SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS

Souvenir Journal

SOUTHERN YOUTH LEGISLATURE

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 18-20, 1946

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SOUTHERN YOUTH LEGISLATURE

WE MEET in solemn session . . . militant, courageous Negro youth of the South. Youth . . . which must and will be served. Youth . . . dedicated to the struggle for freedom. Youth . . . determined to achieve that freedom in its lifetime.

We have as our program of action (1) to make ourselves a full-fledged voting generation (2) to see that the poll-tax and all barriers to vote are removed (3) to realize the enactment of an F.E.P.C. law guaranteeing the right to work at all jobs (4) to fight for federal anti-lynching legislation and genuine civil liberties (5) to insist upon adequate and equal housing, health and educational facilities (6) to put an end to "white supremacy" customs and practices which violate our human dignity and rights.

We meet to pledge ourselves to this program, to determine the course of action which must be taken, to fight for the full realization of these our hopes and aspirations—as citizens of the United States.

We meet at this time because we are impelled to meet. We meet because our vision of democracy is focused and determined. We meet because we must raise our voices in protest. And WE SHALL BE HEARD.

We do not come together as a mock legislature. We do not intend that the laws which we make here shall end here. We will take these laws to the CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES in January so that they might have concrete evidence as to what Negro youth wants and will have as law in the United States. We will lobby THOUSANDS STRONG to insist that the will of the people be done.

We accept our place as contributing to the history of the Negro people. We, as youth, accept the challenge and responsibility of our generation to take great strides forward in the struggle for freedom. We insist upon that responsibility and WE SHALL NOT FAIL.

Let us meet in wisdom . . . Let us meet in seriousness . . . Let us meet with courage and mutuality of hearts and enriched spirit . . . Let us fight to the finish . . . Let VICTORY BE OURS . . .

ON WITH THE LEGISLATURE

PAUL ROBESON · *Hero*

FEW MEN in any age fit the measure and the meaning of the word—hero. Paul Robeson is one of those few. His name brings to mind the great historic characters of our literature and from real life whose careers have become an undying part of the world's culture because their genius was wholly dedicated to the advancement of men toward a civilization of true brotherhood.

Paul Robeson is our modern-day Paul Bunyan, smashing with the might of his great gifts and great heart the enemies of the people's progress. He is our Everyman, preaching the democratic idea and practicing what he preaches. He is an equalitarian Gulliver towering above the puny Lilliputians of greed and prejudice who try in vain to bind his strong arms and still his trumpet voice.

Not only to Negro youth is he the shining symbol of our highest hopes and our growing courage; the oppressed and despised, the hopeful and striving men and women of all nations and colors know him as a friend and advocate. They love him as we do.

During the first World War Paul Robeson was at Rutgers College making an unprecedented record as scholar and athlete. The national acclaim which he thus won as four-letter man, member of Phi Beta Kappa honorary scholastic society, and all-American football star, has in the ensuing years increased in brilliance and extended to many fields.

Is he a great singer? Ask the countless Chinese peasants whose marching songs he sang in their army encampments as they went out to battle against the Japanese invader—long before Pearl Harbor signalized that their fight was America's fight too. Ask the Spanish youth inspirited by his songs as they fought an uneven battle in the trenches about Madrid—years before American officialdom would admit that the Hitler-Mussolini adventure against Republican Spain was the prelude to World War II. Ask the countless audiences of smart concert goers and just plain folks—the kings and royal personages who have thrilled at command performances; the dishwashers and school teachers, and mechanics, trade union members and "working stiffs"—for all of whom his songs are the best songs.

Is he an actor? He is the greatest Shakespearean actor of our age. His "Othello" shattered all records of the American stage.

Is he a champion of the people's liberties? He is Chairman of the Council on African Affairs, most recently co-chairman with Albert Einstein of the American Crusade to End Lynching. And by his appearance at this Southern Youth Legislature and his earlier participation in the Fifth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference at Tuskegee Institute in April, 1944, he is a patron of the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

Paul Robeson's visit to the Southern Youth Legislature has more than usual significance. He comes to us in *Freedom Road* territory—the South Carolina land made famous in Howard Fast's unforgettable novel as scene of the united achievements of black men and white men during the years of Reconstruction. He comes to us as we dedicate ourselves to unflagging labor for a free, secure life in the South now—in our lifetime. His presence strengthens our fight, brings us good cheer, and impels us on to our inevitable triumph, and the triumph of democracy.

