NAACP
1945-47

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NAACP

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPINGARN MEDAL AWARD COMMITTEE

Following is a digest of the proposed recipients for the Spingarn Medal Award for 1947:

BUNCHE, DR. RALPH J. - New York City

Qualifications: "Dr. Bunche for a period of many years had steadily moved to the front ranks of those scholars who are laboring in the vineyards of world affairs. His distinguished and fruitful career - as an educator, as an historian, world traveler and contributing architect for a world organization - has recently been capped with his designation as Chief of the Secretariat for the United Nations Palestine Commission."

Recommended by: Mr. Ernest E. Johnson, New York City.

ELLINGTON, EDWARD KENNEDY "DUKE" - New York City

Qualifications: "For more than 20 years Mr. Ellington has been a leading composer and band leader in the field of popular American music. Year in and year out his band has been a significant exponent of the development of this music. Year in and year out, also, Mr. Ellington himself has increased his stature as a composer and conductor, being perhaps the only man in his field who can give a full concert consisting entirely of his distinctive compositions. For the past several years Mr. Ellington's musical aggregation has given concerts in Carnegie Hall in New York City which have further highlighted his position as a leading interpreter of modern American music.

"For the year 1946 he and his band won first place in the poll of Downbeat magazine, the leading publication of its kind, for both "swing" and "sweet" music. In 1946, also, Broadway received "Beggar's Holiday" for which Mr. Ellington wrote the music and it is rated as the most unusual musical that has come to Broadway in many years."

Recommended by: Mr. Roy Wilkins, New York City.

HOLMES, DR. CLARENCE F. - Denver, Colorado

Qualifications: "Dr. Holmes is a Negro dentist in Denver, Colorado. He has been active in many civic organizations in the city, and has been the president of CORE (Committee on Racial Equality), the Cosmopolitan Club, and the treasurer of the Denver Unity Council. He has fought against racial discrimination for the many, many years past.

"His membership on the executive committee of the Denver Unity Council is significant, because the DUC is organized of some 90 civic organizations of the city and has more than 400 individual members. Most of these organizations and the overwhelming majority of the individuals of the DUC are white, Caucasian. The DUC has fought for a Bill of Human Rights in Denver, conducts yearly campaigns for an FEPC, and anti-restrictive covenant law.

"The most significant achievement of Dr. Clarence F. Holmes in 1947 was his election to the Charter Convention for the City of Denver. Running under the liberal ticket of the present Mayor J. Quigg Newton, Dr. Holmes was elected to the Charter convention to re-write a new charter to the City of Denver. Among the 21 delegates elected, he was the only Negro member serving. In his service on the Convention commission he fought long and hard for a decent Bill of Human Rights, to protect all minorities in the City and County of Denver.

"In the Charter convention, Dr. Holmes served faithfully the best interests of the community, and at the same time endeavored to consolidate some fundamental gains for the minority people in Denver. After the Charter was drafted, Dr. Holmes unselfishly entered the political fight to have the Charter adopted by the electorate. Unfortunately, the Charter lost in the vote of the people, but it does not diminish the great contributions made by Dr. Clarence F. Holmes in this regard.

Finally, Dr. Clarence F. Holmes is highly respected by prominent citizens of the Denver, Colorado, community. In the election of the present liberal Mayor, J. Quigg Newton, Dr. Holmes campaigned long and actively to help upset the long-entrenched Stapleton regime which had plagued the city for the past 20 years.

"Dr. Holmes has participated in every good fight for the advancement of the Negro in Denver, Colorado, and has splendidly cooperated with other minority groups. He has cordial relationships with civic leaders, and endeavors to promote the community welfare in working with the majority group."

Recommended by: Minoru Yasui, Esq., Denver, Colorado.

HOUGH, CHARLES H. - Dayton, Ohio

Qualifications : "Mr. Hough has developed several inventions. He is an individual of modest character with sincere interest in community welfare. He has to his credit the founding of the Cosmopolitan Research Center, Non-Profit Corporation, aimed to house facilities for free use of fellow inventors. The planned endeavor is a most novel and worthwhile institution."

