

Some Queries to FEPC 'Leaders'

By CLAUDIA JONES

(Last of a series).

SOME questions remain to be answered as to the leaders of the "National Council for a permanent FEPC."

The record shows that they do not practice what they preach. A leaflet distributed in Brooklyn, stated: "Preach about the FEPC to everybody you meet, wherever you are, morning, noon and night."

It is evident that Mr. Randolph and Mrs. Hedgeman are occupied with preaching something other than FEPC, although it is quite true that the FEPC issue is the cloak behind which their preachments are hidden.

A deeper look at the "National Council" reveals that:

● Mr. Randolph and Mrs. Hedgeman have made this center a catspaw of political self-seekers who seek to make partisan capital out of the FEPC issue.

Disruptive Cliques

● The "National Council" is today a pot-pourri assortment of redbaiting Dubinsky, Social-Democrats, disruptive Trotskyites and Norman Thomas socialists—all of whom are willingly permitted by Randolph to infest the "National Council" for unsavory political aims. For example:

On Feb. 4, the N. Y. Socialist Workers Party executive endorsed the rally backed by the "National Council," according to the front page story of the Socialist Call. Randolph's closest lieutenant, Milton P. Webster, one of the scheduled speakers at the forthcoming rally, is reputedly the anonymous author of a recent red-baiting article in the Chicago World, entitled: "Communism—Menace to Black America." It was effectively answered in a signed article by William F. Patterson, legislative director of the Illinois Communist Party.

● The National Council is heavily underwritten financially by Dubinsky's redbaiting outfit. Both Hedgeman and Randolph are associated with nebulous political forces such as the Liberal Party.

● It is authoritatively revealed that a recent West Park Avenue meeting, Randolph raised \$10,000 and set the goal of another \$200,000 for the National Council. Randolph stated to that select crowd that he had no hope for enact-

ment of the FEPC bill in this session of Congress.

It is not only the Truman Administration with which Randolph seeks to curry favor, but also the Stassen Republicans. A recent Washington banquet featured Stassen as the chief speaker.

Apparently, Randolph seeks to be "all things to all men."

But the Negro people and labor will question and reject anyone who seeks to be the bridge between scurrilous redbaiting forces on the two major parties. Out of their anti-fascist consciousness and inherent recognition of the imperialist policies that guide the two major parties, they are moving towards independent political action with labor around the issue of jobs, peace, security and a permanent FEPC.

Speakers List

The list of speakers at the rally backed by Randolph and his friends confirms this analysis. Heading the list is Sen. Wayne Morse (R). After cloture was lost, Morse made a flowery speech, but in the course of the arrogant ruling by McKellar, he associated himself with Chavez who led the parade of 71 Senators to remove FEPC from immediate consideration.

Not a single one of the 12 Senators who voted against displacement of the FEPC bill from the Senate floor are among the listed speakers.

Not a single outstanding progressive people's fighter or elected representative, around whom the Negro people and labor expressed their complete confidence in the recent municipal and congressional elections are invited. Why? It is obvious they are omitted because A. Phillip Randolph and

Anna Hedgeman's redbaiting and other partisan motives wouldn't allow it. On the other hand, among those listed are William Gren, James B. Carey and Lewis Schwellenbach.

This situation as stated by Councilman Benjamin J. Davis in the recent Sunday Worker "renders the Randolph group wholly unreliable as a nationally exclusive center of leadership in the fight for FEPC."

Davis' call for a "broad and unified national center of strategy and mass action wholly dedicated to the passage of FEPC" should be taken up and established among the Negro people and their allies in the labor, veteran and progressive movement, including Jewish, Catholic and other groups. Progressive forces in the National Council can likewise contribute to this fight by letting their opinions be known that the FEPC is by no means anyone's private issue.

FEPC DAY Feb. 28

New Yorkers, the Negro people, the minorities, especially labor and its Communist vanguard—will have an opportunity to rededicate their fighting vigor behind the House FEPC measure—which remains the center of the fight to secure the 52 signatures needed from Congressmen to ensure speedy enactment of the FEPC bill.

Mayor O'Dwyer's proclamation of Feb. 28 as FEPC Day should mark the heightened unity of all those forces who recognize that the FEPC issue can be won in this session of Congress, 1946! It should likewise signalize the occasion for exposing all those who seek to make partisan capital out of the FEPC issue.

Worth Repeating

Frederic Joliot-Curie, French Communist, Nobel Prize scientist, and member of the UNO Atomic Energy Commission told the French Information Services: "Atomic research will be directed toward the harnessing of this energy for industrial purposes. Now, even though France has at her disposal vast quantities of uranium from her colonies, she has no intention of producing vast numbers of bombs." From the French Information Service Bulletin of Feb. 3, 1946.