

## At the Garden Rally

# Negroes Fight to Stop 'Savagant Town'

## Excerpts of Address by Ferdinand Smith at Rally After Negro Rally

### Summons Issued to Harlem Stirred by Great Rally, Hastened Action Will Follow

**Keynote of the great Negro Freedom Rally that packed Madison Square Garden last Monday night was struck by Ferdinand O. Smith, secretary-treasurer of the National Maritime Union and chairman of the Negro Labor Victory Committee.**

Smith opened the meeting as temporary chairman, and in his opening remarks he set forth the objectives of the meeting.

Following are excerpts from his opening address:

Our country is at war—all war to preserve civil liberties and together with our Allies to liberate oppressed humanity everywhere. To win this war, Hitler and his Axis partners must be destroyed. Hitlerism at home and abroad must be stamped out.

"This requires unity of all Americans and the united effort of America and her Allies. Our enemies know this. Therefore, forces had to be made to divide us in order to destroy us."

Two Negro leaders whose speeches thrilled 30,000 at the Negro Freedom Rally, Monday night at Madison Square Garden—there were 30,000 inside and 10,000 outside listening to the address. Left is Councilman Clayton A. Powell and right Ferdinand Smith, secretary-treasurer of the National Maritime Union and chairman of the Negro Labor Victory Committee, which sponsored the meeting.

## Highlights of Powell's Speech at Garden Monday

"I believe that if Negroes are good enough to drive trucks, to drive buses, trolleys and railroads anywhere—yes, Mississippi!," Councilman A. Clayton Powell told the 20,000 people that crammed Madison Square Garden at the Negro Freedom Rally, Monday night.

Councilman Powell is chairman of the Harlem Peoples Committee and was one of the leaders responsible for the organization of the historic Garden rally.

Following are excerpts from his speech to the rally:

The morning Times and Herald Tribune carry the most significant news concerning Democracy and the war, the post-war world and the Negro people, that has yet been issued. It is the unanimous decision of the War Labor Board ordering the South to cease its practice of paying lower wages to Negro workers and to immediately start paying equal pay for equal work irrespective of whether a man is white or black.

It was written by Dr. Frank P. Graham, a member of the Board, and the Chancellor of the University of North Carolina. I urge that every Negro and white read it and it possible memorize it. I present to you one of the more meaningful paragraphs:

"Whether as vigorous fighting men or for production of food and munitions America needs the Negro; the Negro needs the equal opportunity to work and fight. The Negro is necessary for winning the war, and, at the same time, is a test of our sincerity in the cause for which we are fighting. More hundreds of millions of colored people are involved in the outcome of this war than the combined population of the Axis powers. Under Hitler and his Master Race, their movement is backward to slavery and degradation. In America, the colored people have the freedom to struggle for freedom."

"We are here because we have the 'freedom to struggle for freedom.' We are here because America needs us. We are here because America cannot win the peace without us. We are here for victory over Hitlerism abroad and at home."

This is the **new Negro** that is present tonight. The new Negro who was born during the bitter days when he walked through the valley of the shadow of the depression.

The new Negro is united—One People!

The new Negro is fighting—One Purpose!

The new Negro is following—One Leadership!

The new Negro is willing to die—For One Victory!

The new Negro is rising to be in the language of Willie—in One World.

The future of the trade union movement, political parties, racial minorities, the church—Protestant and Catholic—and democracy is in the hands of the Negro people. It is up with what happens to the black man.

Fifteen million Negro people are demanding full and equal participation in producing the goods for victory.

We are demanding that discrimination cease in all war industries and that the AFL open its doors to Negro labor.

We are demanding the complete abolition of the Poll Tax; That all forms of discrimination against Negroes in the armed forces come to an end; Full participation of Negro people

out of this meeting must come concrete manifestations of the desire of the Negro people to help win this war against fascism. Out of it must come concrete measures which will serve to eliminate from the American way of life the legacy of Jim-Crow. Out of this rally must come measures which will utilize the energies, the skills, and the strength of all people, regardless of color, creed or race, who desire to participate in this People's War. Out of this meeting must come a reaffirmation of our beliefs in the principles enshrined in the Atlantic Charter, and reaffirmed in President Roosevelt's speech on the Four Freedoms.

There are some people who say we cannot achieve these things. They say it is an idealistic day-dream. I believe these people are wrong. I believe we can win for our people and by so doing, contribute to the welfare of the people of the world a better and more prosperous place in which to live and assure for ourselves and for our families a lasting peace and a people's peace.

## See 5th Column in Newark Race Riots

By Art Shields

NEWARK, N. J., June 9.—Daily attacks on Negro workers and school children have been occurring in Newark since Wednesday, when Milton Heller, 15-year-old Negro worker, was murdered with a .38 caliber slug in the First Ward.

No one has yet been arrested for the crime, and the Director of Public Safety seems blind to the nature of the attack. He blamed "demonstrators," not basic causes, in a talk with a Newark CIO delegation, and said the city could have more lights. The Negro community leaders and labor leaders blame fifth columnists, not "demonstrators," however.

