

EXPLAINS THE NEW NEGRO MOVEMENT

A. Philip Randolph Talks in Ford Hall Forum

Says Sleeping Car Porters' Union Aims at Abolition of Tips

Three-fifths of the sleeping-car porters in America have organized in a labor union, according to A. Philip Randolph, national organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, who was the speaker in the Ford Hall Forum last evening.

The union program, he said, calls for the abolition of the tipping system and for wages which will support porters and their families without tips. Porters, he said, work 366 hours a month, or an average of more than 11 hours a day, whereas conductors work only 240 hours a month.

The union, he said, has the support of the American Federation of Labor and of the Railroad Brotherhoods. Even the unions that have opposed the organization of colored labor in the past are coming, he said, to the view that they would rather have colored workers in unions than see them act as strike-breakers.

Mr Randolph, who is editor of "Messenger," a negro publication, took as his subject "The Negro Helps Himself."

Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, the original colored leaders, he said, thought that negro education should confine itself in the main to industrial education. The new negro movement goes beyond this: believes that the colored man should develop his powers to the full so that he can develop himself and free himself.

The new negro movement believes in the organization of colored labor unions and consumers' cooperatives, so that the negro, as well as the white man, may have economic power.

"No one ever had any right given to him without fighting for it. Even the negro did not become free until 200,000 colored troops had served on the Union side during the Civil War," he said.

"The only way to get your rights is to take them. The only way to be powerful enough to take them is to organize."

"There is too much churchianity and too little Christianity. Religion, as at present constituted, gives too much thought to the life after death and too little the life before death."

He attacked the American occupation of Haiti, which, he said, has been handed over to a New York bank.

The new negro movement, he said, is merely a section of a world movement, which embraces the Cantonese forces in China, the Gandhi noncooperation movement in India, the Kabela movement in South Africa, and the movement of the mass of white men to gain economic freedom.

He expressed himself as opposed to separate schools for white and colored children, "as it gives the children in the white schools the idea that the colored children are inferior. All great civilizations, he added, have resulted from the "mingling of the races."

"No ethnologist or anthropologist today will advance the theory of racial

superiority if he has any respect for his reputation," he declared. "The backwardness of various races is coming more to be recognized as the result of environment."

Countee Cullen, well-known negro poet, gave readings of his own poems and a short talk on the trend of modern literature. The audience sang the negro national anthem, by James Weldon Johnson. George W. Coleman, chairman of the Ford Hall Forum, presided.

The hall was jammed and several hundred were turned away.