

We Will Return to Our Rightful Places, Mr. Bilbo

Negro Congress Head Says Unity Will Win Back His Grandfather's Seat in Congress

By CLAUDIA JONES

During the recent FEPC filibuster, a young man leaned over to his neighbor to ask the name of a poll taxer who was spewing forth how the South 'suffered' during the Reconstruction Period." The reply was: "Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi."

The young man's blood pressure rose and rose, because as he told me the other day: "That son of a so and so was 'setting' in my grandfather's chair!"

It was Revels Cayton, grandson of Bruce Revels, first Negro Congressman from Mississippi during Reconstruction, who related his story.

Cayton, dynamic secretary of the National Negro Congress, is working towards the day when once again new Bruce Revels will displace the Eastlands, Bilbos and Rankins and send them back where they belong. Just returned from an organizing tour of the midwest in connection with the forthcoming 10th anniversary convention of the National Negro Congress to be held in Detroit, May 31-June 1, he stated:

"My over-all impression is that Negro workers are ready and anxious to unite their strength to form a greater unity with labor whom they regard as their firmest ally and friend."

As an example, Cayton told me

of an inspiring meeting he had with 1,500 Negro Foundry workers of Ford Local 600.

"Most significant," he related, "these men who represent 9,000 Negro workers who, do some of the toughest work in the auto industry, welcomed my statement that we weren't building a pink-tea outfit but a rough, tough and angry organization. Likewise, many white workers present stressed the importance of promoting a fighting organization among the Negro people which works in close harmony with labor and which builds Negro-white unity. This is what NNC represents."

The same enthusiasm was re-

flected in the meetings he held with Packinghouse Workers and State, County and Municipal workers.

Outstanding as an example of concern of trade unionists for a strong NNC was his meeting with the Joint Council of Local 600 in Detroit.

As a result of his meeting, the Joint Council of Ford Local 600 re-affiliated to the National Negro Congress. In turn, they recommended all 18 buildings to do likewise. "On this basis," said Cayton, "approximately 100 auto workers will attend our Detroit Convention from this local alone."

So vital did midwest unionists consider this NNC effort, he added, that at a conference of 20 trade unionists a full time organizer and public relations man was underwritten by them to work for the success of additional trade union delegates.

In Cleveland, Cayton met with representatives of the ILGWU, his own international union. Formerly a Business agent and former vice-president of the CIO in California before he resigned this year to accept the NNC post, he met with the ILGWU to explain the issues of the Convention.

The issues are many and urgent. They are: to assist in the fight for unity of the Negro people and their organizations; to unite their efforts to secure success on such issues as FEPC, the poll tax, the right to vote; to stop the growing lynch terror; to fight for peace and the immediate issues of jobs, housing and veterans' needs, North and South.

Off again to a Southern and Southwest tour for NNC building, Cayton breathes confidence when he says: "With the aid of our labor-progressive allies we can and must win these battles now."



CAYTON

Where Do You Go, Hugo?

By LOUISE (Down-to-Her-Last-Pair) MITCHELL

Nylons (made by duPont, the explosives trust) threatened to become political dynamite yesterday as a result of a suggestion made by Manhattan Borough President Hugo Rogers.

In effect, Rogers told Manhattan women to go gather your nylons where you may, but don't stand in line and block traffic.

For women who have no charge or deposit accounts in the department stores, his suggestion is a laugh grim-like. Here is no legitimate way to get stockings, nylons or otherwise, unless you stand and wait on line. And the men (there are plenty) and women who have to do it don't enjoy it one bit.

CONNECTIONS, HUGO?

Maybe the borough president has connections and doesn't have to line up and block traffic. Lucky man. Tens of thousands of us who waste precious time on nylon lines wish

It seems that a lot of merchants are complaining that the long lines are interfering with business.

"I want m/lady to be glad in nylons as much as anyone," professes the borough president. "But there are other means of doing business than the practice of inconveniencing the crowds who must stand on these lines for hours and other storekeepers who lose advertising value from their own display windows."

Note: up to now it had been believed that displays have a greater value when crowds of people see them.

Offering his solution to the prob-

use "mail orders" for nylons. His office yesterday wasn't exactly clear as to what that meant. When asked whether women would have to line up in front of a store to hand in their names and addresses in order to get the nylons by mail, the secretary had no answer.

Women with charge and deposit accounts are notified by mail to avail themselves of nylon sales conducted for price customers only. Other women are left out in the cold by this method. The "mail order" proposal doesn't work for all alike.

If the borough president is really interested in seeing that women get nylons, and business isn't blocked and police aren't used unnecessarily, why doesn't he start a campaign to ration nylons? Then there wouldn't be lines and aching feet.

Huh, Mr. President?

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