

Negro Youth Pamphlet

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS. Second All-Southern Negro Youth Congress. 33 pages. Published by the Second Negro Youth Congress, 327 North First Street, Richmond, Va. Price 10c.

By Claudia Jones

The special significance of the Second All-Southern Negro Youth Congress, it is agreed by all observers, lies in the fact that in reality this movement expresses the economic, social and cultural desires not only of Negro youth of the Southland, but of the entire Southern people, Negro and white.

Its second conference, held in Chattanooga, Tenn., April 1-3, attended by 355 delegates, registered approximately 383 organized Southern youth—an increase over the 250,000 represented at the first Conference in Richmond. Since the Congress was established in 1937 it has achieved a brilliant record.

The number of delegates this year, as compared to the 500 of last year, was smaller. It is significant, however, that the composition of delegates represents a considerable increase in qualitative representation, especially from the deep South. The credentials report records 17 came from Georgia, 22 from Alabama 12 from North Carolina, and so on.

The types of organizations represented show that a cross-section of the main organizations among the Negro young people were represented—religious, fraternal, student, cultural, trade union, farm, athletic, social and political.

The keynote of the conference was citizenship. Calling attention to the changing South, which is a reflection of the powerful currents of progress stirring the American people, the conference recorded the fact "that this powerful sentiment on the part of America to move forward the frontier of democracy is now entering our Southland."

The Conference resolved to "organize poll tax paying clubs. . . and registration centers in every neighborhood." Thus assuring the maximum vote polled under existing conditions and helping to defeat poll tax disfranchisement and corrupt and anti-suffrage laws.

Other resolutions call for the right of Negroes to serve on juries, for more educational opportunities, for release of the remaining five Scottsboro boys, for endorsing President Roosevelt's Chicago speech for "concerted action" for peace, for better inter-racial understanding, for support and passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, for cooperation with the nation-wide health campaign; and for support to the Second World Youth Congress.

The annual report of Edward E. Strong, National Executive Secretary and leader of the Congress, is printed in its entirety, and stands out as a clear critical document on the major achievements and manifold problems facing the Congress if it is to achieve the great task of uniting the Southern youth.

The pamphlet concludes with the findings of the panels on citizenship, job security, Negro education, religion, rural youth, marriage, home life and culture. The reports reflect the earnest spirit in which these young people deliberated at Chattanooga.

The low price of the pamphlet will enable its reaching a wide-range of young Negro and white people of the South, especially. It is a handbook not alone for the Negro people, but for all those who understand that the deliberations of the Second All-Southern Negro Youth Congress marks the historical beginning of a movement which is helping to rally the whole of the Southern people for freedom, equality and opportunity.