

BOOK REVIEW

Every Negro intellectual should read this book. As an example of the way by which both normal and unusual vicissitudes may be transformed into direct media of propaganda and calls to action it has much to offer the Negro intelligentsia, many of whom all too easily succumb to a condition lying somewhere between complete emotion self-pity and social and political apathy.

Negro intellectuals ought to familiarize themselves with these "Letters from the Tombs. Frequently the prisoner Schappes notes Negro inmates of The Tombs, and in several instances relates upon their lives and experiences.

In his own tier, out of 43 inmates, 20 were Negroes. Something to think about! There was Gerald the printer, Raymond of the kinked hair, Henry the Lone Walker, and a number of others. But as far as I am able to discover, not a single Negro intellectual. I think

I am not being supercilious or facetious to ask the question, "Why?"

Browder is in jail. Schappes, the intellectual school teacher, wrote these letters from The Tombs. Legion is the number of victim in our jails because they dared to speak the word in behalf of their struggling fellow men. But of Negro intellectuals . . .

Let me not be misunderstood. This is no plea for more Negro intellectual in our jails. There is no virtue as such merely in reclining behind prison walls. But apropos of this situation George Schuyler, recently has uttered what I think is a rather significant challenge: "When one of our well-fed, degree-burdened 'leaders' goes to jail for Negro freedom from discrimination and segregation," he says, "I'll volunteer to take a sunbath in January in Nova Zembla." (Wherever that is).

I do not follow the sardonic Schuyler in much that he says, but these words give us reason to pause and think. If a Morris U. Schappes can risk jail, actually go there in fact, because, among other things, he is determined to get at the root of the issue of anti-

Negro prejudice, then what about us Negro intellectuals? Jail may not be the place for us, but certainly we need to be in the kind of firing line and battle ground for our people which inevitably make the jail-house peril an imminent one.

But this book is not only for the Negro intellectuals. Every Negro worker needs to read it. When Richard Wright in his introduction says, "Read these letters with an honest heart and your heart will tell you that the society which seeks to imprison Morris U. Schappes is wrong," he is saying in fact, "The society which oppresses the Negro people is wrong."

Schappes was a Communist. For this he lost his position as teacher in the New York City College, did a stretch in the Tombs, and is now appealing a sentence of one and a half to two years in State Prison. Whatever your feelings about Communism, your honest heart must tell you after reading these beautiful expressions to his wife, that soul like Schappes, devoted to the pursuit of justice and happiness for all people, particularly the crushed of the earth like the economically underprivileged and the Negroes, needs to be out in the clear where it may be free to operate among the masses, (as well as within the classes), bringing light where there is darkness, beauty

where there is ugliness, hope where there is despair and the smell of

I hope every Negro reader will try to obtain a copy of these letters. (The price is only 25c). After he has read them he should set out to do the following things:

1. Pass on the copy to another.
2. Enlist in the common struggle for democracy throughout the world.
3. Concretize every reaction to the volume by fighting side by side with those who are demanding that Morris U. Schappes be made a completely free man.

Central High Wins Three Out of Four Still Undefeated

Goldsboro. — The fighting Panthers of Central High School are still undefeated after nine starts season. During the past week the Panthers and Pantherettes . . .

On Tuesday night the Panthers and Pantherettes found it easy in over coming their foes. The girls winning by a score of 11 to 3 with J. Braswell leading the way with five points. The Boys won 24-12.

"THE CHAMP" SCORES A DOUBLE KNOCKOUT!



Private Joe Louis, World's Heavyweight Champion, walked off with double honors at the Annual Boxing Writers' Association dinner held in the Jacob Ruppert Brewery, New York City. First he was awarded the Edward J. Neil Memorial Plaque as the man who contributed most to boxing during 1941, and then he received the Ring Magazine's Plaque for being voted the outstanding fighter of the year. Photo shown left to right: Nat Fleischer, Editor of "The Ring"; Mike Jacobs, boxing promoter; former Postmaster General James A. Farley; Joe Louis; George E. Ruppert; Murray Lewin, Pres. Boxing Writer's Assn.; and J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Chief.

W. A. Parks high scorer for the Panthers with 13 points and Cooper of Selma with 5 points.

In Wilmington on Friday the Pantherettes lost a hair raiser to the sextet of Williston by the time of 40-32 after 32 minutes of exciting, fast-breaking basketball. High scorer for Central High was J. Braswell 20 and E. Hobbs 8. and of the first quarter. But in the first three minutes of play in the second quarter Central made three quick field goals to take the lead and kept it the remaining of the game to win by a score of 23-25. A Parks was high scorer for the Panthers with 14 and Jones next with 6.

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