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About Italian War Fund

New York, Jan. 11 An inquiry to Secretary Cordell Hull of the Department of State as to whether or not the collection of funds in this country by Italian Americans is not a violation of the spirit of American neutrality was made this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The funds being collected by the Italians in America are advertised as going to the Italian Red Cross, but in the publicity for a huge mass meeting in New York City last week, where a total of one-half million dollars was announced, the statement was made that the funds were for the Italian Red Cross "and for other purposes."

An Italian-American newspaper which sponsored the mass meeting, is quoted in the letter as saying:

"To once more remonstrate that the hearts of the Italo-Americans beat with the heart of the far-away motherland and that each and every compatriot who resides in this Motherland of adoption is ready to give all in his power to help Italy fight back the brutal international coalition led by England with the utmost resistance and give a chance to the Italian soldiers who are now in Africa to write another epic page of glory in the history of civilization, and also it must serve to show that the five millions of Italian-Americans who live in the United States are ready to immolate themselves on the altar of their great Motherland and will answer, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

A similar letter of inquiry has been sent by the N. A. A. C. P. to Attorney General Homer S. Cummings. It is the contention of the Association that the warlike statement and the assertion that the money is to be used for "other purposes" is evidence that Italian Americans are violating the spirit of neutrality. It will be recalled that many white people and some colored people, among them Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, advised American Negroes not to try to boycott Italian-Americans, as that would violate the spirit of friendship and neutrality. It will be remembered that in Birmingham, Ala., the police even endeavored to force colored people to trade at Italian grocery stores, saying that colored people had "no right" to boycott Italians.

Richmond Reserves National Negro Congress Day

Richmond, Va., (CNA) Negro churches of Richmond, Va., set aside Sunday, Jan. 5th, as National Negro Congress Day. On that date speakers from the Sponsoring Committee of the Congress covered all of the larger churches. In the others a statement was read asking for the support of the Congress and for attendance at a mass meeting to be held early in January.

The decision was made by the Interdenominational Alliance and the Baptist Ministers' Conference at the request of Professor Moore of Union University and Donald Burke, both of the local Sponsoring Committee for the National Negro Congress, which will be held in Chicago on February 14th.

Indicative of the wide interest in the Congress, a group of white students of William and Mary Extension School, and of Richmond University, assembled at a National Student League Forum last week, voted to send a delegate to serve on the Sponsoring Committee.

Los Angeles, Jan. 11, A N P—Paul Robeson, internationally known actor and singer, having completed his work in the filming of "Showboat" in which he was one of the stars, left this week for the East. The star would not disclose his immediate plans, but it is rumored that after a series of concerts he plans to return to Europe where he has scored as an actor and as a concert singer.

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Fascist Suit Against U. S. Withdrawn

New York, Jan. 11 (CNA) Suit against the government of the United States for placing an embargo on shipments of oil, scrap iron, cotton and other products to Italy for use in its attack upon Ethiopia was withdrawn by Philip Giordane, of the Italian Fascist paper, Il Progresso Italiano, when he discovered that no such embargo had been ordered, or was even possible under the present Neutrality law. Moreover, public opinion against Mussolini's venture has grown so large that such a suit would have been decidedly unpopular.

The suit was directed against Secretary of State Hull and other members of the National Munitions Control Board. It arose from an effort to help defeat the threatened oil sanctions against Italy.

Mr. Hull did not ban such exports to Italy. He merely requested that they be restricted. To date the government has done nothing with the request.

However, groups of anti-fascists all over the country are demanding that the United States extend its embargo to oil and also co-operate with the League of Nations in strengthening sanctions against Italy.

Oil is the primary ingredient of fascist Italy's war machine against Ethiopia.

You Can Stay Discriminated Says WPA Adm.

New York, (CNA) "Mr. Lawler, you are the kind of a man who always complains about discrimination. You can stay discriminated the rest of your life. I will do nothing further about your case."

This is the manner in which WPA Administrator Ridder told Ignatius E. Lawler, WPA Park surveyor, fired from his job for "incompetence" that the WPA set-up was getting tired of pretending to be interested in complaints of discrimination.

Lawler has been trying for several months to receive a rating for the work at which he was employed. Finally he was given a two-and-a-half hour examination by Mr. Thomson, of the WPA Re-rating Board.

Upon the receipt of the results by the W. P. A. park project heads, Lawler was given a second examination. Summarily, he was declared incompetent and fired from the job he held.

His case is being taken up by the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians who charged the WPA administration with the rankest kind of discrimination against Negro technicians.

The Federation after the firing, complained to Ridder. Mr. Lawler, accompanied by Mr. Marcel Scherer, were referred to Major Bennett, chief engineer of the W. P. A. whose attitude toward Negroes was contemptuous. The two complained again to Mr. Ridder, whereupon the Administrator angrily exposed his true sentiments.

