

Detroit Times

50th YEAR
No. 262

Detroit 31, Mich., Monday, June 19, 1950 5 Cents

Rotary Head Launches Huge Convention Here

6,500 Attend
5-Day Meeting

A plea to end the idea that business is a "many-headed monster" which must be chained was made last night by Percy Hodgson, president of Rotary International.

Hodgson spoke at the opening of the huge convention which makes Detroit the hub of the symbolic wheel of Rotary.

TOLD TO STOP RAILING

Warning his fellows, representing 337,000 members, to "stop railing against the dreamers and the planners," he said:

"They may have written into the statute books certain regulations or restrictions we consider prohibitive, but we must remember these measures came into being only because of a certain amount of public support.

"Now we must find out what we need to do to assure that our own hands are clean—and then, through every available means, go before the public and dispel forever the idea that business is a many-headed monster which must be chained for the protection of humanity."

More than 6,500 delegates, representing members in 50 nations, were on hand at the Masonic Temple last night when Hodgson officially launched their 41st annual convention, scheduled to continue through Thursday.

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

In welcoming the delegates, Hodgson, Pawtucket (R. I.) textile manufacturer, stressed the need for a global "campaign of practical education" in the principles of Rotary. Said he:

"The pessimism now abroad in the world is weakening its fabric. But running through the fabric is a single strand called Rotary.

"By itself this slender thread can accomplish little, but, used as part of the worldwide pattern, its strength can fortify the weave of international co-operation and peace."

Preceding Hodgson's opening address, Detroit's Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Eduard Werner, presented a concert.

SECOND MEETING HERE

The ceremonies marked an end to a day-long convergence of special trains, planes and buses bringing the conventioners from all points of the globe. Included are delegates from Ceylon, Tanganyika, Israel, Trieste, the Sudan, Fiji Islands and Sarawak.

The current five-day session is the 45-year-old club's second visit to the city. At a 1934 meeting, 7,390 Rotarians visited here.

Highlight of today's agenda is an address by Gen. Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippines, now president of the United Nations assembly. His address will follow the launching of plenary sessions.

Other speakers this week will include W. William Walters, chairman of the federal committee for economic development, and Atty. Gen. McGrath.