

Peoria Bans Robeson; He Vows to Sing

Peoria, April 17 [Special]—Paul Robeson, Negro singer and enthusiastic follower of the Communist party line, insists he will sing here tomorrow night, but if he does his audience will be drastically limited, following the Peoria city council's action aimed at keeping him out of town.

The council yesterday by unanimous vote adopted a resolution disapproving the appearance in Peoria of "any speaker or artist who is an avowed or active propagandist for un-American ideology."

Altho the resolution did not name Robeson specifically, its sponsor, Ald. Milo Nelson, said it was intended to prohibit Robeson's appearance at a concert originally scheduled for tomorrow. The concert was canceled Monday.

Accused by House Group

The council action came only a day after the singer was named by the house committee on un-American activities as one of a group of persons "which are invariably found supporting the Communist party and its front organizations."

Allen Cannon, a member of the music faculty of Bradley university and the person under whose sponsorship Robeson was engaged to sing at Peoria's Shrine mosque tomorrow, told a reporter:

"At the time I engaged Paul Robeson I believed his presence would help enrich the community's musical life. But in the last few days events have made it clear a concert by Mr. Robeson at this time would be unwelcome here."

Report Light Ticket Sale

In Champaign, Ill., Robeson said his manager had broken the Peoria concert contract at Cannon's request after the latter reported few tickets were being sold.

Meanwhile a mixed race committee of 11 arranged a reception for Robeson at the city hall tomorrow night, altho Mayor Carl O. Triebel polled the council before granting permission for use of the city hall.

"The aldermen who were favorable felt the hall should be made available, but that if any subversive remarks were made, the meeting should be brought to a close," Triebel said.

He added that Robeson would be permitted to sing in the city hall room, but said that "unfortunately the room holds only about 150 people." Police, he said, would be present.

Robeson in an interview threatened to sing in Peoria despite the contract cancellation, and accused the city council of using "fascist techniques," a charge often hurled at political opponents of commun-