**ABSENTEEISM RESULTING**

Ever since Wednesday colored workers have been threatened or clubbed on their way to their jobs and many absentees have resulted. Hit and run hoodlums are also attacking Negro school children at High School or Junior High. Many children are staying home from school.

These attacks are incited by sinister forces and fifth columnists. Such leaders as Harold L. Isaac, secretary of the Newark Urban League; James McLeish, president, District 4, United Electric, Radio & Machine Workers which has more than 80,000 members; Leonard Goldsmith, national CIO representative; Katherine Hoffman, secretary, the Newark CIO Council; Melvin Johnson, president, the Afro-American, nationally known Negro newspaper, and others.

"I definitely believe these hoodlums are incited by sinister forces, who want us to lose the war," said Mr. Lett in a talk with the Daily Worker.

**SEEK RACE TO PRODUCTION**

Spontaneous outbreaks in the production of war goods took place on Mr. Lett. Now they maintain their intensity from day to day.

"It is obvious that they are inspired," he continued.

Most of the trouble has been in the First Ward, where the Negroes and young Negroes, two groups who got along splendidly in the past.

"The Italian Americans, some 20 per cent of the population of Newark," he points out. "The Negroes 10 per cent. In the past they were largely excluded from major industrial enterprises. Now they are working in every war plant."

"If this trouble continues there is likely to be an explosion that will shake the city and war plant in the Newark area."

**MCLEISH ACTS**

James McLeish, president, District 4, United Electric, Radio & Machine Workers, with more than 80,000 members, said he was calling special trade union meetings in the First Ward and other areas, where he would coordinate the political organization whose rights may be arbitrarily infringed.

He spoke after a delegate to the Newark CIO Council reported that an attack on a Negro worker had been made by a white worker in his war plant to attack Negroes.

He said the attacks in Newark were following the Hitlerian pattern shown in Mobile, some spots in the Mid-West and in the Pacific Coast.

"They are intended to disrupt national unity, to hamstring war production," he said.

Mr. Johnson said that certain reactionary white politicians in Newark were playing into the hands of the Hitlerites by their discrimination against the Negroes.

The Negro people were very big at police stations in Newark. He said Negroes after the Wednesday fights, and holding

New York announced Negro clubs took their first step to step out of their neighborhood. Joseph E. Ford, a policy-holder and therefore a share-holder in the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, issued summonses against the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the Board of Estimate, the Controller of the City of New York, and the City of New York. Mr. Ford is the administrator of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

This step is a direct result of the unprecedented mass meeting of 10,000 Negroes who jammed Madison Square Garden June 7 and overflowed 150,000 strong into the streets. The meeting was held under the joint auspices of the People's Committee and one of its affiliated organizations, the Negro Labor Victory Committee.

Stuyvesant Town, according to Councilman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., People's Committee chairman, will be built with not only \$20,000,000 of New York City taxpayers' money through tax exemption, but also with the money from close to a billion dollars of Federal policies that Negroes held in the Metropolitan.

The actions were begun by Harrison S. Jackson of 200 West 133rd St., who is the chief of the legal staff of the People's Committee. Counselor Harrison Jackson said, "the complaints have been drawn together to set forth all of the issues pertaining to race discrimination seeking immediate remedy. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the only way to win."

**HOLD EMERGENCY MEETING**

An emergency meeting of the People's Committee was held Tuesday night at 132 West 133rd St. In addition, Arthur Garfield Hays of the American Civil Liberties Union; Martin Popper, National Secretary of the National Lawyers' Guild; Henry Rapp, former Solicitor General of New York; and Coleman Blum, former Attorney General, were present.

Councilman Powell stated that this is one of many steps being taken to stop Stuyvesant Town. On Tuesday, June 18, the Council of the City of New York will meet to consider the matter. The City of New York from entering into any agreement with any real estate company, which would have to give specific guarantees concerning the admission of tenants of color.

"A national committee," he said, "will be set up to coordinate the efforts of all policy-holders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in a people's movement to capture the company and to force it to give up its policy of discrimination against Negroes."

Mr. May, supervising foreman of the National Youth Administration training center on 125th St., thought that more such meetings would be held. He said that the Negro people, who have been in the war industry, before they sought those jobs in greater numbers, he said, they must feel that this is their war. The Negro people, he said, must feel that this is the Negro people's war and give the white people a better understanding of the situation.

Mr. May felt that the Negro people's morale was especially important, for it would lead to a better understanding of the war industry. Before they sought those jobs in greater numbers, he said, they must feel that this is their war. The Negro people, he said, must feel that this is the Negro people's war and give the white people a better understanding of the situation.

"As wonderful as the rally was," said Mr. Taylor, "and it was wonderful, from all the talk I've heard around here, it seems to amount to much if it isn't followed up immediately with action against the things the speakers protested against."

**SPLENDID UNITY**

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"Meetings like that at Madison Square Garden," Mr. Taylor said, "make us realize that all white people are not like that woman." James McCombs, 2940 Seventh Ave., machinist trainee, NYA, said the rally was "the most wonderful exhibition I have ever witnessed."