Recommended by: Mr. Alonzo D. Brewer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

ROBINSON, JACKIE - New York City

Qualifications: "Jackie Robinson has been voted by the sports writers as the most outstanding rookie of the year, which.... is a most important honor, and he has had, according to reports.....not a very easy road, being the first Negro major league baseball player."

Recommended by: Mr. Alfred Baker Lewis, New York City, and Mr. Culbreth B. Cook, Jr., Cleveland, Ohio.

TOBIAS, DR. CHANNING H. - New York City

Qualifications: "Member of President's Committee on Civil Rights, Member of committee which brought the President's Committee into being. For his forthright position in opposition to the regional educational plan and segregation in the Armed Services and for a lifetime of devoted and unselfish, militant opposition to bigotry."

Recommended by: Mr. Walter White.

TURNER, RUFUS P. - Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Qualifications: "Rufus P. Turner of South Dartmouth, Massachusetts has received greater recognition in the radio field than any other Negro. Mr. Turner has distinguished himself

both as an engineer and as a technical writer and author. He has been associated with major American industries and has published technical articles over a period of years in leading technical journals. As a result of this continued activit , Mr. Turner is well known in the radio and electronic field in this country and in Europe.

"In RADIO NEWS magazine (page 159 of the March 1948 issue), Mr. Turner's name heads an imposing list of authors called 'the world's best radio writers' by this magazine. RADIO NEWS is an internationally-circulated monthly with a circulation of bet er than 150,000. Mr. Turner has published continuously in RADIO NEWS magazine for 9 years.

"Mr. Turner has published to date 216 technical articles. In addition, he wrote and illustrated 78 consecutive monthly issues of the AEROVOX RESEARCH WORKER, published by the Aerovox Corporation, a radio manufacturer of New Bedford, Massachusetts. He is author of the textbook "Radio Test Instruments" (Ziff-Davis Publishing Co., New York, 1946) and was one of the editors of the 5th Edition of "The Radio Handbook". He served as managing editor of RADIO, another internationally-circulated technical monthly, after a 4 year tour as assistant editor of the same magazine. This was the first time a Negro held a staff position with a technical journal. Mr. Turner's articles and books have been listed frequently in radio and electronic bibliographies.

"Mr. Turner has held positions of Research Engineer with Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Massachusetts; Laboratory Engineer with the National Company, Malden, Massachusetts; Research Engineer, Aerovox Corporation, New Bedford, Massachusetts; Applications Engineer, Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts; and Consulting Engineer in private practice. He is licenses as a Registered Professional Engineer by the State Board in Massachusetts.

"Mr. Turner was one of the 16 men selected from all over the United States to receive in 1942 a citation for special war work from the National Association of Manufacturers in New York. He also received a citation of achievement from Florida A. & M. College.

Mr. Turner has taught industrial electronics for Rhode Island State College and radio theory to Signal Corps trainees in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He recently prepared the radio courses for Eastern Technical School, New Bedford, and is a consultant for that organization with the title of Assistant Director.

"Mr. Turner first received public attention several years ago when he set up several miniature radio sets. The first of these tiny models was built on a common straight pin; the second was small enough to pass through the eye of a needle. Both radio were exhibited at the various World's Fairs, the last exhibition being at the New York Fair in 1939 and 1940. Both Ripley and Hix featured these radios by Turner in their 'Believe-It-Or-Not' and 'Strange-As-It-Seems' cartoons.

"Mr. Turner is a member of the Institute of Radio Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, and Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers. He has been a licensed radio operator continuously since 1924 and operates regularly a short-wave amateur station, WLAY.

"Mr. Turner attended Rhode Island State College, Lewis Institute and Central YMCA College, but most of his radio and electronic training has been obtained by independent study. He earned a Doctor of Letters degree by correspondence study.

