

25,000 Storm Jim Crow Protest Confab

Must Demand Our Rights, Asserts Doctor Bethune

Asserts A New Negro On Scene; Others Are Heard

NEW YORK CITY —(SNS)—The largest number of Negroes ever assembled together at one time in the history of America, met in Madison Square Garden, Tuesday night, June 16, under the auspices of the March on Washington Movement, for the purpose—according to A. Philip Randolph, National Director of killing Jim-Crow and burying him in the same grave with Hitler's Nazism, Mussolini's Fascism and Hirohito's militarism.

At the opening of the meeting, was a demonstration of the fact that while Negroes were ready and willing, at the call of their country, to fight for democracy abroad, they were also determined to fight for democracy at home.

DEMANDS ALL RIGHTS

Dr. Bethune demanded all of the rights for Negroes that are enjoyed by any other American citizen. She said that this great and inspiring meeting was evidence of the presence of a new Negro. This new Negro is not old or young, she continued, but he is just new. Dr. Bethune was introduced by Mrs. Bessie Bearden, Chairman of the Planning Committee for the meeting.

Rev. A. Clayton Powell made a stirring speech in which he announced his candidacy for Congress. He stressed the need of opposing Jim-Crow and race discriminations of all kinds.

This great meeting must be followed by continued work if Negroes hope to build the necessary mass power to free themselves from Jim-Crow, observed Arthur Reid, one of the Negro leaders who fought for jobs in the department stores and markets in 125th Street. He was introduced by Colden Brown, one of the younger leaders of the March on Washington Movement.

PRESENT PLAYLET

Dr. Jameson, president of the Baptist Convention was introduced by Dr. Harten of the Holy Trinity Church of Brooklyn who also called for the collection, the amount of which will be announced in the press.

No doubt the highlight of the meeting was the playlet by Dick Campbell, entitled, "The Watchword is Forward." The cast included, in the order of appearance: Joe Bostle, Milton Williams, P. J. Sydney, Emmett Wallace, Willie Bryant, Carol Wilson, Fred Carter, Jimmie Baskette, Lorenzo Tucker, Quay Bright, Mercedes Gilbert, Canada Lee, Monte Hawley, and Sara Johnson. Stage Manager was Dudley Cobham, and Director, Dick Campbell. This playlet told a stirring story of race prejudice in the Army, Navy and industry.

The mother of Odell Waller, sentenced to die for shooting a white farmer in self defense, was presented by Mr. Randolph who said Odell Waller must not die. Mrs. Waller called upon that vast crowd to help her save her boy. A petition to President Roosevelt was unanimously adopted.

The mixed army petition was also adopted.

TOBIAS SOUNDS CALL

In an able and brief statement, Dr. Tobias expressed the necessity of an uncompromising fight by Negroes for their complete Constitutional rights.

Representing the Baptist ministers, Dr. Eldridge of Berean Baptist Church of Brooklyn in vigorous tones declared that the Negro would never be satisfied until he had broken down every barrier of race discrimination that has been raised against him.

Frank R. Crosswalth, new ap-

pointee by Mayor LaGuardia to the New York City Housing Authority, said the time had come to get rid of the old Uncle Tom Negro because we are now living in a new day.

This is the beginning of a nationwide drive to kill Jim-Crow in America, said Randolph, and to enlist one million members in the March on Washington Movement.