

LEWIS' CALL FOR PROGRESSIVE UNITY BACKED BY NEGRO YOUTH

Southern Youth Congress Ends With Ringing Proclamation on Aim to Carry Fight for Equality, Progress

By Angelo Herndon
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 22.—Unanimously endorsing John L. Lewis' West Virginia speech in which he called for an organizational grouping of progressives, labor and the Negro people for independent political action in 1940, the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Congress ended here tonight after adopting a militant, fighting program for southern Negro youth.

Strongly condemning the war policies of the Roosevelt Administration, Edward E. Strong, executive secretary of the Congress, received applause when he declared in his closing remarks that "the white and Negro youth who are speaking out today are the hope of the South."

More than 2,000 people jammed the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church for the last session. They listened with keen and intense interest to the reading by Strong of the proclamation of southern youth, a document which will serve as a new stimulus in the fight of the Negro people for real democracy.

In bold, unmistakably clear words, the proclamation, adopted by a cheering vote of the entire assembly, declares:

PROCLAMATION

"We are the Negro Youth of the Southland. Hear our voice:

"We call from the land—we the dispossessed, the landless . . . We shout from the relief lines into which we are thrown through no fault of our own by the insanity and greed of selfish interests. We cry out against the inhuman and meagre budgeting of our daily bread. We call from the prisons against the barbaric rule of lynch law; the lying cry of rape; the mockery of equal justice for us and our people. This is our voice! The cry of the Negro youth. Hear us!"

Summarizing the fighting spirit of the entire Conference, the proclamation further declares:

"We demand our rights, loud and clear. We proclaim that ours is a necessary and urgent challenge to America. We, the disfranchised, shall win the ballot. We shall win for America the stature of Democracy, not false and accursed, but real and blessed.

"We proclaim our right to own the land we till; to restore to this land its natural goodness, its fertility, by work and care, from which we expect and shall fight to realize a secure living standard.

"We open our hearts to the fraternity of unity with the white young people of America and the oppressed youth of all lands who suffer and aspire as we do.

"Wracked with the torture of lynching law and persecution, out of our experiences, we shall rise, wave upon wave of Southern Negro Americans, united in fraternity with the forces of progress in the South, leading a crusade of freedom for our rightful place in the re-birth of the South.

"We have hope, and yet we have more than hope—we have power—the power of a unified people, a unity of our people, a deeper love of our people for each other, and in this love and in this unity, a passion from which shall flow the power and will fight and achieve. Out of these plans we shall sweep away all obstacles, real or imaginary, and make for ourselves, and for America, a wonderful greatness, an expression of a civilized humanity at peace with itself, at

peace with the world—a proof that mankind can achieve a new order.

"We offer ourselves, our loyalty, and the best that is in us, in this proclamation of Southern Negro Youth."

WANT KKK PROBED

The Conference went on record for the immediate passage of the Wagner Health Bill; for the enforcement of landlord-tenant contracts with an impartial board to decide on all controversial matters arising between landlords and tenants; demanded of the FBI a thorough investigation into the new lynch terror activities of the Ku Klux Klan; branded the Dies Committee as un-American and called for its immediate dissolution.

Resolutions demanding freedom for the five remaining innocent Scottsboro Boys, abolition of the poll-tax system, the right of Negroes to serve on juries, equal educational opportunities for Negro youth in rural and urban communities, were also adopted by the conference.

The application of the Sherman anti-Trust Law against trade unions was condemned as a drive to destroy the civil liberties of all the people. The conference pledged to work for the enforcement of Federal and State legislation to sharecroppers, the millions of destitute tenants and small farmers.

NEGROES REGISTERING

Speaking at the closing session, Samuel Solomon, symbol of the fight for the rights of Negroes to vote in the South, told the assembly how certain Republican politicians in Miami had tried to bribe him with a \$250 check for transportation as a delegate to the National Convention scheduled to take place in Philadelphia soon.

"I sent it back to them," he declared. "For I know they were trying to buy me off. I told them I would rather stand by and fight for and with my people. When we learn to deal with the politicians like men, they cannot continue to deny us those rights guaranteed by the Federal Constitution."

Five years ago, he said there were less than 500 Negroes who were registered in Miami. During the last year, as a result of the militant fight of the Negroes, more than 4,000 are now registered and eligible to vote.

"If it means life or death—we are going to vote."

Harold Lanier, Negro representative of the NYA, paid high tribute to the new militant leadership which is being forged by Negro Youth of the South.

"I am happy that the new Negro leadership is being selected by the Negro people themselves. If we want freedom and justice we have got to learn how to pay and fight for it."

New officers elected by the conference are: Edward E. Strong, Executive Secretary, Herman Long, National Chairman, Thelma Dale, Vice-Chairman-at-Large, Raymond Tillman, of New Orleans, field representative, and W. L. Bush, Alabama Coal Miner, Treasurer.

Trial Is Made Platform for Union-Busters

The witness stand in the trial of Teamsters, Local 807, continued to be a platform for anti-union employers on their complaints against the union, as the trial entered the second week yesterday.

Russell R. Goddard, who was manager for New York office of the Brookline Trucking Co., on the stand most of the day, told the court of a variety of disputes he has had with his drivers about provisions of the contract.

Those disputes concerned demand for overtime pay, lateness of the payroll, and efforts by the employer to hire other men than those the union sent him. It now appears that the court record will be cluttered with stories of that nature, to paint the conduct of the union men in an unfavorable light as to prejudice the jury. The basic charge is that the union forced employers to hire New York men on local work for all incoming trucks from other states.

WORKERS NOT PAID

Goddard's testimony related chiefly to Edward Wanheimer, a truckman he employed and union steward for the firm's drivers, and to William Campbell and Austin Fury, former business agents of the union. All three are defendants.

He related of one instance when his drivers refused to leave his office when his head office from Boston wired it could not meet the payroll. In another case it was a strike because the firm refused to pay overtime.

Goddard was still under direct examination at the close of the session yesterday. The defense attorneys had not yet had a chance to cross-examine him.

Louis B. Boudin, one of the attorneys representing Local 807, objected to having testimony on individual members of the union said or did, admissible against the union. Judge Hulbert Murray thereupon admonished the jury that "it must appear that the statement was authorized" before it could be binding upon the union.

Scalise Held In \$40,000 Bail by Dewey

George Scalise, International President of the Building Service Employees of the A. F. of L., was out yesterday on \$40,000 bond while a grand jury prepared an indictment against him on extortion charges.

Held as a material witness on \$20,000 bond is Ann Kay, his secretary.

District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, ordered the arrest by telephone from San Francisco and yesterday continued to give directions on the next steps in the case by long-distance telephone calls.

The arrest came on complaints of window cleaning and hotel cleaning firms who charged Scalise shook them down on a threat of labor organization.

Also charged with a part in the extortion conspiracy are Izzy and Louis Schwartz, both leaders in the union and out on \$6,000 bail.

At the office of his attorney, John Kadel, Scalise charged that the case is a "frame-up" to further Mr. Dewey's plans in the presidential race.