

# Robeson scores on So. Side; Deep South next!

## Steel, packing, rail workers hear Negro leader speak here

Steelworkers, railroad workers, packinghouse workers—they all turned out this week to hear one of the greatest of the greats, the mighty Paul Robeson.

Largest of the three labor meetings at which Robeson spoke and sang was the mass rally in the Union Stock Yards called by the Packinghouse Workers for Wallace and Taylor.

An estimated 5,000 stockyards workers poured out of the Swift, Armour, Wilson and other plants to gather on the street, on overhead runways, and in the buildings overlooking the famed "CIO Corner"—43rd and Packers—where a temporary stand was set up.

"Packing is a union that must understand the problems that face the working man today," said Robeson, urging his listeners to join the Progressive Party.

He said they must "see the link" connecting the Meat Trust that fights their union with the Democratic and Republican politicians who work on behalf of the Meat Trust in Washington.

He told his listeners not to be

discouraged by the seeming power of their enemies.

was possibly the most colorful in Chicago. Truckloads of bawling cattle rolled past as he spoke at the corner where the United Packinghouse Workers of America (CIO) first organized the stockyards workers.

The thousands of workers, with only a half hour for lunch, munched sandwiches as the full, rolling voice filled the dusty lanes of America's slaughtering center.

Enthusiastic response greeted his songs: "Joe Hill," "Water Boy," "Old Man River."

It was the same spontaneous roar of approval which two previous audiences had given him.

More than 1,000 steelworkers and their families, drawn to the auditorium of Corliss High School in the Altgeld Gardens housing project on the Far South Side by the Steelworkers for Wallace and Taylor, had shaken the jam-packed hall with their applause.

And later some 400 persons had given the famous progressive a standing ovation when he addressed them in the DuSable Community Center, 49th and Wabash, under the auspices of the National Railroad Labor Committee for Wallace and Taylor.

Other candidates who spoke with Robeson at one of the three meetings included Sam Parks, ex-president of the Wilson local of UPWA and nominee for sanitary district trustee; Grant Oakes, candidate for governor; Sidney Ordower, nominee for Congress from the 6th district; and Oscar Brown, Jr., candidate for state representative from the 1st senatorial district.

### Western Electric crisis

In an attempt to avert a strike set for Sept. 17, CIO Vice-President Allan Haywood entered negotiations between the Association of Communication Equipment Workers (CIO) and Western Electric Co.



THIS San Francisco butcher didn't set a national trend when he lowered meat prices under pressure of consumer boycott. Is your butcher selling prime ribs of beef for 65c a pound?

## U. S. Supreme Court may get Illinois ballot case

The Progressive Party this week hinted that it might take its fight for a place on the Illinois ballot all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The suggestion came after the Illinois Supreme Court refused to hear Progressive arguments that the state election law, by which the Democrats and the Republicans had barred them from the ballot, is unconstitutional.

Richard Watt, speaking at the great Wrigley Field rally, announced:

"With your support, with your faith, and, above all, with your righteous anger, we are going to battle for our rights—if need be, to the highest court of the land."

Watt headed the battery of Progressive lawyers who presented the new party's plea for a hearing to the Illinois Supreme Court.

"With all our strength we say Wallace and Taylor are going on the ballot!" Watt cried.

Lashing into the Democratic-

Republican deal to keep the Progressives off the ballot, the University of Chicago legal expert charged that "the effect... was to rob hundreds of thousands of voters of this state of their right to vote for candidates of their own choice."

The state election law is "arbitrary, unreasonable, and unconstitutional—in violation of both the Illinois and the U.S. constitutions," Watt contended.

He expressed his shock that the Illinois Supreme Court "refused to give us a hearing, even though any schoolboy can see that that law is unfair, undemocratic, and completely subversive of our whole scheme of government."

Watt pointed out: "Under this unheard-of law, every registered voter in Cook County could sign a petition to put Henry Wallace on the ballot, and still Wallace's name would not go on the ballot."

"Think of it! Over 2½ million voters in Cook County could not legally put Henry Wallace on the ballot! And yet, if he were on the ballot, those very same voters could carry the state of Illinois for him!"

"This is a law the political

bosses love. This is a law which makes it impossible for the people to do anything but vote for the old parties or stay home. This is a law which keeps you in bondage. I say this is a vicious, un-American law.

"As K. M. Landi, II of the Chicago Sun-Times wrote in his excellent article the other day: 'In the coming free election, more Americans will be disfranchised in the state of Illinois than in the state of Bilbo.'"

Fear was the motivating force that impelled the Democrats and the Republicans to join forces against the Progressives, Watt maintained.

"The political leftovers of the once great Democratic Party of Franklin Delano Roosevelt are afraid. They are scared to death and because of that fear they will do anything to keep us off the ballot, even though what they are doing is morally wrong, legally wrong, and politically stupid!"

The battle for political freedom is "not just a question of law," Watt held.

"This is a matter involving the very survival of our democratic institutions."

"You have been robbed! Your birthright as an American citizen has been taken from you by a crew of professional political thieves. If ever there was a time for you to stand up and cry 'steal,' that time is now."



discouraged by the seeming power of their enemies.

"In the end," he declared, "the people—the people—are the power."

Cheers greeted his announcement that he intends to follow Henry Wallace's footsteps in a tour of the South beginning early in October.

The setting for Robeson speech

## Wrigley Field highlights

Here are some highlights from speeches delivered by local Progressive Party leaders at the Wrigley Field Wallace rally this week:

**CURTIS D. MacDOUGALL, candidate for U.S. Senator:**

"It is not yet too late to call a halt; not too late to reach a peaceful understanding with Russia by really keeping the door open; not too late to restore the Big Three unity which won the war; not too late, through a strong United Nations, to resume our march toward one friendly, rather than two hostile, worlds. It is not appeasement to reach a peaceful agreement with another nation. It is suicide not to try."

**GRANT OAKES, candidate for governor and president of the United Farm Equipment & Metal Workers of America (CIO):**

"There is no choice between an incompetent Republican governor and his Democratic rival for that job. One man, of course, speaks with a voice from the Tribune Tower. The other speaks the more gentle accents of a LaSalle Street bank. But



OAKES McDougall

their message to the people of Illinois is one word—reaction."

**MRS. PAULINE KIGH REED, candidate for secretary of state:**

"Negroes are running for office on Progressive Party tickets all over the land. It is like something out of the old Reconstruction period in 1868. It is no wonder, therefore, that the Negro people are in a mood to make an historic break with the two old parties."

**JUDGE SAMUEL HELLER, candidate for state's attorney:**

"Of the two fronts (Republican and Democratic), the latter is the more dangerous because its election campaign pretense of liberalism divides the progressive forces in the U.S."

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**MISS PEARL HART, candidate for chief justice of the Municipal Court:**

"The Municipal Court of Chicago is... the supreme court of the poor. If you are arrested on a picket line, you are brought into the Municipal Court. If you are arrested for any reason at all, you are brought into the Municipal Court. If you are evicted, you are brought into the Municipal Court."

"The poor must seek protection in the Municipal Court, but it and its leaders are indifferent to your needs because the Chicago Real Estate Board dominates that court. The judges who are now on that bench and who are seeking re-election will continue to ignore the needs of the poor if by your indifference you permit them to remain on the bench; but if you oust those who have ousted you, their successors will be very sensitive to your needs."

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