

# SETTLE AND THEATRE STRIKE

**Father Divine  
Routed By Blaze**  
(Story on Page 1)

**Hattie McDaniels  
May Get Award**  
(Photo on Page 1)

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Section One

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# CITY EDITION

## Won't Go, Say Cokers



Although fanned by criticism for two months' rest and out of home relief, the Coker family remains adamant against all attempts to deport its eight members back South. Sitting, left to right, are Annie, 6; Mrs. Lela Coker, mother; and Alice, 8; Bear, left to right, are Esther, 19; and Mildred, 16. Mrs. Coker, who is estranged from her husband, has ten children, eight of whom are within the ages of home relief assistance. She has refused to be sent back to her native Greenville, S. C., and has re-applied for relief.

**HAMPTON HEAD  
RESIGNS POST**

**Under Knife**

## APOLLO GIRLS WIN STRIKE Girls Get Pay Raises and Shorter Hours After 24 Hours Picket

Harlem—happy hunting grounds of showfolk, of entertainer and musician, witnessed the phenomenon this week of Negroes winning a strike against the Apollo Theatre, long believed impregnable to the demands of labor.

And while the strike ended with advantages for the victors, the show at times were far greater than the ones warring on and down in front of the theatre by the chorus girls and their supporters.

Organized by the American Guild of Variety Actors, the strike began upon a refusal of Frank Schiffman, manager of the West 125th street house, to bargain with the union in its demands for wage increase and adjustment of working hours for the chorus girls. The settlement negotiated at 7 p. m. Sunday after 22 of the 32 performers in the Apollo show walked out Saturday night, raised the chorus pay from \$25 to \$30 a week; cut all shows at a week's work and limited rehearsals to 44 hours a week. In addition, members of the show must join the A.G.V.A. as must any new members of the show hired by the theatre.

One star note, however, was sounded in the strike. While the pickets were walking in front of the theatre, nearly every white person who saw what was taking place, refused to cross the line and went home. However, many Negroes, disregarding the signs, crossed the line, causing one white person to observe: "They don't stick together in anythin'."

The Apollo theatre has long been the focal point of protests from performers against conditions obtaining there. For years the management has been accused of exploitation of labor, overworking members of the show and other things which have served to make it the target of criticism by many of the theatrical profession, but also of Harlem critics who feel that the theatre is a part of them, yet alien to their standards of fair play. The Apollo is one of the last theatres that blossomed during the 1930's when the Negro performer found his greatest expression.

Situated as it is in the heart of Harlem, it has employed actors, actresses, singers, dancers, musicians and others whose names are magic in showville. For that reason, when the motion picture industry and entertainment in most theatres throughout the country and the Apollo maintained the living entertainment in defiance of the vogue which changed theatrical standards so much that the whole complex situation was changed, the 125th street house was left almost alone as a medium of work for performers.

Following the equitable last summer in the American Federation of Actors, the A.G.V.A. was organized and, differing from other A.F. theatrical union affiliates, it decided that all performers, white and black, had the same right to protection from exploitation. For that reason, organizers were sent into Harlem several weeks ago and the framework of the union spread into this community.

Subsequent meetings saw Schiffman, himself, in attendance at one of the A.G.V.A. Harlem sessions. Later, a committee from the A.G.V.A. made up of Hont Cole, the Rev. B. C. Robinson, Arthur Harris, Leigh Whipper and Leslie Litany met in Schiffman's office to discuss a change in working conditions and salary raises for the chorus girls. Schiffman told Litany and the committee that they would have to prove that the union represented a majority of his em-

## Apollo Chorines Win Strike



Jackie Bass and Bertie Lou Wood, chorus girls from the Apollo line, who were among the 22 girls who walked out of the theatre Saturday night in a strike sponsored by the American Guild of Variety Actors for higher wages and better working conditions. The strike was won by the girls.

## M'DONALD IN HOUSE SPEECH OUTLINES PLAN

**Seventy Million Dollars Pledged To Be Spent In West Indies**

By A. M. WENDELL MALLIEY  
Self-Government for the British West Indies was definitely hinted in the House of Commons last week when Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald, answering the insistent demands for social reforms in the island, pledged his majesty's government to add the impoverished West Indies to the extent of \$70,000,000 to be spent on social and legislative aid. He indicated that the stimulus solution may be an entirely new political status there.

Related action on the part of the British Government is the result of constant criticism of economic and social conditions in the colonies, and the strikes, riots and massacres in Trinidad in 1937, Barbados and Jamaica in 1938, in which British imper-

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## MOGULS FIGHT TO STANDSTILL

**Baseball League Officials Reach Stalemate; to Keep Same Staff**

By DAN RUBLEY  
Special Editor—CHICAGO (Special)—East

As the  
**CROW**

**UAD E M I A R O D U N I O N**

**Athlete Held**