

# Jimcrowism in A. F. L. Scored at Harlem Rally

**Meeting to Dedicate Harlem Labor Center  
Hears Thomas, Antonini, Crosswaith  
and Mirsky—Green Sends Message**

By CYRIL BRIGGES

Support for the work of organizing Negro workers into the American labor movement on a basis of full equality and for the fight to break down the jim-crow barriers that still exists in some of the A. F. of L. unions was pledged by prominent trade union leaders of New York, and by Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, at the dedication of the new Harlem Labor Center, at 312 West 125th Street, on Sunday afternoon.

The dedication ceremony, held in the beautifully-equipped center, was attended by 500 workers, most of them Negroes, with Jacob Mirsky, president of Bricklayers Union, Local 37, presiding.

The meeting was opened by Noah C. A. Walters, secretary of the Socialist-led Negro Labor Committee who, before introducing Mirsky, gave a brief outline of the organization of the committee six months ago, its work in combatting discrimination in the labor movement, and its achievement in creating a center "for the use of all trade unionists, Negro and white, in the community."

## Mirsky Sounds Keynote

Mirsky sounded the keynote of the meeting with a call for "unity of black and white workers for betterment of economic as well as of social conditions."

The meeting gave a tremendous ovation to Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, and vigorously applauded when the chairman praised the Socialist Call, spokesman of the newly constituted City Central Committee which its leading the fight in the Socialist Party against the "Old Guard."

Thomas praised the work of the Negro Labor Committee, and declared that there is no chance, whatever, that this country will escape fascism unless the unity of Negro and white workers is forged. The beating of three labor organizers in Tampa, which resulted in the death of Joseph Shoemaker, Socialist leader, is an example of what the workers of the United States will have to face, unless colored and white workers are organized in the labor movement without discrimination, he said.

## Urges A.F.L. Boycott of Tampa

He urged that all A. F. of L. workers exert pressure on the A. F. of L. Executive Committee to force a change in its plans to hold the next A. F. of L. convention in Tampa.

Fascist Italy's robber war on Ethiopia was vigorously assailed by Luigi Antonini, First Vice-President of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who was one of the delegates from this country to the recently held Congress of Italians Abroad. "This war is the war of Fascism against Ethiopia, and not of Italy against Ethiopia," he declared amidst prolonged applause. He pledged to help in building the solidarity of Negro and Italian workers in this country, and warmly praised the action of the thousands of anti-Fascists who

demonstrated last Saturday night against the fascist meeting in Madison Square Garden, at which Mayor La Guardia and several New York State judges spoke.

The meeting heard a message read from William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in which the A. F. of L. head declared that "Negro workers were turning to the A. F. of L. with increasing conviction," and "were becoming more responsible trade unionists," but was silent on the burning issue of continued discrimination in many of the A. F. of L. unions, and the responsibility of the top leadership for this situation, as charged by the progressive and the rank and file movement in the A. F. of L.

## Crosswaith Speaks

Frank Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee and an organizer of the I. L. G. W. U., expressed appreciation to the numerous unions and individuals that were supporting the work of the Committee. Scoring the continued hostility to Negro labor of the reactionaries in the A. F. of L., Crosswaith declared that the working class "cannot win power by remaining divided on a basis of race or craft."

Other speakers, all of whom pledged support to the fight to root out prejudice and discrimination from the labor movement included Thomas J. Curtis, a former vice-president of the A. F. of L., Thomas Young, Negro vice-president of Building Service Workers Union, Local 32B; Sascha Zimmerman, Business Manager of Local 22, I. L. G. W. U., Murray Baron, Business Manager of the Suitcase, Bag and Portfolio Workers Union.

Telegrams of greetings to the meeting were received from Leo Krzycki, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party; Clarence Senior, National Secretary of the Socialist Party; Jack Altman, temporary chairman of the newly constituted City Central Committee of the New York Socialist Party and Morris Feinstein, secretary of the United Hebrew Trades.

## News Strikers Greeted

The meeting greeted with an enthusiastic demonstration the entry of a picket line of the locked-out employees of the New York Amsterdam News, and heard a short appeal by Ted Poston, leader of the delegation, for continued support of the locked-out staff by the labor movement.

A musical program included mass singing by the chorus of the I. L. G. W. U., composed of Negro and white members of the union, and a vocal selection by Nathan Sales, Negro tenor, accompanied on the piano by Miss May Manning.