As a result of it, he felt the Negro people were "on the way to enjoying a new birth of freedom." It was a joy to see the Negro people, he said, and the white people putting their shoulders to the wheel along with us. He provided that "all is not lost."

Mrs. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, in her eloquent plea for the right of "all Negroes" to vote, to democracy on an equal footing with all white women, cheered young Irving Pierce deeply.

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**Protestant Church Aid to China Doubled**

The Protestant churches of America more than doubled their aid to China during the fiscal year of 1942-43, according to a report by the National Council of the American Board of Christian Missions.

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By Eugene Gordon

The Negro Freedom Rally Monday electrified the people of Harlem as no other meeting, uptown or downtown, ever had done before. This fact is evident from random chats with Negro men and women on the streets or in their work places.

Just as unanimous as their praise in their hope that action will immediately follow, Lett's estimate of the meeting's importance for the Negro people is the present spirit of the people.

Persons questions were interrupted on 134th and 135th Sts. and on Seventh Ave.

"I think that rally was of tremendous importance, because it brought together groups of citizens who have the unity of purpose to give democracy a real meaning," said Mrs. Frances Craft Bock, a teacher of piano and owner of a music shop at 210 W. 125th St.

"There ought to be some way to organize the Negro people, at once, right now, while everybody is burning with enthusiasm for that remarkable rally," said Mrs. Bock, who ought to be given the definition of putting the resolution into effect.

The State Council congratulated the 100,000 people who participated in the Drive and especially praised the 15 outstanding individuals who alone brought in more than 300 members. During the course of the drive the State organization extended its influence considerably in the uptown area. Rechartered with a membership of 14, recruited 78 new members.

In the metropolitan area, the Bronx Branch of the YCL, its outstanding recruiting, was awarded to Bronx County for their achievement of 414 recruits out of a goal of 500.

The YCL Freeman in the Bronx received the Branch Library award for the outstanding branch, hitting 110 recruits of their quota of 50. Club Convey in Manhattan received the William T. Foster Cup for the noteworthy accomplishment of recruiting 62 members in the three-month period. The Buffalo organization recruited 90 Negro youth and received the award of the Frederick Douglass Cup.

Comments on the recruiting drive, Carl Ross, President of the State YCL, declared: "The completion of the recruiting drive is a tremendous feat. The youth of New York State are in the YCL an outstanding patriotic organization. The YCL organization is a tribute to the splendid war service activities carried on by the YCL. It proves the importance of the YCL, which exist for their building the YCL. The League members are to be congratulated on the splendid work in the recruiting drive."

**Score Mob Action Against Mexicans**

(Continued from Page 1)

Mexican people is based on the Nazi doctrine of race superiority as exemplified by a document issued by the Sheriff's Office of the County of Los Angeles last September, the document states that:

"This document states that 'The Caucasian, especially the Anglo-American, when engaged in fighting, especially among youth, reacts to setbacks and may at times lack each other, which is considered unpatriotic, but the Mexican should be broken down that confidence and spread dignity in our hemisphere. URGENT DRASTIC STEPS

In its message to heads of federal agencies in Washington, the Council urged that immediate steps be taken to curtail illegal police activities."

That members of the Los Angeles law enforcement agencies guilty of deliberately fomenting trouble be arrested as enemies of the war effort."

That every possible effort be made to secure retrial under fair conditions of the boys found guilty on the Sleepy Lagoon case."

That Executive Order 9062 be strictly enforced as it applies to the Mexican community in Los Angeles, who all discrimination and segregation of those people be immediately stopped."

This substantial steps be taken to improve the housing, educational, recreational facilities and economic opportunities available to persons of Mexican descent."

That the cooperation of all local men—the war elements, whether from the Chamber of Commerce or CIO, be welcomed and indeed actively enlisted."

The true spirit of American respect and friendship for the Mexican people was expressed by President Roosevelt when he said, on Mexican soil, "You two countries owe their independence to the fact that your ancestors and mine held the same truths to be worth fighting for and dying for. Hidalgo and Juarez were men of the same stamp as Washington and Jefferson."

The situation has become dangerous to our war effort both in so far as it relates to the national unity of our country and to the cooperation of all white women, cheered young Irving Pierce deeply.

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**Admiral Mrs. Brown**

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ready to be open to them. Our children will help us to open those doors.

A group of men in front of Harlem's YMCA compared the Negro Freedom Rally of the March 20, 1943, to the March 20, 1943, in the same place, last year. One difference, they agreed, was that last year's rally had white people and had no trade union support. That was a weakness, one man who had been a member of that movement, admitted. He said he hoped Monday's rally would follow up with action, "or it will die, too."

The New York State Council of the Young Communist League yesterday announced the successful completion of its three month recruiting drive ending June 1, 1943, 2,500 new members. With results improved, particularly from the uptown uptown area, the YCL starting out with a membership of 14, recruited 78 new members.

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