Welcome, Paul Robeson—hero!

Kind wishes
Paul Robeson

HON. ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.

Modern Statesman

IN THE ANNALS of the American Negro, a glorious company of brave men and women have emerged as the foremost champions of militant action and angry protest against reaction. Denmark Vesey, leading the "helpless" slaves of the Charleston area in revolt against their bourbon masters, was of such a breed. Harriett Tubman, chief conductor on the underground railroad through which hundreds "stole away" to freedom, was another. So was David Walker, whose "Appeal" stirred the callous conscience of a complacent America. Most noteworthy of all, of course, was Frederick Douglass, winning his own freedom through struggle, and fearlessly, even when alone, lashing out against the evil of a power which appeared all-powerful.

These men and women would brook no compromise, nor give any quarter in their battle for a people's liberation. To their company belongs the keynote speaker of the Southern Youth Legislature, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

Representative Powell's position as a member of Congress from the populous Harlem district is the natural consequence of a career of daring leadership in that community and the nation at large. When, in the leanest days of the depression, the people of Harlem were faced with the refusal of small business establishments in the 125th Street shopping district to hire Negro clerks, it was Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., who led the people on the picket lines in a "don't buy where you can't work" campaign which reversed the discriminatory hiring policy. When the New York Telephone Company arrogantly refused skilled employment to young Negro women, he led a boycott and protest movement which grew until Harlem's young women were given jobs as clerks in district offices and as "hello girls."

Congressman Powell is one of the outstanding Christian clergymen in the nation. His church, Abyssinian Baptist, houses the largest Protestant congregation in the world, and is noted for its extensive social service as well as for the quality of its religious services.

In the U. S. House of Representatives, the Rev. Mr. Powell has been a clarion voice for justice and progressive legislation. His advocacy of anti-poll tax legislation, the permanent FEPC bill, full employment and social security measures, all combine to make his voting (and speaking) record one of the finest of the 79th Congress. Now standing for re-election as Democratic nominee in New York's 22nd Congressional District, he plans to introduce in the 80th Congress which convenes January 5th, a new Civil Rights bill to give the federal government the full power it needs to prosecute denials of constitutional liberties in the South.

Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., brings to the Southern Youth Legislature a message reflecting the highest achievement of Negroes in American politics, and a career of courage and unfailing militancy.

SOUTHERN YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Program

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18—TOWNSHIP AUDITORIUM

10 A. M. - 1 P. M. ..... Opening Session
Greetings from South Carolina to Delegates
Setting up of Conference Committees

1 P. M. - 2 P. M. ..... Lunch

2 P. M. - 5 P. M. ..... Business Session
Reports of SNYC Officers
Esther V. Cooper, *Executive Secretary*
Louis E. Burnham, *Organizational Secretary*
Discussion

8 P. M. ..... Keynote Public Session
Mrs. Rose Mae Catchings, *Chairman*
President, Southern Negro Youth Congress
John H. McCray
Dr. Clark Foreman
President, Southern Conference for Human Welfare
Congressman ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

9 A. M. - 11 A. M. ..... Committee Hearings

1. YOUTH AND LABOR
Thomas Richardson, *Chairman*
Vice-President, United Public Workers, CIO
Raymond Tillman
Inter. Rep., United Transport Workers, CIO
Mike Ross
United Furniture Workers, CIO
Henry Mayfield
United Mine Workers of America, A.F.L.
Florence J. Valentine
Miami Council, SNYC

2. PEACE
Rose Mae Catchings, *Chairman*
Edward E. Strong
National Negro Congress
Abbott Simon
National Committee to Win the Peace
Dorothy Burnham
Southern Negro Youth Congress

3. VETERANS
Edgar Holt, *Chairman*
Vice-President, SNYC
Kenneth C. Kennedy
National Commander, UNAVA
Malcolm C. Dobbs
Southern Conference for Human Welfare
Catherine Godfrey
United Negro and Allied Veterans

4. EDUCATION
Prof. Edward Weaver, *Chairman*
Alabama State Teachers College
Mrs. Grace Towns Hamilton
Atlanta Urban League
Charles G. Gomillion
Chairman, Education Department, SNYC
Walter Sutler
Washington Council, SNYC
Mrs. Andrew W. Simpkins
Advisory Board, SNYC
L. Maynard Catchings
Race Relations Dept., Cong. and Christian Churches

