

ORATORICAL CONTEST ENDS IN NEAR RIOT

Boy Wins First Cash Prize of \$500

A protested decision by the judges for the second national oratorical contest given by the board of education of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World caused a near riot at the Eighth Regiment armory shortly after midnight Monday when it was announced that Miss Alma Maxey, a 16-year-old freshman student of Clark university, Atlanta, Ga., was awarded second prize over Miss Margaret Long of Hot Springs, Ark., sixth place winner.

Only the timely arrival of police under the direction of Lieut. John Scott prevented a large demonstration by the crowd of more than 3,000 persons.

"Raw" Decision

Men and women, dissatisfied with the judges' decision, rushed to the platform and branded the officials as having been unfair to the Arkansas girl. "You cheated the girl," some said. "Robbers! Thieves!" others shouted. Some even went far enough to say that the girl was dealt unfairly with because the complexion of her skin was dark. Miss Nannie Burroughs, head of the National Training School for Girls, was one among the number who participated in the demonstration.

Besides winning a \$1,000 scholarship to college, Miss Maxey's prize carries with it a cash award of \$200. Miss Long will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship and \$50 in cash.

Boy Wins First Prize

Joseph C. Waddy, a 17-year-old sophomore student of the Parker Grade high school, Alexandria, Va., experienced little difficulty winning the first prize of \$500 in cash. He won the favor of the judges and the audience. Miss Ruth Hood of Terre Haute, Ind., won third prize; Miss Edna Burke, Washington, D. C., fourth; Miss Anastasia Scott, Des Moines, Iowa, fifth, and Miss Long, sixth.

The eight contestants were survivors of the preliminary contests in which more than 500 boys and girls participated. Each spoke on "The Constitutional Rights of the American Negro." Their time was limited to 19 minutes and the five judges, Mrs. Maudelle Bousfield, principal of the Keith school, Judge William Harrison, Senator Adelbert H. Roberts, Theron B. Watkins, Kansas City, Mo., and Judge Edward Henry of Philadelphia, were scattered in various sections of the armory.

The judges were ordered to pass on both the composition and delivery of the speeches, allowing 50 per cent for each. In the case of Miss Long, several officials attributed her failure to win over Miss Maxey to exceedingly poor composition.

Program Gets Under Way

With Oscar DePriest, committee-man from the Third ward, acting as master of ceremonies, the program got under way at 9:30 o'clock, after a musical selection by a mixed chorus directed by Mme. Myrtle Tyree and prayer by M. T. Bailey.

Miss Burke spoke first, followed by Miss Long. Miss Hood took the platform third; Waddy, fourth; Miss Gladys Height of Rankin, Pa., fifth; Miss Scott, sixth; Miss Alice Ball, Montgomery, Ala., seventh, and Miss Maxey, eighth.

The program was interspersed with musical numbers by John Green, Mme. Anita Patti Brown and the chorus. Prior to the announcement of the contest winner, Grand Exalted Ruler J. Finley Wilson made a brief but interesting talk. He was also the recipient of a gold Elk emblem, the gift of several temples and marching clubs. Judge Hueston was also presented with a wrist watch by Daughter Ruler Berry. It was the gift of Warden, Golden Rod and Heliotrope temples.

These oratorical contests were inaugurated by the Elks grand lodge in Cleveland, Ohio, upon the recommendations of the grand exalted ruler, J. Finley Wilson, in 1926, and since then have been held. The last contest was held in Washington, the winner being Miss Ruth Matthews of Washington, D. C.

Purpose of Contests

The purpose of these contests is to encourage the youth to strive for general education, but more particularly to have a full understanding of the Constitution of the United States by which he is governed. In keeping with this purpose, Commissioner of Education Hueston, of Gary, Ind., to whom was assigned the direction of these contests, selected the Constitution of the United States with special reference to the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments, as the general subject for discussion.

Members of the board of education include Grand Exalted Ruler J. Finley Wilson, Grand Daughter Ruler Edna G. Berry, Grand Secretary Geo. E. Bates, and Grand Secretary of Temple Emma V. Kelly.

Grand trustees: John R. Marshall, chairman grand trustee board; R. E. Pharrow, secretary; D. T. Caldwell, Robert R. Church, John W. Duncan, Grand commissioner of education, Judge W. C. Hueston; assistant grand commissioner of education, Mrs. Lethia C. Fleming.