

NNLC Increases Fight For Jobs

Labor Unions - Negro Members - NNLC

By JAMES WATTS,
Local 600 FEPC Director
The National Negro Labor
Council held its Second Annual
Conference in Cleveland,



W. R. HOOD.

Ohio, on November 21-23. The
Credential Committee reported
1,300 registered delegates. This
was probably a minimum figure
because registration fee
was \$2.50 and a great number
of the delegates from the South
did not pay the \$2.50 and so
were not included in the Con-
ference Committee's report.

LOCAL 600 REPRESENTED
A number of buildings
from Local 600 sent dele-
gates and delegates were in
attendance from numerous
other UAW locals. There
were sharecroppers from
Georgia, fishermen from
Florida, sailors, packing-
house and steel workers. Ne-
groes converged in Cleve-
land from the four corners

of America and their basic
theme was **JOBS AND
FIRST CLASS CITIZEN-
SHIP IN A FIRST CLASS
DEMOCRACY.**

The idea of Negro workers
forming an organization to
seek jobs is new to some,
strange to others and frown-
ed upon by a few, but there
is nothing new and novel
about this. Practically every
national group in America
has some organization of its
own and if anybody needs
to organize and try to bet-
ter his condition this is espe-
cially true for Negroes.

How much does the average
white worker know about the
aims and aspirations of Negro
workers in the mines, the mills
and the shops? What does he
know of his strivings for real
democracy? Very little.

JOB GAINS WON AND DOCUMENTED

On Friday night a report
was given by the National
Executive Secretary on the
progress made in the past
year. This report was too
lengthy to be given here, but
it is sufficient to say, the
report had meat and sub-
stance and was a guaran-
teed step toward progress.
Included, in particular, was
the campaign waged by the
Detroit chapter of the Coun-
cil to get a union label for
a Negro printer. This fight
was successfully concluded a
week before the conference.
Anyone who knows the his-

tory of the struggle by union
printers to get a union label
can appreciate this one vic-
tory, which, in itself, justi-
fies the Council's existence
even if it had accomplished
nothing else.

GOOD ATTENDANCE

The attendance, at this Con-
ference, would well serve as
an example to other organiza-
tions, when delegates know
what they want, as these peo-
ple do. They were in attend-
ance at every meeting, prompt-
ly and on time, to try to help
out a program of action. In
spite of the phony obstacles
that were erected by the ene-
mies of democracy and the Ne-
gro people, in and out of the
labor movement, the Confer-
ence was a success and its
mark will be left indelibly
upon the American scene.

WITHOUT STRUGGLE THERE IS NO PROGRESS

The National Negro Labor
Council has been called a
'Communist front' organiza-
tion in some reactionary
quarters and despite the
hysterical ravings and rant-
ings, the delegates came to
the Conference, conducted
the business of the confer-
ence and pledged a program
for Negro rights and the im-
provement of job conditions.
If the name-callers would
direct their energies toward
making democracy work for
all Americans there would
be no need for a National
Negro Labor Council. If

Job Falls 11-29-52
sharecroppers in Georgia
can appreciate the need for
a labor council then we who
have a minimum of freedom
should be doing our bit to-
ward full democracy.

HOOD ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

Local 600 was represented
in all phases of the Conference.
William R. Hood, Recording
Secretary of Local 600, was
re-elected President after a 25
minute ovation. Hood described
the Council as a spontaneous
movement against such griev-
ances as much needed housing,
discrimination in employment
and labor unions, denial of
civil liberties, police brutality
and the revival of the KKK
and pro-Confederate senti-
ments. Hood sounded the
keynote of the Conference
when he said, "**WE ASK THE
LEADERS OF ORGANIZED
LABOR FOR YOUR HELP IN
THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRA-
CY BUT WE DO NOT ASK
YOUR PERMISSION.**"