Recommended by: Anonymous

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20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890

Official Organ: The Crisis

Please direct reply to:
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Washington 1, D. C.
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February 21, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a copy of my testimony before the Senate Labor Committee on February 20. I had originally expected that the Association would be heard during the first week in March. However, we were called on Thursday because another witness scheduled to appear became ill and could not attend.

I regret to say that, in my opinion, the Senate Labor Committee is seriously weighted against labor. Unfortunately also the newspaper reports have not done anything to off-set the current impression that the Senators are eager to get constructive suggestions from labor, but such suggestions are not being made.

From what I have seen of the Committee, I fear that it is not deeply interested in any constructive suggestions.

Cordially yours,

Clarence Mitchell

Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary

Enc.
CMM:mbh

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April 11, 1947

Dear Branch Officer:

For some years the Board of Directors and I have brought all influence possible on Walter White in the hope that we could convince him of the necessity of curtailing his activities on behalf of the Association and the work in which he is so deeply interested.

We have to admit little success. In February he suffered an attack which proves to be cardiac in origin. Upon the insistence of the Board and myself, Mr. White has since admitted to a series of examinations by specialists. We are happy to report no serious organic impairment. However, it is my considered opinion and that of my colleagues that Mr. White should curtail definitely his administrative duties and especially travelling and speaking engagements for a period of several months. He must, in other words, take some of the rest he has denied himself during the past 28 years of selfless devotion to the NAACP.

I write this letter to the branches both as Chairman of the Board of Directors and as Mr. White's physician and life long friend, so that you may understand why for the time being he cannot accept speaking engagements and also to allay any apprehension that may have been caused by reports of his recent illness.

Sincerely yours,

Louis T. Wright

Louis T. Wright, Chairman
Board of Directors

TION LETTER

Department of Branches

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
LOngacre 3-6890 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y.

April 8, 1947

Dear Branch Officer:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHANGED

The 38th Annual Conference of the NAACP will meet in Washington, D.C., June 24th-29th inclusive, instead of Atlantic City. This change was made necessary because of inability to secure meeting space due to several other conferences being held at the same time.

Action: Prepare now for the greatest conference in NAACP history. Raise funds to send your full complement of delegates to the Annual Conference. We want every branch in the Association represented in Washington.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

This is a call to action on FEPC. The new FEPC Bill (S. 984 in the Senate; H.R. 2820 and 2824 in the House) for a permanent FEPC (National Commission Against Discrimination in Employment) was introduced in Congress March 27th. The sponsors include: Senator Ives, (R., N.Y.); Chavez (D., N.Mex.); Downey (D., Calif.); Morse (R., Ore.); Murray (D., Mont.); Myers (D., Pa.); Saltonstall (R., Mass.); and Smith (R., N.J.); and in the House of Representatives Fulton (R., Pa.); and Norton (D., N.J.).

The bill has been streamlined to increase likelihood of passage, BUT WITHOUT WEAKENING THE PROVISIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT. It has the support of all minority groups and of labor, church and civic welfare groups.

Action: (a) Write or wire your Senator and Representative. Urge passage of the Bill and demand hearings.

(b) Support FEPC financially by a contribution to the National Council for a Permanent FEPC, 930 F Street, N.W., Washington 4, D.C. The NAACP is one of the sponsoring organizations of the National Council. Send your contribution for FEPC to the National Office of the NAACP and we will forward it to the National Council.

A MILLION MEMBERS IN 1947!

NAACP EDUCATION PAMPHLET

Enclosed is a copy of a new NAACP pamphlet on educational inequalities,

Action: Distribute the pamphlet to union groups, editors, boards of education, churches, social and civic organizations, schools, interracial and intercultural organizations and key citizens in your community. Cost of the pamphlet is 5¢. Order a supply today.

