

# Discrimination's End Is Necessary to Win War, Speakers Aver

22 Colored Among 150 Delegates  
at Md.-DC Union Council Meeting;  
Praise Work at Fairfield Yards

BALTIMORE—Contending that discrimination helps Hitler, George A. Meyers, president of the Maryland-District of Columbia Industrial Union Council, struck the keynote of the organization's sixth annual convention Monday when he said:

"Whoever places obstacles in the way of employment of colored people, of Jews and of any other groups in any of our war industries is acting as the agent, willing or unwilling, paid or unpaid, of Adolph Hitler."

The convention opened Monday at Moose Hall, 410 W. Fayette Street, with approximately 150 delegates, 22 of them colored, in attendance. The sessions, which resumed today (Tuesday) will continue through Wednesday.

## "Manpower Problem Our Problem"

"The manpower problem is our problem," Mr. Meyers said, in continuing his report to the conference. "It is not a problem in the province of government or business alone. It is everyone's problem. Can we say that we in organized labor have fully rallied all our efforts to bring colored people into industry?"

**"Can we say that we in organized labor have thrown aside all our prejudices not only against colored people, but against the employment of women; that we have not merely accepted their employment, but have actually gone out to encourage and welcome it?"**

"The colored people in this area, loyal, patriotic and true Americans, must be given an opportunity to be fully integrated into our war economy. Jobs for colored people is not merely a question of morals and justice, but an urgent military necessity."

## Lauds Marine Union Officials

Mr. Meyers then commended officials of Local 43 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America for their efforts in breaking numerous job discrimination bonds on colored people and Jews at the Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyards, an effort which he described as typical of CIO unions throughout the country.

Launching an attack against Maryland's Declaration of Intentions Act, which requires voters to be registered a whole year before they can vote, Mr. Meyers said further:

**"No other State in the Union has such a law, and as we know its closest blood brother is in the infamous poll tax in eight of our Southern States. Repeal of the Declaration of Intentions Act, therefore, is really emergency war legislation, the kind of action our State legislature ought to take to help strengthen the morale of our workers."**

Mayor Howard W. Jackson, first of the guest speakers called by James Drury, local port agent of the National Maritime Union, then presiding, pointed out that winning the war and then winning the peace were the two main objectives facing the United Nations in the war effort.

## Mayor Urges End of "Hate"

"Hate, prejudice, partiality and self-interest must not be present at the next peace table," the mayor stated. "We must see that our men on the fighting fronts come back home to an unimpaired democracy."

"We can't be thorough Americans if we think of ourselves as groups such as black and white, Jews and Gentiles or capitalists and labor. There must be free enterprise, free labor with everybody having a free opportunity."

Congressman Thomas D'Alesandro, another speaker at the Monday morning session, also denounced discrimination. He said:

"There must be no room for discrimination in our nation. What is needed, as well as guns and tanks, is a united people. All classes, all races must unite and present a solid front. I'm proud I voted for the anti-lynch bill and the anti-poll tax bill. Their passage would do much toward achieving this end."

## O'Connor Calls for Unity

Governor Herbert R. O'Connor was the featured speaker at the afternoon session. He, too, urged a unification of all Americans regardless of race, color or creed in the war effort against the enemy nations.

**"No group has made a greater contribution to this country's cause than has labor," Governor O'Connor said. "In the past year, more than ever before, much of these artificial distinctions such as race, creed and color have been wiped out—and organized labor is responsible."**

Other speakers included Daniel Ellison, Congressman-elect from the Fourth District; Sidney R. Katz, secretary-treasurer of the council; Robert Bonnell, director of Baltimore's Mobilization Committee; James McFarland, director of the local Red Cross, whose only

mention of the jim-crow blood donor project at Provident Hospital was that it was a point where blood could be donated.

## Colored Delegates Listed

Colored delegates registered Monday were:

Lamar Cook, Thomas Woolridge, Joseph Neal, of the United Steelworkers of America; James H. Ford, of United Transport Service Employees of America; Fred Douglas, Trackmen's Union, Local 2819; John B. Miller and Benjamin F. Cole of Local 276, Sugar Workers' Union;

Eldon Hayes, United Federal Workers, Local 26; Alfred MacPherson and Thomas Aydlott, IUNMSA, Local 43; Louis Williams, United Building Supply Workers, Local 1221; Earl Anderson and William Beatty, National Maritime Union.

Washington delegates: Edward Hood, Local 95, United Federal Workers of America, and the Rev. Joseph White, Cicero Hammer, Leroy Pitts, Percy Williams, Miss Virginia Parker, Mrs. Ruby Jennings, James E. Harris and Mrs. Elizabeth King, all of Local 471, Cafeteria Workers' Union.