RECENT SHAMEFUL events in Greenwood, Mississippi, and Birmingham, Alabama, the steel center of the South, recalls to us the reply of a young Negro girl, who, when asked some years back how she would punish Hitler for his crimes, said: "I would put him in a black skin and make him live in America."

We remember that statement better than we can recall the most profound statements of philosophers or highly placed politicians on the same subject. It made us ashamed and angry. It brought home to us the fact that the majority race in our country has been for nearly two centuries punishing and continuing to punish fellow citizens for daring to make appearance on earth in skin of different color.

The depth of that punishment was eloquently expressed by that young Negro girl - worse even than the punishment meted out to the Nazi war criminals who murdered six million Jews. And for what crimes are a lot of people of the majority race punishing them? Answer: for the crimes of refusing willingly to refrain from voting, to take lower wages, to pay higher rents for inferior housing, to use "black only" washrooms, to sit in "black only" galleries at the theater, to eat in "black only" restaurants and to suffer all the other inhuman indignities that go with such treatment.

WE HAVE SAID it before and we'll say it again. The only people who profit from prejudice and discrimination are the exploiters of labor. For the South it can be simply stated, and it has its subtle reflections in the rest of the country. Keep the Negro and the white divided. Treat the Negro as inferior and pay him inferior wage. If the white demands better wage, threaten him with Negro replacement. Don't, under any circumstance, allow them to get together and realize their joint economic and political strength and common interest.

Therefore, inflame the whites against the Negro. Convince the Negro that the white is his natural enemy. This do easiest with white policemen and white deputy sheriffs and their billy clubs, their dogs and their power to arrest.

Any working man or woman who joins the above program is cutting his and her own throat. How many workers are jobless today in North-East America because their shops have run to the South? Run to the South because Negro-white disunity there permits outrageous interference with union organization and the concomitant low wage and speedup that goes with the open shop.

And how does that help the wage of the rest of us? Shall we hold the line to compete with the South?

WE ARE NOT prepared to say that all members of our union have completely overcome all the prejudicial influences of their raising. We wish we could say that. But we can say that as a union, democratically controlled by the majority, we have again and again expressed ourselves on this subject, and, more, have made tremendous gains as result of our policies based upon our majority sentiments.

The Negro people are on the march. They are seeking their civil rights now, not sometime in the future—for their children or grandchildren or their great grandchildren, but, now, for themselves. What their progeny will get will follow. A right is a right, and it is due and payable at the immediate moment, not at some take-it-gradual—couple of hundred years from now.

Let us not lend ourselves in any way, shape or form to denial of that immediate payment of right. To do so is to act against our own immediate and long range interests. The march of the Negro people toward human justice must also be our cause. It is in fact as much our cause as theirs.

A Right Is a Right Right Now