

CARTON 10:13 THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

Proposition 1

1938

Proposition No. 1 Defeat Urged on Voters

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You Must Vote 'No' on No. 1

Every voter in this community MUST vote "NO" on Proposition Number One on next Tuesday's ballot.

There is no room for honest difference of opinion on a measure that would curtail freedom of speech, prohibit free assemblage, crush labor, forbid boycotts, and open the door to dictatorship. It is the first step backward toward slavery.

Residents of this community do not need to be reminded of the benefits that have come to them through "Don't Spend Your Money Where You Can't Work" drives. Such campaigns would be forbidden under Number One; those who advocated them would be liable to imprisonment.

Everybody knows that it has been necessary to picket unfair places of business in which Negroes were denied the right to work solely on the basis of race. Picketing of that kind would be forbidden under Number One; those who dared to do it could be sentenced to San Quentin.

Your friends and neighbors, your fathers and husbands who work on railroads, and those who work in many other industries, are members of unions which have won them substantial wage increases and shortening of hours. Those unions will be crushed under Proposition One. Wages will fall, if the law is passed, and every person in the community—merchant, professional man and worker—will suffer and be denied the right to protest.

Unemployed organizations will be left without the right to petition authorities or assemble to protest conditions of Proposition Number One is passed.

Negroes know what it is to be denied the right to protest and organize; that condition exists in the southern states. And in those states Negroes are underpaid, denied the right to vote, lynched and oppressed in every way. Proposition One would bring similar conditions to California.

Housewives would be liable to fine and imprisonment if they dared complain to neighbors of the quality of service or goods sold by unfair merchants, if Proposition One is passed.

Negroes have seen what dictatorship has done to minorities in European countries. We must avert dictatorship here. We can do it by voting AGAINST Number One on November 8th.

It isn't enough for you to vote against this measure, Mr. and Mrs. Reader. Get your neighbors and friends to vote. Explain to them what Number One means. Talk against it, work against it and finally vote against it on November 8th.

Measure Is Branded as Slave Bill

All Groups Unite To Fight Against Dictator Law

A determined fight-to-the-finish drive to defeat Proposition Number One on next Tuesday's ballot shifted into high gear this week as aroused citizens awoke to the viciousness of the measure which would prohibit "Don't Spend Your

Everybody is invited to a free street dance to rally support against Number One, which will be held Monday night, November 7, on East 43rd place, just west of Central avenue.

Money Where You Can't Work" campaigns, crush labor unions, destroy free speech, prohibit effective protest actions of every kind and curtail liberty on every hand.

Opposition to the measure came from every section of the community with citizens in all walks of life rally against it. The Los Angeles Forum, the National Negro Congress, the Southside Young Democratic club, the Federated Young Democrats and dozens of other civic, political and social organizations had enlisted in the fight along with every labor union in the city.

Cheered by the presence of C. L. Dellums, vice president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, local labor unions were redoubling their battle against Proposition One. Mrs. Fay Allen, treasurer of the powerful A.F. of L. Musician's Union, is heading the forces of her union while H.W. Alexander, organizer, rallied C.I.O. unions for a finish fight. Local Dining Car unionists were devoting all their spare time to the battle while Halvor A. Miller, member of the Butcher's Union, strove to widen the struggle by enlisting the active cooperation of other groups.

Meanwhile various persons not connected with labor had entered the battle. Among those active were Assemblyman Augustus F. Hawkins, Sentinel Publisher Leon H. Washington Jr., Walter L. Gordon, Sr., vice president of the N.A.A.P.C.; Attorney Loren Miller, Mrs. Jessie Terry and dozens of others.

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Those fighting the Proposition issued a strongly worded statement asserting:

"Proposition No. 1 is a deliberate, cunningly-devised fraud striking home at all Negroes. Masked behind loosely-worded, sweeping clauses—pushed by a million dollar advertising campaign—lies a measure that would deprive Negroes of all their hard-won rights.

"Here is a fact the backers of Proposition No. 1 are trying to keep from Negro voters. Their billboards, their pamphlets, their propaganda, don't tell you that No. 1 will curtail the liberty of civic, religious, fraternal, and patriotic organizations as well as unions.

"They do not tell you this measure makes no distinctions—that trade unionists are denied the rights of free speech, free press, and free assembly, these same constitutional privileges are denied to all of us.

"No. 1 destroys the right to picket and to boycott, not for labor unions alone, but for all organizations and minority groups.

"No organization, no group, and no individual could boycott, or even advocate a boycott, against any business or company which refused to hire Negroes or was in any way unfair to them. No newspaper pamphlet, or leaflet could be issued which even hinted we should not patronize such an establishment.

The fight against Number One was being actively fought from two headquarters, that of the 62nd District Democratic Headquarters at 4255 Central avenue and from another one directed by Carl Johnson, young Republican, and member of the Musician's Union, at 2802 Central avenue.

"Our main task is to see that every person in California is told about this vicious measure," Mr. Dellums told The Sentinel this week, "we feel that the only danger lies in the fact that the voters may not know what Proposition One provides and vote for it out of ignorance of its terms. We are satisfied that if they do not know what the measure means they will not only vote against it but will urge their friends to do likewise."