

TOTAL PEACE' UP TO YOUTH AND UNITY, ARE FINDINGS OF NAACP CONFERENCE

RICHMOND, Va.—Overflow audiences packed Coburn Hall auditorium during the two-day session of the 6th annual NAACP Youth Conference, held at Virginia Union University, Nov. 17-19. Among the 263 registered delegates, were representatives from 18 college chapters and 41 youth councils. Interracial groups at Sarah Lawrence College, New Jersey College of Women, Hunter College, Cincinnati University and the Girls' Friendly Society were also represented.

The keynote address delivered on Friday night by Dr. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., 1st Negro Congressman of New York, emphasized the Conference theme, BUILDING FOR TOTAL DEMOCRACY. Dr. Powell placed responsibility for a forthright victory, free from prejudices, square upon the shoulders of the New Negro and New white man emerging now from the chaos of disunity on the home-front. He told his youthful listeners, "We stand to-night as a nation on the verge of winning the war in Europe, and in the Pacific, and losing the war on the homefront. We are on the verge of making history abroad. V-Days in the Pacific and Europe are fast approaching. We can have no V-Day in Europe and the Pacific unless we have V-Day at home and the guarantors of V-Day in America are people like you. Regardless of the sacrifices in Berlin and Tokyo, if we here on the home-front are going to be equally victorious, right and wrong must come face to face, and right must triumph.

"The very war we are fighting is the war of youth. A new world is being born, and our task as Negroes who have been privileged to get a little more of higher education, must be to go back to the masses as witnesses to raise them until they walk with the dignity of free people. That is a hard struggle, for the odds are great. The immovable object of American prejudices has stood so long that it is almost impregnable, but there is no power that can stand against the honest united power of the people.

"Until recently we have been an over-organized group, organized to die. What we want now is organization and unity to LIVE. The hour has arisen when there must be only one loyalty, that is—loyalty to each other—standing together, thinking together, fighting together, working together."

NAACP Must Lead Way

Citing objectives of the NAACP in leading the way to a new unity, the new Congressman declared, "We must fight not only for the advancement of colored people but for the advancement of the common people. We must fight the problem for everyone who suffers injustice. The world has realized that no nation, race or class is going to be able to exploit another nation. The master race theory is disappearing. In this, our lifetime, it is possible to strike down any individual, nation or race that tries to exploit because of race, color or class. There will come a dawn when no nation will be able to exploit another nation, and I believe it is at hand.

"We made this a peoples war. We will keep on fighting until we build a people's world, and build a government of the people BLACK AND WHITE; for the people, PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC; and by the people, JEW AND GENTILE."

Speakers and discussion leaders on the Saturday program introduced by Mrs. Ruby Hurley, National NAACP Youth Secretary, included: Ella J. Baker, director of branches, who spoke on the methods of Recruiting for the NAACP; Gloster Current, Executive Secretary, Detroit Branch NAACP, Pressure Techniques for a Mass Organization; Aziz Pabani, Indian member, All India Students Federation, and student at Columbia University School of Engineering;

Negro Youth Relationships to International Minorities; the Rev. James H. Robinson, Church of the Master, New York, member the national NAACP Board of Directors, and chairman, national Youth Work Committee; Attorney Edward R. Dudley, Assistant Special Counsel, NAACP; and Miss Marjory Penny, executive director, Fellowship House, Philadelphia—Sunday morning, chapel speaker.

Conference Resolutions

Besides resolutions reaffirming NAACP policy against discrimination in Housing and Education, the body went on record unanimously in favor of postwar planning, giving full recognition to all rights for all subjugated peoples; immediate passage of FEPC and the Federal Aid to Education Bills; appointment of a Negro to the Veterans' Administration Bureau; world-wide cooperation with international student

groups; and against the passage of a Conscription Bill before full utilization of the existing supply of skilled and unskilled labor, regardless of race, color or creed.

The national Youth officers elected for 1945 are: Robert Smithy, chairman; Julia Mae Woodlin, secretary; Lucille Burns, assistant secretary. The 1945 conference will meet in Wilberforce, Ohio, November 15-18.

From the standpoint of new aims, unity of purpose, cooperation and attendance, the 6th annual NAACP Youth conference was regarded the best in Association history. Greetings were read from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Dr. J. M. Ellison, president, Virginia Union University, Ohio State Conference of NAACP Branches, and Pennsylvania State College, NAACP greetings and a resolution were sent to the CIO convention meeting in Chicago.