

# "Birth of a Nation" Showing Is Checked

## Defender Leads Fight

### FIGHT "BIRTH OF A NATION"

After a run of four days at the Cinema theater, during which it subjected the theater to a storm of protests from civic leaders of Chicago, headed by The Chicago Defender, "The Birth of a Nation," termed the most atrocious picture ever made, closed its doors Wednesday.

Last week when news of the arrival of the picture was carried in the form of advertisements in the daily newspapers of Chicago, The Chicago Defender, through its bureau of public welfare, headed by Edgar G. Brown, immediately sought a statement from Mayor Cermak as to his attitude toward this picture and its showing here. It was pointed out that "The Birth of a Nation" violates a city ordinance, which prohibits the showing of any picture which holds a race up to scorn and ridicule, and violates a state law which forbids the showing of a picture depicting a lynching.

While efforts were being made by various civic committees to get an interview with the mayor, the picture began its run, advertising that children would be admitted free. Friday Mayor Cermak received Mr. Brown, Alderman R. R. Jackson of the Third ward and Attorney Earl B. Dickerson. He informed them that he had instructed the board of censors to go into the situation fully and if they found that there was authority for them to close the picture they were to do so.

Acting on these instructions The Chicago Defender was notified Monday that the management of the Cinema theater had been ordered to close the run of the picture Wednesday.

This brings to a close another fight by The Chicago Defender to protect the interests of the people of this city. The Chicago Defender was the only newspaper in the city that carried an article opposing the showing of this picture, and aroused public sentiment against it so strongly that the theater was picketed Tuesday afternoon by a group of Race and white "workers" carrying banners demanding that all Jim Crow pictures be abolished and that segregation and discrimination be wiped out entirely.

The manager of the Cinema theater, a modernistic "art" theater, situated on the North side, told The Chicago Defender representative that he had no idea that "Negroes opposed the picture," or that there was anything in it to arouse resentment. He stated that although he had booked the picture to run through the New Year, he was gladly complying with the request of the censor board to close the run rather than offend any group.



Hundreds of men and women paraded in front of the Cinema Art theater at Chicago Ave. and Michigan Blvd. Tuesday in protest against the showing of "The Birth of a Nation" at that theater. The show was stopped by city orders Wednesday.