

NEGRO YOUTH IN NEW ORLEANS

The National Congress of Negro Youth in New Orleans has stirred the nation. Our youth has caught the spirit of the immortal Frederick Douglass.

Youth's "Golden Age" confronts it. We say this without reservations. The social crusades that lead to complete democracy are everywhere astir. Negro youth is not hanging back. In fact, Negro youth emerges in shining armor. Perhaps, 16-year-old Harold D. Solomon of Birmingham, Ala., will never read these words, but they are a national salute to him.

When he heard of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, he determined to be there in New Orleans. He was there.

"I did not have any money to get here," he said, "but when I heard about the congress, I just had to come here." He found the money by knocking at front doors. He added: "When I get back to Birmingham, I will do everything I can to inspire all boys and girls of my age to work for the congress program."

At 17, and a slave, Frederick Douglass inspired his fellow slaves to fight for freedom.

The Congress calls for full and complete equality of opportunity for Negro youth in every phase of American life.

What a program! It is worth living for and fighting for. It is an American program. A program of true democracy. Unfurl the flags! March on!

There is a Solomon in every hamlet of America today. Touch his shoulder, brother. Tell him of Harold D. Inspire our youth, you adults.

Big business offers our youth no avenue to the top. Cultural institutions are closed. Economic opportunities are non-existent. But the road of struggle for these things—the road of struggle to freedom is open wide. It beckons Negro youth.

The keynote of that historic congress of youth in New Orleans was: "We must keep out of Europe's war—our front is the Mason-Dixon line. Democracy at home first."

Dr. Alain Locke, professor of philosophy at Howard university, declared at the Congress: "The front line trenches in the war for democracy are in the South. The Southern Negro Youth Congress is a living demonstration of strategic development of a definitely organized movement for Negro freedom."

At this very moment, the National Negro Congress in Washington, D. C., is hammering out a program for struggle—democratic struggle—on a national scale. The battle cry of freedom is taking hold of black America.

Indeed, when millions are jobless, millions more living on starvation diets, millions devoid of medical aid, all American youth faces the Crusades.