

SIGMAS CLOSE 16TH CONCLAVE IN NEW YORK

Fraternity Now Has 3,500 Members

By CLEVELAND G. ALLEN

New York, Jan. 3.—The 16th national convclave of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, which was held here from Dec. 27 to 30, was formally welcomed to the city at exercises held at the Mother Zion A. M. E. church last Thursday evening.

A large gathering, made up of visiting delegates from every section of the country, was present and heard what college fraternities can do toward keeping alive the ideals for which they should stand.

"Education is the power to think, analyze and observe," was the keynote sounded in the address of welcome of Hon. M. Strassburger, who represented Mayor Walker in extending welcome to the delegates to New York. He said that the college fraternities should stand for the highest ideals in education and should have respect for thought and idea. Mr. Strassburger praised the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity for what it had accomplished and for having in its membership some of the prominent men of the Race. The speaker referred to the influence of Booker T. Washington on his life.

C. P. Johnson Presides

C. P. Johnson presided. He said that the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity began 16 years ago at Howard university. He said that since then 54 chapters have been established, with a membership of 3,500. Other addresses of welcome were made by John T. Doles in behalf of the Epsilon Sigma and Attorney Lavelle in behalf of the Kappa Beta Sigma and the Alpha Delta chapter.

The response to the addresses of welcome was made by Attorney Arthur W. Mitchell of Chicago, national president of the fraternity.

The acting hosts, the Epsilon Sigma, Kappa Beta Sigma and Alpha Delta chapters, have made fine provisions for the entertainment of the visiting delegates, and the convention promises to be one of the most notable gatherings of the Sigmas. The convention is being attended by upward of 60 delegates from visiting chapters, together with delegates from the local chapters entertaining the convention.

The business sessions were held in the main building of New York City college. The opening business session had to do with reports of the credentials committee, appointment of committees, reports of chapters and memorial services.

On Friday evening the formal dance was held in the Alhambra ballroom. On Saturday morning reports were made by the national presidents, vice presidents, the secretary-treasurer and editor-in-chief.

Interfraternal Smoker

On Saturday evening the feature of the convention was the interfraternal smoker, which was held at 222 W. 145th St. The national president, Arthur W. Mitchell, presided. Greetings to the visiting delegates on behalf of other fraternities were made by William K. Saunders and King Edwards for the Alpha Phi Alpha, John E. Nail and Charles Collier for the Kappa Alpha Psi, George E. Hall and George W. Reid for the Omega Psi Phi, and a special greeting by Raymond Pace Alexander of the National Bar association. Responses to the addresses were made for the Sigma fraternity by Dr. Alain Locke of Howard university, A. L. Holsey of Tuskegee Institute and Prof. Montgomery Gregory of Atlantic City, N. J.

On Sunday morning the delegates were entertained at breakfast at the sanitarium of Dr. Wright in Newark, N. J. The breakfast was followed by a pilgrimage to places of historic interest.

In the afternoon the annual public mass meeting of the convclave was held at the Abyssinia Baptist church.

The principal address was delivered by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, editor and publisher of the Journal of Negro History. A large gathering was present.

At 5 o'clock the delegates were entertained at tea at Mme. Walker's studio. The session on Monday morning had to do with the continuation of reports and the election of officers, the names of whom will be mentioned in the Defender next week. In the evening the convclave closed with the formal banquet given at the Bamboo inn.

The presidents of the local chapters entertaining the convention are: Epsilon Sigma, C. D. King; Kappa Beta Sigma, Leonard C. Lashley, and Alpha Delta, A. C. Norton.