THE BREWERY SITUATION

There is an expression current among many folks which says "holler if you're hurt." To all intents and purposes the brewery interests are very much hurt, if we may interpret their injury in the light of the above quip. At any rate, it is clear that the brewery interests are greatly offended and surprised by the outspoken opposition of this paper to the proposal of accepting the paying business of the Negro retailer and consumer and forgetting the plight of the Negro worker.

In an interview with two of the leaders of the brewing business the editor was severely warned to task in bigratitude and forswear the sentiment, a number of colored people are aware to work in several business owned by the brewery interests. This is probably true, and we have not, nor are we now calling its truth into question.

The fact we are emphasizing is just this: our people are helping the brewers to continue and increase their business. Not only by buying and selling the brewery products in their places of business, but as well by recommending such purchases in hotels, cafes and dining cars wherever their judgment is accepted as final, the brewers, in making answer to appeals for work, say union labor makes it impossible for them to employ Negro labor in their places. As if it was not true. For sure it is there a hundred and one places in the brewing plants concerning which the unions have absolutely nothing to say!

As a people we cannot continue to spend money with the brewers or with others in business, who fail to give us an opportunity to work for the money they so willingly accept from us. We are not asking the brewers to do the impossible; we are asking that they give some work to Negroes in the plants where now not many union members are employed.

We are willing to admit that the great wrong in the whole situation is for years on end our people have spent many thousands of dollars without even thinking of asking for anything in return. Now the shoe is pinching too hard. Work is too scarce. We want to preserve our employment and our independence. Our only help to support and increase business for others.

CECIL NEWMAN.