5. FARM PROBLEMS
Waymon Johnson, *Chairman*
Assistant District Farm Agent, South Carolina
Sherman Briscoe
Information Specialist, Department of Agriculture
R. R. Pierce
Lowndes County Training School

11 A. M. - 1 P. M. ..... Committee of the Whole

HEARING ON VOTING
James E. Jackson, Jr., *Chairman*
Director, Special Projects, SNYC
O. E. McKaine
Field Representative, Southern Conference for Human Welfare
Dr. Herbert Apthecker
Historian. Author: "Negro In American Revolution," Etc.
C. A. Scott
Editor, Atlanta Daily World
Hosey Hudson
United Steel Workers of America, C.I.O.
Maenetta Steele
Fairfield (Ala.) Council, SNYC

1 P. M. - 2 P. M. ..... Lunch

2 P. M. - 4 P. M. ..... Committee of the Whole

HEARING ON CIVIL LIBERTIES
Hazel P. Tucker, *Chairman*
Secretary, Washington Council, SNYC
Emory O. Jackson
Editor, Birmingham World
George Marshall
Chairman, Board, Civil Rights Congress
George A. Blakey
Assistant Attorney General, Illinois
Louis E. Burnham

4 P. M. - 5:30 P. M. ..... Meeting of the Legislature
Chairman, Senate: Lucille A. Lewis
Chairman, House: Rose Mae Catchings

5:30 P. M. - 6:30 P. M. ..... Dinner

9 P. M. - 10 P. M. ..... International Youth Festival
PAUL ROBESON
Prof. Don West, Author, Oglethorpe University.
Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, President, Palmer Memorial Institute
Howard Fast, Author, "Freedom Road"
Greetings from youth leaders from other lands

10 P. M. ..... Conference Dance

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

9 A. M. - 10 A. M. ..... Church Services

10 A. M. - 1 P. M. ..... Reports of Committees

1 P. M. - 2 P. M. ..... Dinner

2 P. M. - 4 P. M. ..... Election of Officers

4:30 P. M. - 6 P. M. ..... Closing Mass Meeting
Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
Guest of Honor
Mrs. Thomasina W. Johnson
Chief Minority Groups Section, Dept. of Labor
Michael J. Quill
Inter. Pres., Transport Workers, CIO
Induction of Officers
Closing Remarks by President

(This program is subject to change. Other speakers to be announced)

YOUTH'S TRIBUTE TO OUR SENIOR STATESMAN

DR. W. E. B. DuBOIS: Director of Special Research, N.A.A.C.P.; President, Pan-African Congress; Author; Historian; Teacher; People's Leader.

DR. W. E. B. DuBOIS, in receiving a citation for distinguished service, as the climatic feature of the Southern Youth Legislature, will be accepting only a symbolic token of the great obligation of reverence and respect which Negro youth cherish for him.

Dr. DuBois is the senior statesman of the American Negro's liberation struggle, the noble and peerless patriarch of our steady climb out of slavery's darkness into the light of full freedom. At present Director of Special Research of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of which organization he is a founder, his career spans three generations. The world honors him as one of its outstanding scholars and teachers, and foremost champion of the rights of colonial and oppressed peoples everywhere.

The publications which bear his name, many of which are classics in their fields, include: *The Negro In Philadelphia, Black Reconstruction, The Souls of Black Folk, Dusk To Dawn,* and *Black Folk—Then and Now.* At present he is editing an encyclopedia of the American Negro.

His achievements inspire a generation. His life of single-minded service urges us on to greater strivings for self improvement, and for the accomplishment of that zealous unity based on adherence to principal and acceptance of common goals which his career so brilliantly reflects.

In paying tribute to Dr. W. E. B. DuBois we honor not only the man, but our generation as well.

S. N. Y. C. OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rose Mae Catchings

★ ROSE MAE CATCHINGS

As President of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, Rose Mae Catchings has been the chief spokesman of the South's most articulate youth movement since April, 1942. Mrs. Catchings brings to her office a fine scholastic preparation in the field of social service and a wide experience in work with young people. A native of Greensboro, N. C., and now residing in Nashville, Tenn., she served the YWCA for some years as branch secretary and as Southern Student Secretary.

