

today. If we are to judge by their present actions, the James E. Becks would have been the Tories of the Revolution. In all the Fourth of July oratory, there is no mention of the Tories. But the Tories never forgot their which entertained al Howe in com- during the terrible winter of Valley Forge.

It was a question of the Reds and Whites over again.

Given the slightest opportunity, I could fashion a series of Fourth of July speeches which would really represent the flavor of revolution for which Independence Day stands. But I should probably have as little chance of presenting them as a Negro would have of freedom in the free state of Kansas. I have been hearing some interesting tales about that famous battleground of slavery. The struggle as to whether the new state of Kansas was to be slave or free was a turning point in American history and was not confined to oratory and parliamentary debate. Quantrell's raid against Lawrence, Kansas, was as bloody as anything which followed in the Civil War. The town was leveled and the population massacred. But Kansas was eventually a Free State, a refuge for the fleeing Negro slaves. But the Kansans who now erect a statue to John Brown are so little concerned about the black man for whom John Brown gave up his life that no Negroes are permitted on the athletic teams of the University of Kansas. They are not permitted because it would not be pleasing to the teams from Missouri and Oklahoma. I could, on a moment's notice, write a Fourth of July oration which would deal justly with John Brown and with Kansas, but I very much doubt that Kansas would care for it. And yet all the fine figures of American history are the figures of revolution. The spectacle of the

Grass Roots Convention at Springfield calling upon the name of Abraham Lincoln to support them in their stand in defense of the Constitution of the United States would be a source of some ironic delight to the great man himself. He defied the Supreme Court of the United States in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates on the Dred Scott decision, an action which could be regarded by Hearst now as a form of treason.

I have only one word of advice for the gentlemen who will address the assembled company of the National Guard at the annual Fourth of July celebrations this year: Make no mention of the Declaration of Independence and in no case venture to read portions of it in the presence of the police. It is all very well to commemorate Independence Day but in no case must you give a hint of what it meant to the Founding Fathers. I am afraid they were not only uncouth fellows but hair-brained agitators. They included words in the Declaration of Independence which it would be a great pleasure to hear spoken by such silver-tongued geniuses as the Hon. James E. Beck, the Hon. Frank O. Lowden, the Hon. Matthew Woll, the Hon. Carter Glass, the Hon. Dr. Angell, President of Yale. Such words as

... When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them (the masses) under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security.

It would be a matter of some interest to the Hon. Dr. Angell, for example, to speak these words from a public platform and find himself, shortly thereafter, being bumped around a station house by a series of gentlemen in blue who would not understand that after all he was simply reciting the tenets upon which this great, free democracy was established.

Between Ourselves

IN SEEKING exact data as to the class character of our circulation, we have recently been requesting new readers to state their occupations. Out of 135 answers given in a recent ten-day period, the following picture emerges of the distribution by occupations of these readers of *THE NEW MASSES*:

Accountants, 3; artists, 3; bookkeepers, 2; bankers, 1; businessmen, 8; barbers, 1; clerks, 4; dentists, 6; doctors, 9; druggists, 1; draftsmen, 1; electricians, 3; engineers, 3; farmers, 1; hotel workers, 1; housewives, 8; janitors, 1; lawyers, 7; librarians, 3; musicians, 1; motion picture operators, 2; nurses, 1; office workers, 2; pharmacists, 2; plumbers, 3; psychiatrists, 1; printers, 3; salesmen, 6; secretaries, 6; social workers, 5; students, 12; teachers, 16; university instructors, 3; writers, 7.

The totals are: industrial or agrarian workers, 24; white-collar workers, 14; professional and business people, 97.

The editorial in this issue, "The Crisis of the Middle Class," is available, slightly expanded, in leaflet form and readers wishing copies for distribution to their friends may have them free by writing in.

Clifford Odets, author of *Waiting for Lefty*, is one of the delegation of American workers and intellectuals leaving for Cuba June 29 on the S.S. Oriente to investigate conditions on the island. Prisons will be inspected, famous Realengo 18—the first Soviet in America—will be visited and the role of the American ambassador in the internal affairs on the island will be investigated. Odets, who goes as the delegate from the League of American Writers, will describe what he sees in Cuba for *THE NEW MASSES*.

Loren Miller is in St. Louis at the convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and will report the event in a future issue, probably next week.

