

National Urban League Has Expanded Workers' Committee

Original Group of 100 Increased to 500 As Plans to Organize Negro Labor Gains Added Impetus.

NEW YORK, Oct. 11—The unprecedented nation-wide interest shown among racial leaders of every walk of life in the plans of the National Urban League for organizing Negro labor under the set-up of Negro Workers' Councils has resulted in expanding the organized Committee of One Hundred to a larger group of five hundred members.

The league's headquarters at 1133 Broadway, in New York City, reported this week that the Committee of One Hundred for Negro Workers has been more than filled and, consequently, the national chairman, Robert S. Abbott, publisher of the Chicago Defender, has decided on the increase. One hundred and five Negro men and women, including some of the most important names in the country, have already paid fees of five dollars or more in accepting committee membership.

Mr. Abbott states that probably never before has so large a committee requiring so considerable a membership fee been completed so quickly on a nation-wide scale. In a letter sent out this week to the original Committee of One Hundred he makes the following statement:

"I am so pleased with the success that crowned my efforts to secure 100 prominent Negro men and women to provide the moral and financial background for the campaign of the National Urban League on behalf of Negro workers throughout the country, and so convinced of the importance of the task before us that I am forced to the idea that a further effort to enlarge this number to at least 500 should be made at once.

"To this end, I am suggesting that you, as a charter member of the committee, seek to interest at

least five persons of your community in the worthwhileness of this project—five persons who will give at least \$5 and thus become members of the enlarged committee."

The Committee of Five Hundred, when completed, will not attempt to assume direction of the Negro Workers' Councils, the National Urban League assures. The members, individually and as a group, will rally community and racial support behind the program of the councils and stimulate interest in their activities.

"It is a significant thing that we are beginning to realize more and more the need for an intelligent and aggressive leadership for Negro labor recruited directly from the workers themselves," stated T. Arnold Hill, acting executive secretary of the National Urban League.

"This leadership has been lacking in the past, partly because of a dearth of interest among Negro workers themselves in the problems which affect all labor regardless of race, and partly because community leaders, ignorant of labor's problems, have often confused the issues and given misleading advice though with the very best of motives. The Labor Institutes, which are an important feature of the council's program, will undoubtedly produce an increased class-consciousness on the part of Negro labor and stimulate leadership."