E. Esther V. Cooper

★ ESTHER V. COOPER

Chief executive officer of SNYC, Esther V. Cooper is a graduate of Oberlin College. The thesis for her master's degree, granted by Fisk University, is a unique study of problems of Negro domestic workers. She received a 1945 Rosenwald Fellowship for a study on attitudes of Negro youth toward the war and post-war world; represented SNYC at World Youth Conference in London last November and was elected to governing council of World Federation of Democratic Youth. Native of Arlington, Va.

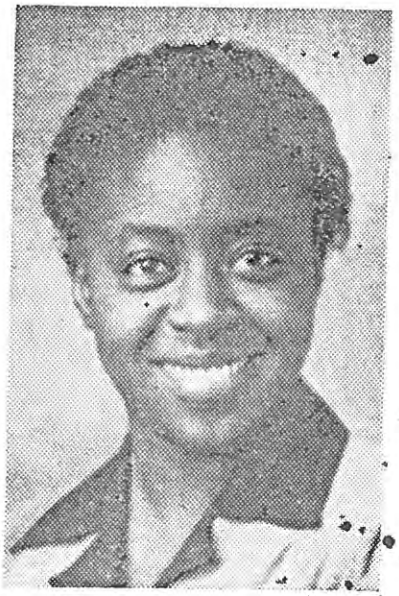
★ LOUIS E. BURNHAM

Our organizational secretary adds to the SNYC staff a wide experience and one of the outstanding careers in the American youth movement. Responsible for directing SNYC field work and organizing drives, his constant concern is adding new clubs and councils to our growing list and helping them develop programs. Prolific and talented writer, he is an economist by formal training, received at City College of New York and the New School for Social Research. One of the founders of SNYC.

★ JAMES E. JACKSON, JR.

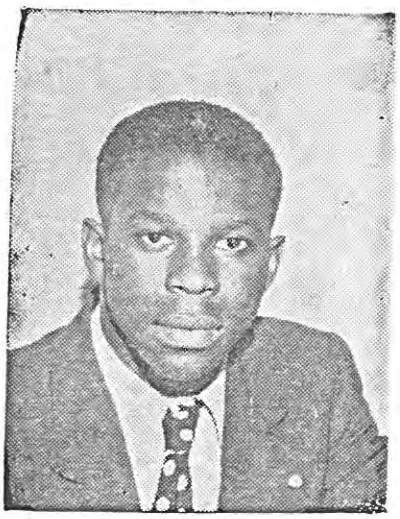
Another founder of SNYC, has been a spark-plug in its growth since the first conference held in his native Richmond in February, 1937. Graduate of Virginia Union University and the Howard U. School of Pharmacy, "Jack" has been SNYC vice-president, field representative and educational director. Now serving as special projects director, he heads up **our right to vote** drives, campaigns for civil liberties and other special activities. Author of distinguished prose, his articles are sought after for their penetrating insight into the South's economic, political and social affairs.

★ MAENETTA STEELE



The Treasurer of the S.N.Y.C. is a native of Fairfield, Alabama, in which city she now teaches in the public schools from which she graduated. She is also President of the Fairfield Council of the S.N.Y.C. which for the past three years has successfully maintained a community youth center and conducted other activities which place it in the forefront of S.N.Y.C. councils.

★ KENNETH C. KENNEDY



This dynamic young man is one of the five vice-presidents of the S.N.Y.C. and is also National Commander of the new organization of World War II service men and women, the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America. A native of Birmingham, he received his education at Talladega College and added to a natural talent for debate a keen interest in the welfare of his people, which was abetted by many volunteer services as investigator and organizer for the headquarters of S.N.Y.C. He is Chairman of the Veterans Panel at the Legislature.

★ DOROTHY C. BURNHAM

DOROTHY CHALLENOR BURNHAM, S. N. Y. C. educational director is camera shy. After five years of distinguished service, we can't find a picture of her.

Presides over the research, publications and publicity of the S.N.Y.C. Her title of Educational Director does not adequately reflect the variety of tasks which are brought to her quiet and efficient attention. She has all the heated partisanship which one would expect a native Brooklynite to have for the Dodgers. This past summer she proxied for Esther Cooper at a Paris meeting of the council of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and extended to youth leaders from other countries invitations to the Legislature.

