

Negro Congress Unit Urges Solidarity in Ford Strike

Negro automobile workers in the Ford plant at River Rouge were called on by the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, in session at Mount Carmel Baptist Church last night, to cease strike-breaking activities and stand with the labor union. The mass meeting also addressed a letter to President Roosevelt concerning discriminations in industry under defense contracts.

Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, made the principal address at the session, calling attention to the alarming proportions reached by job insecurity among colored populations. He demanded that the Federal Government act to compel airplane companies to employ colored men and women in skilled and white collar occupations.

A demand for 7,000 jobs for colored workers at the Glenn-Martin plant at Middle River, Maryland, was the basis of the letter to the President. The demand will be followed by 7,000 applications from colored men and women to be filed with the company immediately.

Attention of the President was called to the \$722,000,000 worth of contracts let to the company by the Government, beside funds being granted by the Government for doubling the size of the plant. While 18,000 persons are now employed there, 20,000 more are soon to be added. The demand for 7,000 jobs for colored workers was based on their proportion of population in the area.

The Federal Government, in another paragraph, was described to the President as the worst offender in discriminatory practices of racial character, and an alleged statement of Chairman Mitchell, of the Civil Service Commission was quoted: "That Negro workers for the Government should be employed on a segregated basis and in segregated units."

The President was asked to issue an order putting an end "to this national disgrace." John P. Davis, secretary of the National Negro Congress, issued the call for the

7,000 applicants, for positions at the Glenn-Martin plant, as well as for administrative workers in the drive which will get under way at a mass meeting in Baltimore, April 27, at Monumental Lodge of colored Elks.

J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of colored Elks, pledged his support to the movement, as well as that of the Civil Liberties Department of his fraternal organization. Other speakers were the Rev. Arthur Gray, Sterling A. Brown and the Rev. F. A. Hailstorks.