constitutional rights and civil liberties were not given to black America. We as a people fought as did all of progressive America to put the Bill of Rights into the Constitution. We fought and died to make a place for the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendment to the Constitution. We helped to bring woman suffrage to that immortal document. Black America is no suppliant. Black America has won its right to sit at the table of democracy and to enjoy every bounty heaped upon that board.

It is time that the Negro press began a concerted drive to protect the few liberties we have and to demand the extension of our liberties.

The Negro must ally himself with every progressive militant force in American life. Big business is out to destroy democracy. Martin Dies, the Bund, the Klan, Father Coughlin, the vigilantes are all proof of this.

Attorney General Murphy moves to strike down those who have fought for Negro rights but offers only honeyed words about democracy to those who stand confronted by the forces of reaction.

Negro America can call for the banning of "Gone With the Wind." Appeals can be made to Washington. The film is subversive and un-American.

Negro America can demand that:

1. A concerted persistent and systematic campaign shall be waged by every department of the United States, Tenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth spread of all forms of racial hatred and prejudices to the end that no expression of racial discrimination shall be possible in governmental circles.

2. That the federal government shall sharply direct the attention of the country as a whole to the growing wave of Klan and other

un-American persecution of the Negro people.

3. That the democratic rights and civil liberties of the Negro people shall be maintained inviolate.

4. There must be an assurance from responsible governmental heads that the Constitution in its entirety shall apply and the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments specifically shall apply in all matters pertaining to the Negro people.

Frederick Douglass admonished us to be prepared. "Nothing is won without struggle," he said.

The great tradition of struggle to which we are heirs calls now for a real fight for life against reaction and terror for jobs, social security, democracy and Race.