NEWS

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Northeast Region

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Hold for release

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UNIONISTS ACCUSE BIRCH RALLY LEADERS OF DISHONESTY

Boston - A Greater Boston trade union leader active in civil rights work today accused the sponsors of the Annual New England Rally for God, Family and Country of deliberate falsehood in connection with their upcoming conclave to be held over the 4th of July week-end in Boston. Taking note of the distribution of the official program for the 7th Annual Rally, Julius Bernstein, Northeast Regional Director of the Jewish Labor Committee and Secretary of the Mass. AFL-CIO Civil Rights Committee, has charged that two prominent labor leaders listed as speakers for a "Civil Rights Seminar" at the Rally have never given the sponsors any commitment to appear.

"In fact," said Bernstein, "Mrs. Maida Springer Kemp, a black trade unionist from Chicago, and a representative of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, told me that 'I have not been asked either verbally or in writing to participate in the New England Rally for God and Country, and had I been asked would have refused. One of the principal sponsors of this Rally is the John Birch Society, an organization with which I would not make common cause. And if I had any doubts about their ethics, their dishonesty is amply demonstrated in the official release for the July 4th meeting.'

"The second black labor leader involved is Robert E. Powell of Washington D.C., International Vice President of the Laborers International Union. Mr. Powell informed me that while he had been contacted by phone, and had also received a written invitation by mail, he had not given anyone a written confirmation that he would speak at the Rally. Mr. Powell also pointed out that he couldn't in good conscience appear on any program with John Birchers and their segregationist allies. The initial contact with him had been made by Lola Belle Holmes of St. Louis, a former member of the Communist Party, who is listed in the

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