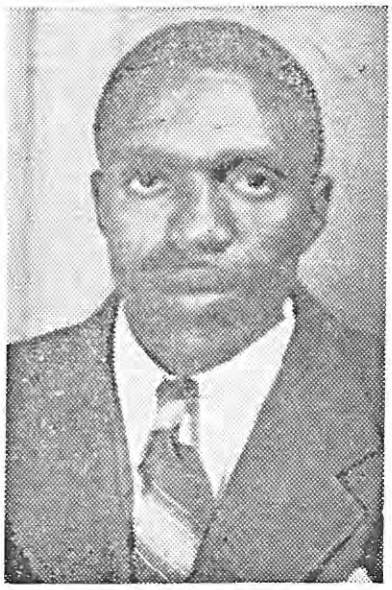
★ FLORENCE CASTILE

Will be recognized by North Carolinians and Virginians at the Legislature as the energetic young woman who toured their states arousing interest and organizing delegations to Columbia. She is a graduate of Virginia State College at Petersburg, has taught for a year in the New York public school system, and jumped at the opportunity to serve the S.N.Y.C. as field representative in preparation for the Legislature. She is a member of the S.N.Y.C. executive board.

★ ETHEL WILLIAMS

Among the three faculty advisors of the S.N.Y.C. at Benedict College, Miss Ethel Williams has rendered distinguished service in spark-plugging the recent membership drive on the campus. A native Columbian, she is instructor in religious education, and is widely known throughout the state.

★ HAROLD H. POOLE

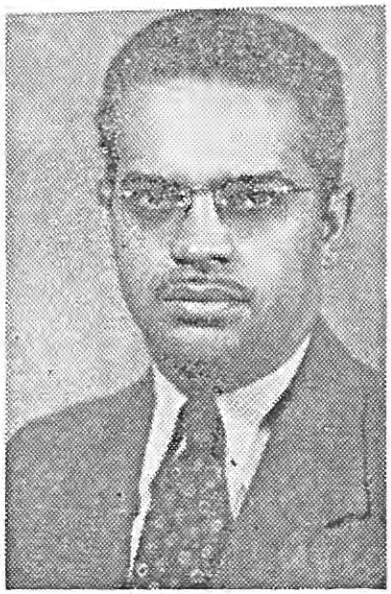


President of the Columbia, South Carolina, council of the S.N.Y.C., H. H. Poole bears the lion's share of responsibility for the successful accomplishment of the thousand and one details which are part of conference preparations. Untiring and resourceful, he headed up the housing committee, and provided facilities in all fields to make your stay in Columbia pleasant and eventful. A native of Greenville, South Carolina, he is full-time youth worker at Columbia's Zion Baptist Church, Rev. J. P. Reeder, pastor.

★ ETHEL BIGBY

Is showing the student population of the South how to build the Southern Negro Youth Congress. With upwards of 100 members in a whirlwind drive, Miss Bigby was crowned as "Miss Benedict S.N.Y.C." She is a senior at Benedict, a native of Honea Path, South Carolina, and will present flowers and an honorary membership card to Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., at Township Auditorium.

★ DAVID C. GANDY



Is another of Benedict College's faculty members who serve in advisory capacity to the campus SNYC club. His students know him as a genial and competent instructor in chemistry. S.N.Y.C. members highly value his cooperation and help in building the South's fastest growing youth organization.

★ DR. F. D. PATTERSON

President of Tuskegee Institute, has served for the past six years as chairman of the Advisory Board of the S.N.Y.C. In this capacity his counsel in helping us to unravel the many knotty problems which confront the officers and staff members has been invaluable. He will preside over a meeting of the Advisory Board during the sessions of the Legislature.

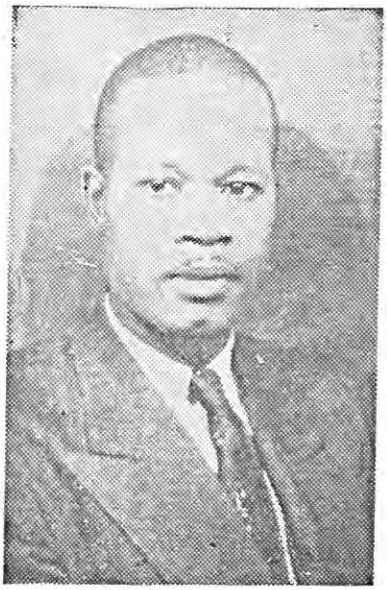
★ MRS. ANDREW W. SIMKINS

In terms of length and quality of service, one of the "senior" members of the Advisory Board, Mrs. Andrew W. Simkins is one of South Carolina's leading civic figures and a prominent business woman. A great part of the publicity and contacting in our host state in preparation for the Legislature is due to her volunteer activity. Students at this past summer's Leadership Training School at Irmo, S. C., will remember her as the stimulating teacher of the Negro history course.

