

1,300 ASK JOBS FOR WOMEN IN PLANE PLANT

Big Birmingham Job Rally Hears Demands For Key War Work

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Thirteen hundred Negro citizens — 90 per cent of them women — joined in a demand to the Bethel-McCone-Parsons airplane modification plant that the company immediately discontinue its policy of refusing to hire Negro women in the local plant, and urged an increase in the number of Negro men employed.

The action came at a mass meeting at the Sixth Avenue Baptist church here, called by the Citizens' Committee for Jobs and Job-Training. The meeting was called, it was explained, after negotiations between the Citizens Committee and representatives of the company had made no headway against the stubborn refusal of the company to begin the training of Negro women.

Bechtel-McCone-Parsons, a subsidiary of a company by the same name operating in California, has almost completed construction of a plant which will employ 22,000 workers, of which about 13,000 will be women. Although one third of the population of Jefferson county is Negro, the company has so far instituted training for less than a hundred Negroes, all of them men.

White Speakers

In a keynote speech, Dr. James E. Jackson, secretary of the Citizens Committee, and educational director of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, declared: "If we are to achieve a speedy victory in this war and reduce to a minimum the cost in lives, then we must now, immediately, without further delay, make full use of all available resources and manpower, in this favorable moment for taking the offensive in a second front against the Axis."

Support of the white population of Jefferson county was voiced by W. O. Hare, state secretary of the American Federation of Labor, Mike Ross, international representative of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, representing the CIO, and Mrs. Pauline Dobbs, president of the Birmingham Victory Youth Council.

The meeting was opened by Dr. E. W. Taggart, member of the national board of the NAACP, who served as chairman.

Other speakers were Rev. John W. Goodgame, W. H. Hollins, real estate broker and chairman of the Citizens Committee; J. E. Kelley, vice chairman of the Citizens Committee and grand secretary of the Elks; and Mrs. A. G. Gaston of the Y.W.C.A.