New Masses Lectures

Sunday, June 30—Benjamin Goldstein, "Birebidjan or Palestine?", at 3200 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn. Auspices: Schule 101, IWO.

Sunday, June 30—James Casey, "Role of the Press," Scandinavian Workers Home, 222 Community Lane, Annadale, Staten Island.

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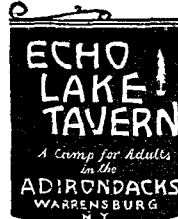
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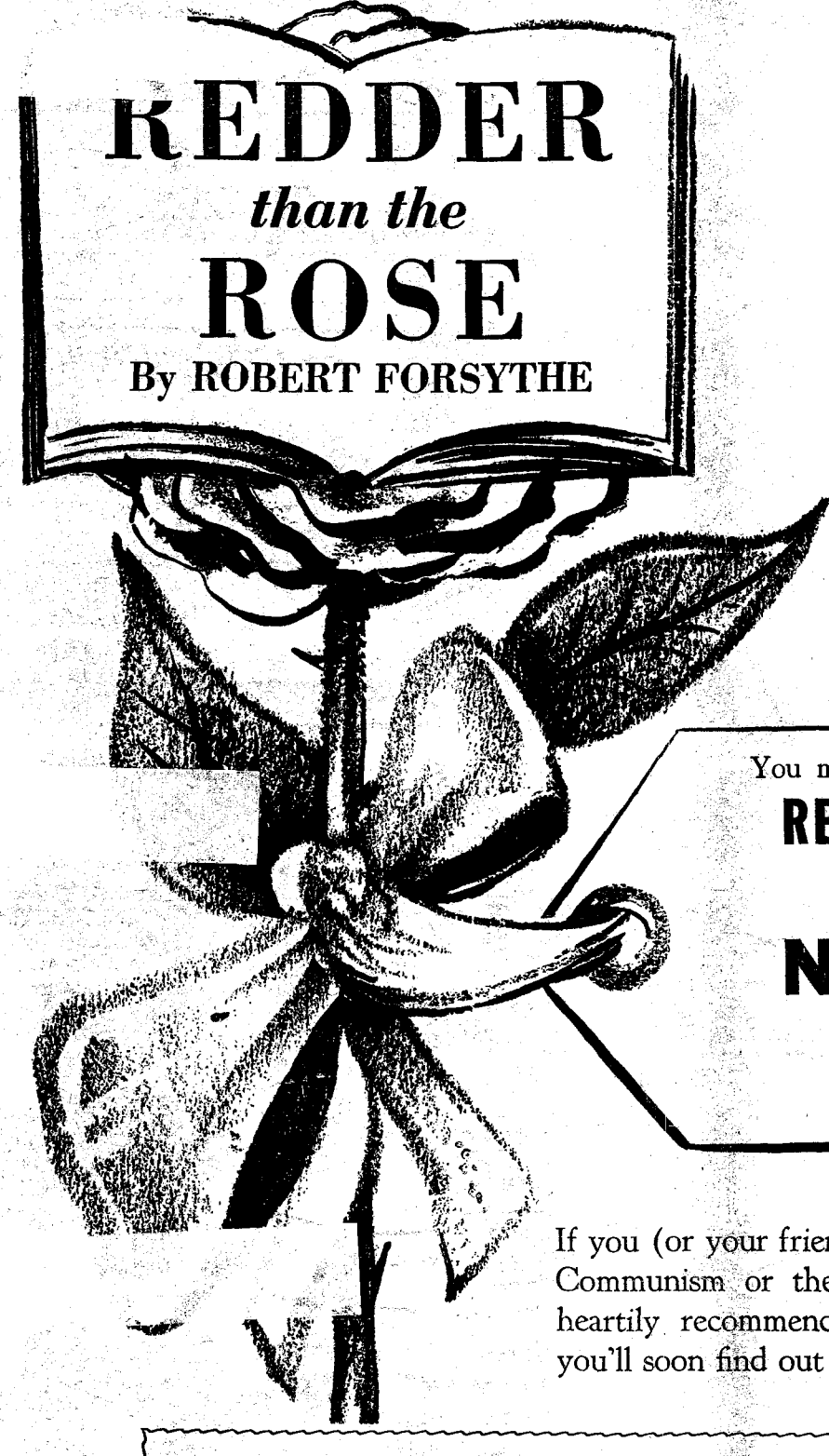
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