

Overflow May Day Rally Here Backs Civil Rights, H-Test Ban

By ALAN MAX

May Day celebrations of diverse socialist trends overflowed two halls Wednesday night and enthusiastically supported the fight for civil rights and against H-bomb tests.

The meeting hall in the Central Plaza, Second Ave. and Seventh St., was packed with from 700 to 800 persons at an early hour. A second hall in the building, seating some 300, was also jammed, and police reported that they turned away several hundred at the door.

The speakers, who included Dr. William E. B. Du Bois, the Rev. A. J. Muste, NAACP attorney Conrad Lynn, George Charney of the Communist Party, Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker, and others appeared before the two audiences.

The larger meeting was chaired by Clifford T. McAvoy of the Committee for Socialist Unity which sponsored the affair. Corliss Lamont, the well known civil libertarian, volunteered to chair the second meeting when it became necessary to open up the second hall.

All the speakers emphasized the May 17 "Pilgrimage of Prayer" to Washington, civil liberties, a ban on H-bomb tests, and withdrawal of all foreign troops from other lands. In addition several discussed the question of promoting united action of the Left and how to overcome its present isolation.

The "Pilgrimage of Prayer" was dramatized by the participation of NAACP attorney Lynn of Rockland County, who urged the entire audience to join in the trip to Washington May 17. Lynn specified that he was attending the May Day rally and speaking solely in his individual capacity, since the Pilgrimage Committee and the NAACP make a point of having no relations with political parties.

The Negro attorney castigated the "fraud" now being perpetrated in Congress to block the civil rights bills. "It is not only the Southern Democrats who are responsible," he charged. "Many Northern Democrats and Republicans are only going through the motions." He emphasized that there was a growing number of Southern whites, particularly in the church movement, who recognize the importance of the struggle for civil rights.

The critical situation in the

South was also brought home to the audience by Miss Dorothy Day, editor of the Catholic Worker, who had just been literally under fire there. Miss Day told of her visit in the past few weeks to the inter-racial Konina farm at Americus, Georgia, where she said "religious communism" is practiced, and where she had stayed up all night guarding one of the houses while bullets flew from the guns of the White Citizens Council.

To point up her appeal for a strong fight for justice, Miss Day quoted the Bible to the effect that the Lord prefers the "hot and cold," but "the lukewarm he spews from his mouth."

Dr. Du Bois, scholar and historian, spoke of the general goals of socialism and the disagreements that existed on what kind of society was most desirable. He called on all socialist-minded people to "keep our eyes on our own country and the special conditions here."

American socialism, he said, cannot be based "either on criticism of the mistakes in the socialist countries or praise of their achievements." While there is naturally concern with these, he went on, socialism here must be based on American conditions and problems.

The Rev. A. J. Muste, editor of Liberation and chairman emeritus of the pacifist Fellowship of Reconciliation, speaking after George Charney, observed that it was significant that it was the representative of the Communist Party who had mentioned his organization's past mistakes.

"But all of us on the left have made serious mistakes over the years," Dr. Muste went on. "I hope that the previous speaker's example will inspire all of us on the Left to some self-examination."

George Charney, of the New York Communist Party, said that he had been besieged during the day by press and radio on why there was no demonstration or parade on Union Square.

"The so-called Loyalty crowd views it as a great victory for their side," Charney said. "I rather think they are tired of their own annual caricature of loyalty. I too regret that is no parade on Union Square demonstration as in the past. However, I consider this meeting of great significance. It

(Continued on Page 3)

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Beck Indicted on Charge of Evading 1950 Income Tax

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The Justice Department today announced that a Federal Grand Jury at Tacoma, Wash., had indicted Teamsters Union president Dave Beck on charges of willful attempted evasion of \$56,419 in 1950 individual income taxes. The

first count of the two-count indictment said Beck allegedly filed a false joint income tax return with the Collector of Internal Revenue at Tacoma. The Justice Department said the tax returns showed net income for 1950 of \$46,398 and tax due of \$15,540.

Beck's net income for the year, it said, was \$135,226 and the correct tax was \$71,960.

The second count, it said, accused Beck of aiding and assisting in the preparation of a fraudulent information return for the Joint Council Building Association, a Teamster Union real estate company.

The indictment, it said, charged that items Beck listed on the return as "legitimate expenditures" were, in fact, "over-stated."

The Department said the two-count indictment marked the "culmination of intensive investigations" begun early in 1954 by the

CIO Opens Drive for State Jobless Bills

By HERBERT SIGNER

The New York State CIO has launched a campaign by its affiliated city and area councils and local unions to win passage of labor backed unemployment insurance and work-

men's compensation bills at the special session of the Legislature next month. Gov. Harriman named June 10 as the tentative date for the session, after vetoing two GOP omnibus bills which were condemned by a united labor movement.

The state CIO, in a special bulletin yesterday to all affiliates, outlined a plan of action to arouse the 1,000,000-member labor body

and urging them to remain firm in their fight at the special session.

Copies of Harriman's veto message will be made available by the state CIO to all locals for mass distribution. Other actions will be taken as the campaign progresses, CIO officials said.

The CIO will urge the Legislature to increase benefits to unemployed workers and those hurt

Overflow Rally

(Continued from Page 1)

could not have taken place a year ago. It represents an initial coming together of different groups and personalities with a common aim."

Charney said he hoped that from the gathering would come in time "new impetus" for the traditional celebration of May Day supported by larger masses of organized workers.

Charney addressed himself to those on the Left who feel pessimistic on this May Day as a result of the "weakening and dispersal of the radical and progressive movement by virtue of the cold war attack," adding, "and as far as the Communist Party is concerned, as a result of serious mistakes." He said he did not share in the "negative judgements or the pervading gloom or the collapse of a faith in fundamental values" and pointed to the "inspiring presence of people like Dr. DuBois and the Rev. Muste, and particularly the fact that "even as the organized radical and socialist forces have momentarily declined, the labor and people's movement continue to grow, and increasingly along progressive lines."

John T. McManus, general manager of the National Guardian, was praised by Chairman McAvoy for his initiative in arranging the affair. In his address, McManus read a letter from Norman Thomas which disclaimed any support for the meeting as had been indicated in a story in the Guardian. McManus quoted the Socialist Party leader as writing that he would not join in a celebration with Communists but would speak with them "mostly to debate against them."

"I have always felt that Norman Thomas has many strong points," McManus commented. "But I would not say that this letter represents one of them."

Bert Cochran, editor of the monthly "American Socialist" called the H-bomb tests an "abomination" that had to be ended. On the question of the isolation of the Left, he urged caution in attempting to form any new movements at this time. "Rather," he said, "the times call for discussion and study in order to see how to bring about a strong American socialist movement."

Myra Tanner Weiss of the Socialist Workers Party, emphasized the need of developing a movement within the AFL-CIO to "struggle against the bureaucrats," among whom she named George Meany and Walter Reuther.

Songs were led by Earl Robinson and the May Day singers. The hall was decorated with banners carrying the slogans of the rally:

"End Segregation - Enforce the Constitution!"

"Restore the Bill of Rights."

"Ban Nuclear Weapons - Stop the Tests Now!"

"Withdraw Troops of All Nations from other People's Countries."

Resolutions on the four points were unanimously adopted.

NEW HAVEN, May 2.—Forty-five persons at the People's Center here last night heard Simon W. Gerson, executive editor of the Daily Worker, at a May Day rally under the auspices of the local Freedom of the Press Committee. A total of \$76 was contributed towards the Daily Worker drive.