

Hundreds Say Last Goodbye to Claudia Jones, Who Sails Today

By AUGUSTA STRONG

The friends of Claudia Jones, from several generations, gathered by the hundreds last night at the Hotel Theresa, on 125th street, to pay tribute to the young woman whose parents brought her here as a little girl 32 years ago in search for a haven from poverty and oppression.

It was the eve of Miss Jones' forced departure from this country. Friends, neighborhoods, and the many people who had worked with her from the days of the campaigns to free the Scottsboro boys in the 1930's to the present days of witchhunts and her own Smith Act trial, had come to spend one last evening of comradeship.

Although deportation was due today, and everyone knew that Claudia's work had taken a heavy toll of her health, it was a warm and optimistic gathering.

The crowd grew larger and larger as the evening progressed. The young people danced, and old friends, some who had been absent from community gatherings for years, exchanged greetings, until finally Claudia arrived and the crowd grew quiet to hear her farewell words.

Messages were read from many friends in Harlem and from New York, Cleveland, Chicago, and other cities, and they expressed love and admiration for Claudia, and optimism that in the not too distant future the freedom for which she fought would prevail and end all witchhunt trials and deportations.

The telegram from the dean of the Negro freedom movement, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, read simply: "Hail, and farewell!"

William L. Patterson, secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, in an eloquent address, declared:

"Claudia goes as a deportee, but as Frederick Douglass once left our shores carrying a message describing the crime of slavery, as W. E. B. DuBois once went to



CLAUDIA JONES

Europe to denounce the monstrous crimes inherent in racism, Claudia Jones will show how the racist rulers of America now threaten all mankind. . . .

"On the other hand . . . Claudia will say that the ever-growing unity of the American people around the cause of civil liberties and civil rights testifies to who will beat whom in the U.S."

Claudia's aging father, Charles Cumberbatch, who has cared for her during her illness and was her constant visitor during her year's imprisonment, said in a few brief, feeling words that "wherever she goes, Claudia will do her best."

Max Weiss, for years a co-worker of Claudia's, now under a Smith Act indictment, spoke for the Communist Party—citing Claudia's contributions to the struggle for social progress.

Mrs. Marion Bachrach, a friend for years, now facing Smith Act trial spoke of her certainty that this was not a final goodbye.

Then Claudia, with graceful dignity, in a calm firm voice, described how she felt to be exiled from her country after 32 years, but how confident she was of "the restoration to this country of the principles of freedom of the Lady with the Torch."

She spoke of her childhood in Harlem, of the influence of her

VISITING HOURS ON CLAUDIA JONES' SHIP

Claudia Jones will leave today (Friday) for London on the Queen Elizabeth. The ship is at the 50th St. pier. Visiting hours close at 1 p.m.

Miss Jones is expected to arrive at the ship at noon.

parents.

Looking around the auditorium, filled with more friends than she would have time to greet personally, she said, "I regard leaders of the Communist Party like Ben Davis, Johnny Gates, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Eugene Dennis, Claude Lightfoot, and others.

"We are guilty only of fighting the force and violence of reaction."

Closing her remarks, Claudia read a poem to Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, with whom she shared imprisonment at Alderson, W. V., a poem which, she said, was dedicated to all of her friends and comrades here.

Flowers and gifts were piled high upon the table before Claudia . . . and in the air were still the strains of the liberation songs of American Negroes, sung by soprano Nadyne Brewer.

IUE Charge With 'Scal'

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 8 Westinghouse Electric Corp. t herding." "The company wants lights out of them with its profit-made speedup and rate-slashing program," the IUE declared.

The company claimed that 98 workers had returned to their jobs today at its Sharon, Pa., plant, which normally employs 6,000.

Heavy picketing was reported