

----- P R E S S B E L I E V E -----

AMERICAN CONGRESS FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY
Washington, D.C. -- January 6-8, 1939

National Headquarters
268 Fourth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

December 31, 1938
PLEASE RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

ICKES TO SPEAK ON DIES COMMITTEE AT WASHINGTON PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

CONGRESS JANUARY 6th

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 31 -- Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior will speak on "The Dies Committee and its un-American activities under the auspices of the American Congress for Peace and Democracy on January 6th at a rally for labor and democratic rights in the Rialto Theatre, it was announced today. The speech will be broadcast over a national hookup at 9:30 that evening.

A representation considerably larger than the 4,025,920 of last year is anticipated at the Congress which will meet here in the Rialto Theatre on January 6, 7 and 8.

This week New York City, whose delegates last year represented 420,000 men and women in organizations of all kinds, already has credentials for elected delegates representing more than 650,000 persons.

Chicago reports a delegation of approximately 100 which includes representatives of many unions and Czechoslovakian organizations with hundreds of thousands of members.

Delegates elected by unions and farm groups throughout the country, by church, youth and women's organizations, by fraternal and language groups, show the growth and strength of American sentiment for a positive peace policy, for lifting the embargo on Spain, for placing an embargo on Japan and Nazi Germany. Many groups sending delegates to Washington have never before participated in a national Congress called by the American League for Peace and Democracy. This will be the fifth national assemblage.

Special trains, chartered buses and a cavalcade of cars will converge in Washington on January 6th and 7th bringing delegates from almost every state in the nation.

Many delegates will reach Washington on Friday, the 6th, in time to attend the meeting that evening when in addition to Secretary Ickes, labor leaders of both the C.I.O. and A.F. of L. will speak. A. F. Whitney, president, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, will preside at the meeting. Speakers will include Richard Frankenstein, international vice-president, United Auto Workers; B.F. McLaurin, international field organizer, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Jerome Davis and Mary Foley Grossman, president and vice-president respectively, American Federation of Teachers; and Joseph Breslaw, international vice-president,

International Ladies' Garment Workers Union.

Dr. Harry F. Ward, national chairman of the American League for Peace and Democracy, will give his report to the opening session of the Congress on Saturday morning. Dr. Walter Judd, medical missionary recently returned after ten years in China, will speak on "America's Responsibility in the Japanese Invasion of China".

During the Saturday afternoon session speakers will be Howard Costigan, executive secretary, Washington Commonwealth Federation; Herbert Biberman, delegate from the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League; the Rev. Myles D. Blanchard, chairman, Miami Branch, American League for Peace and Democracy; Ted Christiansen, vice-president, Scandinavian Seamen's Club.

FARM GROUPS ENDORSE WASHINGTON CONGRESS

"The forthcoming Congress for Peace and Democracy has, by unanimous vote, the endorsement of the Bibb County Farmers' Union, Alabama Division of the National Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America," writes Gerald Harris, vice-president, to the Congress headquarters.

"To the farmer it is especially necessary that democracy be preserved," Harris continues. "It is under despots and dictators that the farmer finds himself relegated to serfdom."

Gordon McIntire, secretary, Louisiana Farmers' Union, writes:

"I have been following your announcements of the Congress with interest and I want to convey my warmest greetings and trust that the meeting will be successful in working out a program for peace and democracy."

SPECIAL CONGRESS TRAIN FROM NEW YORK STOPS AT NEWARK AND PHILADELPHIA

A special train carrying delegates to Washington will leave Pennsylvania station, New York, at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, January 6th, stop in Newark and Philadelphia, and arrive in Washington at 6:30 in time for delegates to register and to be housed before the labor rally that evening at the Rialto Theatre. Tickets are obtainable in advance only at the national office of the American League for Peace and Democracy, 268 Fourth Avenue, New York. Delegates wishing to go on the special train must communicate with the New York office at once.

Other special trains and train arrangements are being made through League offices in Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit and Philadelphia.

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NEGRO LEADERS ELECTED DELEGATES TO CONGRESS

Leonidas S. James, President of State Teachers College, Bowie, Md., has been elected delegate from the National Congress of Colored Parent and Teachers to the American Congress for Peace and Democracy, to be held in Washington, D.C. on January 6th, 7th and 8th.