



3,000 Ask Project at Negro Rally

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Immediate Occupancy Is Demanded After Parade Honoring Sojourner Truth

Three thousand Negroes rallied in Cadillac Square Sunday afternoon to pay homage to their emancipation idol, Sojourner Truth, and demand occupancy of the housing project named in her honor.

The rally began with a parade of about 500 on foot, on floats and in automobiles at John R. and Frederick. Labor unions, civic groups and veterans' organizations were represented.

A dozen white persons, including two children, were in the parade.

Banners Are Carried

The marchers carried banners with such signs as: "Uphold the Sojourner Truth Promise," "Out-Produe Hitler," "Support the Mayor" and "House War Workers."

Miss Abbie M. Brown, of 545 E. Elizabeth, portrayed the abolitionist, who lived to be 105 years old and is buried in Battle Creek.

After speeches in front of the County Building, Mrs. Jessie Slaton, of 241 E. Forest, laid a wreath on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at the entrance of the square.

Negro leaders claim that a figure on the monument represents Sojourner Truth.

Minister Speaks

The Rev. Charles Hill, pastor of the Hartford Baptist Church and chairman of the Citizens' Committee to promote the occupancy of the housing project at Fenelon and Nevada, was one of several speakers who demanded immediate possession of the project by Negro war workers.

"Colored people are willing to give their lives along with all others in this fight to destroy Hitlerism," Mr. Hill said, "and colored people will not stand for discrimination at home, in the armed forces or in war plants."

"The Sojourner Truth Housing Project was built by the Government for colored war workers and I say to you here today that colored people will be in that housing development before long."

Among spectators in the rally was Recorder's Judge George Murphy.

Abolitionist Gets Tribute



Free Press Photo

ABBIE BROWN (LEFT) AND JESSIE SLATON
Homage paid to a famous Negro