★ MR. O. E. McKAINE

Columbia's other contribution to the southwide Advisory Board of S.N.Y.C. is one of his state's and the south's most distinguished leaders. In 1944 he campaigned for the Progressive Democratic Party as candidate for the U. S. Senate in a race with ex-Governor Olin D. Johnston. Widely respected in labor and progressive and educational circles throughout the South, he contributes regularly to several periodicals and has most recently served as Field Representative of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

★ JOHN H. McCRAY



Editor and publisher of the progressive weekly paper, *The Lighthouse and Informer,* is also President of South Carolina's Progressive Democratic Party. As such he is the leading spirit in the Negro's political resurgence in the Palmetto state. Fearlessly, he strikes out at injustice wherever it appears. Increasingly he is looked to by men and women in all parts of the country as a sterling example of the new and sterling young leadership which is forging to the front in the affairs of the South. He will introduce Representative A. Clayton Powell at Township Auditorium.

★ MALCOLM C. DOBBS

Is the executive secretary of the Committee for Alabama of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. A veteran with more than his share of battle stars and decorations, he was a lieutenant with a combat outfit on the European front. Folks acquainted with his Texas nativity and background call him Tex. An ordained minister, Mr. Dobbs was one of the leaders of the American youth movement, having served as executive secretary of the League of Young Southerners. His leadership in the S.C.H.W. has been responsible for a number of important progressive political victories in Alabama.

★ THOMAS RICHARDSON

Holds one of the top positions occupied by Negroes in the international unions which make up the C.I.O. He is executive vice-president of the militant United Public Workers of America. Mr. Richardson studied at Virginia Union University, now makes his home in Washington, D. C. He has made unique contributions as playwright and director in the little theatre movement in Northern and Southern cities, is a founder of the S.N.Y.C. and served for a period as its cultural director.

SALUTES

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The success of the Legislature has depended on the unselfish help of countless persons and institutions in Columbia and throughout South Carolina. Space limitations make it impossible to mention all, but the Southern Negro Youth Congress wishes especially to take this inadequate means to thank the following: Benedict College and Allen University for their many-sided assistance; Miss Evelyn Watkins and the art department at Booker T. Washington High School for preparation of placards and other signs; the Willis C. Johnson Funeral Home which donated space for our headquarters; Mrs. Andrew W. Simkins and Mr. O. E. McKaine of our Advisory Board, and Mrs. Annie Belle Weston, state supervisor, for their untiring labor and invaluable suggestions; the Lighthouse and Informer, and the Palmetto Leader for their cooperation in presenting news; the Taylor Street U. S. O.; and Miss Isadore Reed, our hard-working office secretary.

