

Retrial Set For Briggs Eviction Case

A retrial in the dispossess proceedings initiated by Porter and Company, real estate agents of 166 West 125th Street, against Cyril Briggs, Negro publicist and a member of the editorial staff of the Daily Worker, was set for Nov. 8 by Magistrate James F. Watson in the Tenth Municipal Court, 1 West 125th Street, yesterday on the request of counsel for the landlord.

At a previous hearing last Friday afternoon, the Magistrate had vacated a summary dispossess, alleging non-payment of rent, which the landlord served on Briggs three days after his rent was due in continuation of a drive begun two weeks ago to evict him from his apartment at 141 West 128th Street. In squashing the dispossess, Watson appealed to the landlord to withdraw a 30-day eviction notice against Briggs, on the grounds that Briggs is a newspaper man "who had been of great service to the community." The agents, acting for the U. S. Trust Company, 45 Wall Street, owners of the building, refused to withdraw the eviction notice.

At the hearing last Friday, Briggs proved that the landlord had made no effort to collect his rent. Vernon Williams, Negro attorney and a member of the legal staff of the Consolidated Tenants League, who represented Briggs in court, pointed out that the attempt to evict Briggs was begun after he had started to organize the tenants of 141 West 128th Street and the adjoining house at 139, both operated by Porter and Company, to demand proper service in the two houses and a reduction of the exorbitant Jim-crow rentals. Attorney Williams filed a counter-suit for Briggs for \$300 damages in connection with the robbery of his apartment, alleging responsibility by the landlord on account of a rule prohibiting the tenants of the two houses from putting their own locks on the doors of their apartments.

The Consolidated Tenants League, of which Briggs is a member, has appealed to workers and their organizations to send protests to Porter and Company, 166 West 125th Street, and the U. S. Trust Company, 45 Wall Street.