

Porters Celebrate First Anniversary

Spurred on in Their Fight by Congressman, School Principal and Socialist Leader

While delegates to the Elks' convention in Cleveland were debating the question as to whether or not it should endorse the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the organizers of the Brotherhood, many of the workers affected and their friends gathered in St. Luke's Hall Thursday evening and celebrated the first anniversary of the organization.

When Mr. Benjamin Stolberg, who presided, rose to his feet from his seat on the rostrum to open the meeting, every seat in the hall was occupied and as the evening wore on scores lined the aisles or stood in back of the room. Not all of those present were porters; not yet were they all Negroes, because many of those in the audience were white men and women who journeyed to Harlem to encourage the men responsible for the union movement.

A United States Congressman, F. H. LaGuardia; a former Socialist Assemblyman, August Classens; a Columbia professor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Bowman; an assistant public school principal, Mrs. Elise McDougald; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Frank, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Jelliff of Cleveland, Ohio; Fred R. Moore, Norman Thomas, W. J. Orr of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; Mr. Ira De Reid of the New York Urban League, and many others, all leaders of thought in their respective lines of endeavor, told the porters in rapid-fire, five-minute speeches that they are on the right track, but that if they expect to win they must be prepared for a fight of long duration with little help from the outside.

The primary objects of the Brotherhood are to get a living wage for the porters, pay for the time spent in preparing cars for trips, pay for delayed arrivals at terminals and recognition of their union.

The present general organizer of the Brotherhood is A. Philip Randolph. He is assisted by W. H. Des Verney and A. L. Totten, both veteran Pullman porters, and Frank R. Crosswalth, special organizer. Roy Lancaster is secretary and treasurer and S. E. Grain, field representative.

The speeches were interspersed with vocal selections. Just before the meeting was adjourned, after which refreshments and dancing were indulged in, the ladies' auxiliary of the Brotherhood presented Mr. Randolph with an expensive traveling bag.

The Brotherhood will have charge of the forum of St. James Presbyterian Church this Sunday at 4 o'clock. Mr. Randolph, Dr. Thomas and Mr. Lancaster will address the meeting.

Men in Whose Hands Rest Fate of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters



A. Philip Randolph (at desk), Organizer of the P.P.B.A., and his co-workers. They are: W. H. Des Verney (also seated); standing, l. to r., S. E. Grain, Frank R. Crosswalth and Roy Lancaster.