Fascists Threaten Professor Jeze

By Nancy Cunard, Special Cor. Paris (CNA) Because Professor Jeze universally recognized as a brilliant lawyer, had been chosen to defend Ethiopia at the League of Nations, Paris fascists last week interrupted his law studies at the Paris Faculty. Subsequently, and because of this demonstration, Professor Jeze's classes were suspended.

As L'Humanite says, "it is unacceptable that the Ministry of Education should give way in this manner to the threats of the royalist-fascists."

The Association of Revolutionary Writer and Artists of the House of Culture has sent a message of solidarity to Professor Jeze and the assurance that, if it need be, workers organizations will be lined up for his defense.

Harlem Group Denounces Mayor

New York, Jan. 11 (CNA) Indignant protests to Mayor La Guardia poured in at the City Hall this week, condemning the mayor for his appearance and participation in a fascist meeting at Madison Square Garden last Saturday.

The Medical Committee for the Defense of Ethiopia, a Harlem organization of well-known professionals and laymen, voiced a sharp protest, not only for itself "but the justified indignation of the Negro masses of Harlem and other sections of New York City." The letter, signed by Dr. Arnold Donawa, secretary of the Committee, read as follows:

"Hon. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Mayor of New York, City Hall, New York City, Dear Sir:

"The Medical Committee for the Defense of Ethiopia has instructed me to convey to you its protest and deep sense of disappointment that you should have demeaned your high office by putting it to the service of political propaganda.

"Whatever your personal feelings may be, by lending your distinguished presence at the Madison Square Garden to aid the fascist cause of Italy, you have thrown the weight of your public office on the side of a country that has been declared by the world to be guilty of unwarranted aggression against a small and defenseless nation, Ethiopia, and has thereby earned the contempt of all fair-minded people.

"As the mayor of the largest city in the United States, which has declared itself completely neutral in that unfortunate conflict, your action in behalf of Italy cannot be construed as your private affair; and the Medical Committee for the Defense of Ethiopia voices not only its own protest, but the justified indignation of the Negro masses of Harlem and other sections of New York City.

Very truly yours, (Signed) Arnold Donawa, Secretary.

Mrs. Hunton Thinks New Organization Has A Place

New York, Jan. 11—(ANP)—Mrs. Addie W. Hunton, prominent in women's affairs, added her opinion to those of other feminine leaders Thursday as she discussed the possibilities of the new National Council of Colored Women.

"I am honestly of the opinion", said Mrs. Hunton, "that the National Council of Colored Women, which after several years of consideration and consultation has just been organized by Mrs. Bethune, should not only enhance the value and power of organizational work among the women of our group, but also make for an increased respect from the outside world because of the unity it will create.

Mrs. Hunton who is honorary president of the International Council of Women of Darker Races, honorary president of the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs and vice-president of the International League for Peace and Freedom, said in addition:

"So thoroughly do I believe in the ability of Mrs. Bethune to convince Dr. Waring of the value of this new organization, that I shall leave the doing of it to her wisdom."

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New York Citizens Form Committee

Plans Laid To Popularize Congress and Send Delegation To Chicago, Feb. 14th

New York, (CNA Special, A group of public spirited citizens endorsed the National Negro Congress and voted unanimously to "constitute themselves a New York sponsoring committee for the National Negro Congress" at a meeting held in the Harlem Y. M. C. A. last month.

Over thirty-five prominent Harlemites were present. After discussing the program of the Congress, the group voted to hold a Greater New York conference, "seeking the co-operation of all Negro and white organizations sympathetic to the National Negro Congress." This conference is to be held the first week in February. Recommendations on the program of the National Negro Congress are to be made to the National Sponsoring Committee of which A. Phillip Randolph is chairman, and John P. Davis of the Joint Committee on National Recovery is secretary.

The New York Sponsoring Committee is to establish a local office to popularize the Congress and to raise funds for local and National Congress work. Its temporary address is—Ben J. Davis, Jr., Secy. 308 W 141st St, New York. It was decided that a definite financial quota for a large New York area is to be set later. It was planned for a large New York delegation to be represented at the Congress which meets in Chicago on Feb. 14th, 1936.

The meeting was called by Mr. Lester Granger, in cooperation with Mr. Emmett May, chairman of the National organizer and Speakers Committee.

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To Boycott Fascist Rally

A fascist rally with the endorsement of Justices Pecora, Cotillo and Freschi was planned for Saturday evening at Madison Square Garden, Dec. 14th. Anti-fascists here have called upon the public, particularly the Italian people, to boycott the meeting.

The United Italian Anti-fascist committee is composed of Italian people who are opposed to Mussolini's fascist regime and support the independence of Ethiopia. It is believed that the people of New York, who are strongly anti-fascist, will start a movement for the ousting of the fascist justices Pecora, Cotillo and Freschi.

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