

Negro Presidential Candidate to Speak

1964
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Biographical Background

CLIFTON DEBERRY

Clifton DeBerry, 40, was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi. ~~He graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago, Ill.~~ Long active in the struggle for Negro rights and equality, DeBerry was a delegate to the Negro Labor Congress held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1950 and to the founding convention of the Negro American Labor Council in Detroit in 1960. During the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, he organized a Station-Wagons-To-Montgomery Committee. He is a house painter by trade, but was also a union organizer in the South and Mid-west with the Farm Equipment Union.

DeBerry is New York State Organizer for the Socialist Workers Party, and in 1963 was a candidate for Brooklyn, N.Y., Councilman-at-large. In the last year, he has completed two national speaking tours discussing developments in the Freedom Now struggle. A strong advocate of independent political action by labor and the Negro people, he supports the Freedom Now Party as a step in that direction.

Clifton DeBerry has been a socialist for 20 years and is the first Negro in U.S. history to be chosen by a political party as its presidential candidate.

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EDWARD SHAW

Edward Shaw, 40, was born on a farm in Lake County, Illinois, and went to a two-room country school house. He graduated from high school in 1941 and attended the Armour College of Engineering in Chicago, for one year, before World War II interrupted his education. During the war he volunteered for the merchant marine and made many trips to Europe and the Caribbean. In 1948 he was drafted into the army and after his discharge returned briefly to sea and then decided to work ashore. Prior to becoming a printer, he worked mainly in the auto industry.

Having come to know Cuba and its ports while going to sea, Shaw returned there in 1960 to see what changes the revolution had made. He traveled the Island from one end to the other and returned home an enthusiastic supporter of the Cuban Revolution. On behalf of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, he toured the Midwest to speak and show color slides about what he had seen.

Edward Shaw joined the socialist movement nearly 20 years ago and is currently National Organizational Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

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