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On Their

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SOUTHERN YOUTH LEGISLATURE

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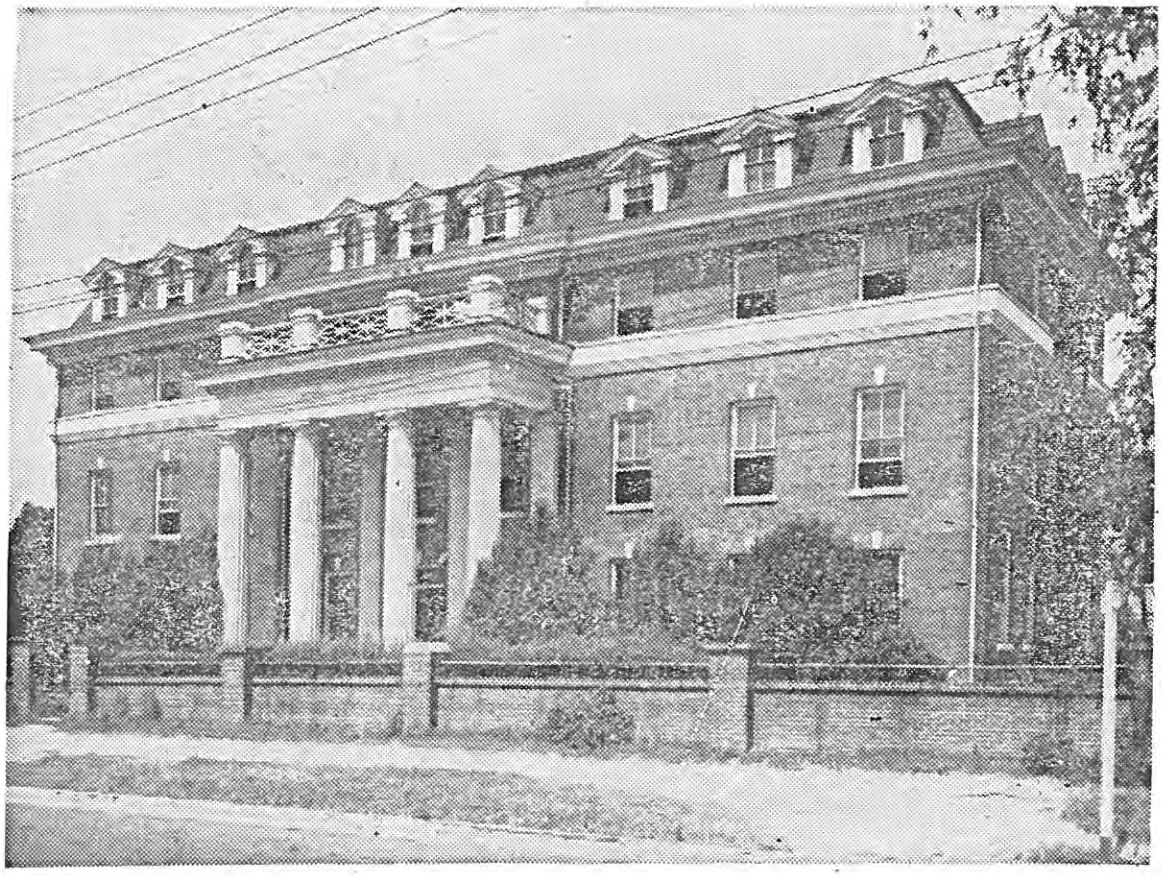
ALLEN UNIVERSITY

Welcomes The

Southern Negro Youth Congress

To Columbia, South Carolina



COPPIN HALL

We are glad to have this opportunity to extend to the Southern Negro Youth Congress our most sincere congratulations for a happy and profitable meeting in our city

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SECOND QUARTER BEGINS DECEMBER 7, 1946

SAMUEL R. HIGGINS, *President*—ALLEN UNIVERSITY

Columbia, S. C.

WELCOME SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS

TO COLUMBIA, S. C.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the Southern Negro Youth Congress for the splendid work that they are carrying on. It is our sincere hope that the youth of all states will be inspired by the program being carried out by you this week. May success continue to be yours

M. B. DuPre Distributing Co.

WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND TO THE SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS

Our Most Sincere Congratulations For A Happy and Profitable Meeting In Our City

SILVERS

SOUTH CAROLINA'S LARGEST VARIETY STORE

WELCOME TO COLUMBIA!

We are glad to have this opportunity to extend to

The Southern Negro Youth Congress

Our Sincere Congratulations For a Happy and Profitable Meeting In Our City—

Belk's

JOIN TODAY! GIVE TODAY!

What the future holds for Negro youth of the South—and, in large measure, for American democracy and world peace—depends on *you*. For almost ten years now (since February, 1937), young Southerners have been making a signal contribution to the growth of democracy through the South's foremost progressive youth organization.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress

You cannot afford to sit this one out.

In urban centers, rural areas and on college campuses, the crusade proceeds in the fields of citizenship education, veterans' welfare, cultural expression, vocational training and interracial unity. The aims of the SNYC are the simple aims of the vast majority of American citizens. By filling in the blank below and sending your membership and contribution you can help achieve our democratic heritage of

EDUCATION • JOBS • FRANCHISE • PEACE

Southern Negro Youth Congress
526 Masonic Temple Building
Birmingham 3, Alabama

.....1946

☐ Please find enclosed my fee ($1.00) for membership for one year.

☐ Please find enclosed my contribution of $.....

☐ I also pledge $..... (monthly, quarterly).

.....
Name

.....
Street and No. City Zone State