

## Chicagoans Stage Sit-Down Strike Against Own Union

Chicago — Because only slight by more than 300 Negroes are among the 17,000 workers employed on the \$52,000,000 government munitions construction projects in Wilmington and Elwood, Negro members of the International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' union staged a sit-down strike April 10 in the union hall to enforce their demand on union officials to place them on jobs. Urban league officials said Thursday that another such demonstration will be conducted next Tuesday if Negro workers are not given their fair share of employment on the two projects.

While the two contracting companies insist that they are not excluding Negroes from the work, union officials say they would assign them to the jobs but the companies don't want them, an Urban league spokesman said.

Peter Fosco, international representative of the union, said, "The matter is settled, forget it. Confidentially the companies don't want Negroes. We did not want to stage a strike against anything as important as the munitions plant construction projects so we took a little time to convince them they should hire Negroes. It took about three weeks, but everything is O. K. now. No trouble, no bother, and everything is fine."

In contradiction of Urban league figures, Fosco said that there were only 3,000 laborers employed on the two projects, 250 of which were Negroes. He claimed that the strike on April 10 was merely a meeting to explain things to Negro workers at which he told them they were entitled to jobs. On the other hand, Urban league officials said Fosco was not even present on the day.

Sokes for the construction companies denied any policy of discrimination against Negro workers. T. W. Piper, employ-

ment supervisor of Wilmington contractors stated: "We have hired members of that race since the day we started construction. The number has been small but the Negro population of this area is not large. Our contract calls for no discrimination against any race and we live up to it. The union or someone is trying to pass the buck to us."

## Peonage Revealed In Georgia By An Investigation

Chicago — Another instance of peonage in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, was reported to Attorney William Henry Huff, Chief counsel for the Abolish Peonage committee of this city, who is making determined efforts to have action taken in the matter by federal investigators.

The case of a helpless farm hand who ran away to Atlanta to escape being flogged for making a fire in the field of his employers, Capt. Otis Smith, on a cold day and who was brought back to Oglethorpe county and jailed, was bared to the peonage committee here by a white informant whose identity is unknown. Otis Smith went to the postoffice obtained a letter written by the farm hand to his wife, opened it, and when the sharecropper was returned had him imprisoned along with his wife in the Lexington jail, according to the report.

Atty. Huff said, "Otis Smith, the former commissioner or chain gang boss of Oglethorpe county has no more right to rifle other people's mail than the cheap mail rifling culprits of Chicago who are sent to the federal prisons where they should be."

The Abolish Peonage committee counsel recalled charges made against Cunningham of the same Georgia county for opening a letter sent to a Negro school teacher which contained a money order sent by Chicago relatives of Solomon McCannon for his escape from Cunningham's plant-

tion's plantation. Atty. Huff, telling of the committee's determination to have federal intervention to have federal intervention in the Otis Smith case said, "Oglethorpe county, Ga., must be made to know that it is a part of the United States."

## Fire Max Yergan As City College Lecturer, New York

Continued from Page One

At last year's annual convention of the National Negro congress in Washington, the question of Communist domination became so burning and insistent that A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, refused to continue as president of the Congress. In all the controversy of that convention no clear-out denial of Communist influence was ever made. It was under such potentially explosive circumstances that Dr. Yergan accepted the helm of that organization.

It is generally known too that Dr. Yergan's name has been frequently mentioned before the Rapp-Coudert committee, established by the legislature in 1940 to investigate the educational system throughout the state. In New York City the activities of this committee have been directed at uncovering "subversive elements" in the institutions of higher learning run by the city, particularly Brooklyn and City colleges.

The opinion among many there has been that Dr. Yergan is now being penalized for "sticking his neck out too far" in pursuing his extra-curricular activities.

His appointment four years ago caused considerable stir in Harlem, it being the first time a Negro had ever attained such a position at the college. Prior to then he had been a mission secretary for the YMCA in South Africa but is said to have resigned his post over differences of opinion with the association and because he "preferred not to compromise his beliefs". Dr.

## The "Brown Condor" Visits Flying Activity At Tuskegee



Col. John C. Robinson, Chicago aviation training director, who flew to Tuskegee last Sunday, is shown in the top picture standing beside Chief Pilot C. A. Anderson of Tuskegee, right. In the background is Col. Robinson's plane, the Brown Condor. The noted Chicago flyer, who attracted international attention as head of the Ethiopian air forces in the Italian invasion, went to Tuskegee to see the activities of the institute's aviation program and to discuss with President F. D. Patterson and Coordinator G. L. Washington plans for courses in aviation mechanics. The bottom photograph shows Mr. Washington greeting Col. Robinson as he landed at Tuskegee.

Yergan is now director of the position at Dillard university, Council on African Affairs, an New Orleans. Dr. Reddick is organization he founded for the an associate editor of the Journal of Negro History, and has membership in both the American historical association and the Association for the Study of Negro History.

Dr. Reddick received both his bachelor and master degree at Fisk university in Nashville and his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1939. He has enjoyed several fellowships. From 1933 to 1935 he was associate professor of history at Kentucky State college, and Patterson says the Army will from 1935 to 1938 held a similar plan for 800,000 more men.

Scare metals appear when premiums are offered, agents say.

Britain appeals for 1,000 doctors; Roosevelt asks volunteers.

General Weygand asserts he will fight if invasion comes. Complacency endangers the nation, Newbold Morris declares.

United States has duty to aid the Allies, Dr. R. C. Knox declares.

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United States troops will fight in this war, Colonel Baer predicts.

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