

Negro History Week Rally in Newark Hears Address by Angelo Herndon

By George Norman

NEWARK, N. J., Feb. 20.—A review of the past, an analysis of the present and a call to the future—this was the theme of the Negro History Week commemorative meeting held last week by Abraham Lincoln Youth Club, Branch of the Young Communist League.

The meeting was one of many held throughout the city to commemorate the contribution of the Negro to the rich heritage that is America's.

And one of the most distinguished contributions of the Negro people to the fight for the present and the future, Angelo Herndon, was present to address young Negro and white Americans who attended the meeting.

His speech brought forth the theme of the meeting. The study of the past means nothing unless we are to utilize the experiences of the past to help us in the present and in moulding the future, he told his eager audience.

He cited numerous incidents of the past and advised, "we can use the experiences of the Negro's struggle for freedom to rally the whole people today."

"It is the true interpretation of the achievement of Douglass and Lincoln that will show the truth today," he added.

It is especially important, Herndon said further, that today, when the capitalist class is attempting to further divide the Negro and white workers—"as witness *Gone With the Wind*"—in order to facilitate their drive towards war, that we bring forth the rich contribution of the Negro to American culture, and help mold the complete unity of the Negro and white people.

The hall in which he spoke was decorated with pictures and exhibits of Negro art. While across the front to the stage the Young Communist Review with the slogan of all American youth—"Youth Wants Jobs, Not Guns" was conspicuously displayed.

Before Herndon spoke the entire group of young people joined in the mass singing of famous Negro spirituals.

Also present at the meeting was Elwood Dean, local Negro youth leader and a member of the National Council of the Young Communist League.

To him fell the task of presenting the Negro's contribution to literature and poetry. And his presentation took the form of reading from selected passages of the great Negro poets.

Beginning with the verse of Jupiter Hamman, the Negro poet who

was born in 1730, Dean traced the yearnings and the struggles of the Negro people for freedom, as reflected by the poets of succeeding generations.

A quiet that grew deeper as he proceeded, descended upon the audience as he read first the deeply religious verse of Jupiter Hamman, then the light dialect verse of Paul Lawrence Dunbar (1872-1906) and finally the booming determined verse of Langston Hughes.

And as he read, the words of the chairman Al Mancuso: "What greater contributions we can expect from the Negro who has found equality and freedom," penetrated, stuck.

The comrades of the Painters Branch wish to offer their condolence to Manny Berlovitz on the loss of his mother

In Memory of
Raphael Solomon
Killed February 21, 1935