

Negro Congress Plans Fight On Army Jim Crow

CLEVELAND — The national executive board meeting of the National Negro Congress here last week adopted a six-point program to eliminate jim-crow in the armed forces, called for the speedy termination of the war by the immediate opening of a second front in

Western Europe, and launched a national campaign for the 1944 elections.

The program outlined to abolish discrimination in every branch of the fighting services embodied in the report of Edward E. Strong, executive secretary of the Congress and unanimously supported by the more than 70 board members and visitors present, called for:

1. Issuance of an executive order by the President to abolish jim-crow in every branch of the fighting services,

2. Introduction of a congressional bill to outlaw discrimination in the army, navy and air corps.

3. Establishment of a National Committee to Abolish Jim-Crow in the armed forces consolidating the efforts of those organizations having this as a common aim.

4. Petitioning the national bodies of the CIO and the AFL to incorporate in their legislative program the campaign to democratize the armed forces.

5. The publication by the NNC of literature on all phases of jim crow in the armed services and outlining specific proposals to remedy these conditions.

6. The organization of a national delegation of 50 leading Americans to visit Washington for one week to consider the problems of the Negro and the armed forces with the Navy and War Departments as well as with President Roosevelt.

Mayor Talks to Group

Among those present at the board meeting were: Dr. Max Yergan, of the Council on African Affairs and national president of the National Negro Congress; Atty. Conklin P. Collum, president of the Cleveland Council of the NNC; Atty. C. Francis Stradford, Chicago; Atty. LeBron Simmons, Detroit; Wilfred Harris, Washington; Mrs. Elsie Smith, Philadelphia; J. E. Jeffrey, CIO State, County and Municipal Workers, Los Angeles; Frederick V. Field, Council for Pan-American Democracy; Pat Riley, Indiana State CIO Council; Mason Smith, San Antonio; Harry Smith, CIUC Steel Workers, Cleveland; Miss Winifred Norman, National Council of Negro Youth, New York; Mrs. Estelle Massey Riddle, National Nursing Council of War Service; B. F. Gibson, Pittsburgh; Charles Baxter, Local 450, International United Furniture Workers Association; Clarence Sharpe, NAACP, Cleveland; Mrs. Lethia C. Fleming, National Association for Colored Women's Clubs; Mrs. Thelma Marshall, Lake County Department of Welfare, Local 253, Gary, Ind.

Mayor Frank J. Lausche of Cleveland, addressing the board, told of the appointment of a Cleveland Interracial committee to help in the prevention of racial disturbances such as have occurred in other major cities in recent months.

In speaking to the 70 board members and visitors present from all parts of the country, Mayor Lausche stressed the need for interracial understanding and cooperation in attacking the problems of the Negro people. The mayor gave a first hand account of successful efforts to secure the employment of Negro war workers in Cleveland war plants.