

Harlem Masses In Angry Protests At Many Meetings

By CYRIL BRIGGS

NEW YORK.—A wave of horror and mass anger swept Harlem yesterday as the gruesome details of the brutal lynching of George Armwood on the Maryland Eastern Shore spread throughout the section.

Indignant and rapidly increasing crowds at over half a dozen street meetings registered the rising anger and protest of Negro and white workers against the lynch terror which has taken three new victims within the past ten days, with a total of 34 reported lynchings so far this year. Altogether over 1,500 workers were at the meetings visited by the writer in a hasty tour of Harlem. Small groups of workers excitedly discussing the afternoon papers on corners distant from the organized meetings indicated definite possibilities of a vast upsurge throughout Harlem, comparable only to that which greeted the Decatur lynch verdict against the Scottsboro boys. Proposals for a mass march on Annapolis, state capital of Maryland, were heard in several of these groups.

At three o'clock over 500 workers were gathered at a protest meeting organized by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the Harlem Liberator in front of the Liberator office at 2162 Seventh Ave. Angry murmurs rose from the workers as Herman McKawain, chairman of the James Matthews Branch of the L. S. N. R., detailed the growing lynch terror, which has already taken one victim in New York City itself, with the police-inspired lynch incitement in the local capitalist press giving rise to increasing gang attacks on Negroes in the city parks and subways. The speaker exhibited a copy of yesterday's Daily News, with its screaming headline "1,000 Storm Jail, Lynch Attacker" as an example of how the capitalist press justifies the lynching of Negro workers.

At 128th St. and Lenox Ave., where the Harlem Section of the International Labor Defense had set up a ladder and speakers, a crowd speedily gathered. Other meetings were in progress before the National Scottsboro Action Committee, at 119 W. 135th St., at 133rd St. and Lenox Ave., and other corners. Speaking at the I. L. D. meeting, Griffin, a leader of the organization, declared that Roosevelt had become the executive lyncher of the Negro under the "New Deal," that Roosevelt had refused to see the delegation from the Scottsboro Protest Marchers when they visited him at the White House, that he had been utterly silent on the rising lynch wave.

Proposals to turn Sunday's Red Election Rally at Rockland Palace into a mighty protest against the Maryland and local lynchers were unanimously adopted. Emil Nygard, the first Communist Mayor to be elected in the United States, will be the main speaker at the meeting, with James W. Ford, William Patterson and other Harlem leaders.

The James Matthews Branch of the L. S. N. R. also announced a

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protest meeting for Saturday afternoon at 131st St. and Lenox Ave.

At the meeting yesterday at Seventh Ave. and 128th St., the workers voted to elect a delegation to visit Rev. Powell to demand the use of his church for a protest meeting. The delegation will call upon him to reverse his former stand of co-operation with the lynchers, as shown in his last-minute closing of his church to a protest meeting on the James Matthews lynch-murder, despite his previous agreement to permit the meeting.

At a joint meeting of representatives from the L. S. N. R., the I. L. D. and the Unemployed Council, in the Liberator office yesterday afternoon, it was decided to organize a delegation to go to Baltimore immediately to join delegations elected by Philadelphia and Baltimore workers to visit Governor Ritchie at Annapolis. William Patterson, National Secretary of the I. L. D., has already left for Baltimore, and will lead the delegation, together with a white working class leader, to be elected within the next day or two. Bob Minor, Communist candidate for Mayor of New York City, was proposed by several Harlem workers, and the committee promised to find out if it was possible for Minor to go.