

Locke Says Church Must Do More Than Collect Dues; Thrift Is Needed

Dr. Alain Locke, professor of philosophy at Howard university, told a huge audience Sunday evening that the church must concern itself with more than collecting 'dues if it is to play its part in helping the Race to solve its economic problem.

The statement was made in an address at Greater Bethesda Baptist church in connection with the Phi Beta Sigma's observance of "Bigger and Better Negro Business Week." Dr. Locke, who was the principal speaker, used as a subject, "Success in the Changing Economic Order."

Bishop W. J. Walls of the A. M. E. Zion church, introduced the speaker who had been preceded on the program by A. L. Foster, secretary of the Chicago Urban League.

Dr. Locke showed that the fact that the Race is not in position to own and control huge enterprises is a godsend for the present, because it is thereby forced to keep its feet on the ground and in close contact with the people served. In times of economic stress the small business is always first hit, but never hardest hit.

The speaker said that business for service is the new economic philosophy. "The service motive should be just as basic as the profit motive," he said.

Dr. Locke flayed business men for attempting to evade taxes at the expense of the people. "Why shouldn't the business man who takes 100 per cent of his profit from the people be willing to give back to the people, in the form of taxes, a fair per cent."

In discussing the professions, the speaker urged physicians to get ahead of socialized medicine with their own program of group service based on small weekly or monthly premiums.

Dr. Locke stressed the fact that teaching thrift and economy was just as much a part of the church's program as anything else it does, and reminded the church that it had other functions than collecting money.

Other persons who appeared on the program were: A. Alfred Watts, pastor of Greater Bethesda; Rev. DeWitt Turpeau, pastor of Indiana M. E. church; Dr. L. M. Erwin, president of the local chapter; Attorney George W. Lawrence, national Sigma president; Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines, Attorney Oscar Brown, the Federal Glee club, directed by William E. Myrick, and the Young People's chorus, and the concert chorus, directed by Owen Lawson.