NATION-WIDE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The nation-wide membership campaign opened April 1st and will continue through June 30th. The slogan - "Make It A Million!" Your branch must do its part by reaching the local quota. Keep in touch with your Regional Coordinator:

Region 1 - Mr. Noah W. Griffin, Coordinator
NAACP Region 1 Headquarters
916 Kearny Street
Rooms 703-4
San Francisco 11, California

Region 2 - Mr. Gloster B. Current, Coordinator
NAACP Region 2 Headquarters
20 W. 40th Street
New York 18, N. Y.

Region 3 - Mr. Donald Jones, Coordinator
NAACP Region 3 Headquarters
302 Pythian Building
867 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Columbus 3, Ohio

Region 4 - Mr. LeRoy Carter, Coordinator
NAACP Region 4 Headquarters
231 Lincoln Building
18th & Vine Streets
Kansas City 8, Missouri

Region 5 - Mr. Daniel E. Byrd, Coordinator
NAACP Region 5 Headquarters
3002 Danneel Street
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

FUND RAISING SUGGESTION

The Philadelphia Branch NAACP recently conducted a successful automobile raffle in which they raised more than $8,000.00. If your Branch is interested in details of conducting such a raffle, write to the National Office.

Sincerely yours,

Gloster B. Current

GLOSTER B. CURRENT
Director of Branches

GBC:bh

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Oliver W. Harrington
Director, Public Relations
Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr.
Labor Secretary

5th
May
1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In Mr. White's absence from the office I am acknowledging receipt of your letter of May 3rd enclosing statement concerning the NAACP.

We appreciate very much your sending this to us.

Sincerely yours

Edna M. Watson
Secretary to Mr. White

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Val-Kill Cottage
Hyde Park, Dutchess County
New York

emw

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
LONGACRE 3-6890
Official Organ: The Crisis

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May
7th
1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

As you undoubtedly know from your own sources of information, the NAACP action in behalf of Heman Marion Sweatt against the University of Texas will begin on Monday, May 12th, in the Texas Civil Court of Appeals in Austin. Needless to say, nationwide attention will be focused on this case.

In a discussion with Thurgood Marshall, our chief counsel, just before he left New York for Texas, I became acquainted with some facts which I felt would be of considerable interest to you. First, and most important, the brief, by which it is hoped by due process of law to force the University of Texas to admit Sweatt and any other qualified Negro to its law school, will pull no punches. As Mr. Marshall puts it, "This is the works." The very theory of the separate but equal basis for segregation will be attacked for the first time.

In order to mercilessly expose this American paradox, Mr. Marshall will place some nationally-known authorities in several fields on the stand. Among them will be influential legal educators representing the best law schools in the land. The testimony of some of these authorities will be of a rather sensational nature and will provide a focal point on which to attack jim crow for many years to come.

The press coverage on this historically significant issue is of the utmost importance. As you may well remember, the press, and particularly the presence of a host of correspondents in the courtroom during the Columbia "riot" case in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, had more to do with influencing the most

sensational southern jury verdict than any other single factor. This case against jim crow in education, and by implication in every other field, is a natural follow-up of that democratic victory.

I thought you might appreciate a short briefing on the situation up to now and I hope you may be able to cooperate in some way, either in writing or in informing others among your associates of the facts.

Sincerely yours,

Oliver W. Harrington

Oliver W. Harrington
Director, Public Relations

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square
New York City

OWH:RJW

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-8890

Official Organ: The Crisis

9th
May
1947

TO MEMBERS OF SPINGARN MEDAL AWARD COMMITTEE
FROM ROY WILKINS:

In accordance with our telegram to you about the Spingarn Medal Award Committee, we are sending you a digest of the nominations that have been made for the 1946 award.

If it will not be possible for you to attend the meeting on Friday, May 16th, at 3 P.M., please indicate your first, second and third choice and mail to the National Office to reach us by May 16th.

RW:emw

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
80 West 40 Street
New York 18, New York

SPINGARN MEDAL RECOMMENDATIONS

DAVIS, ELLABELLE - New Rochelle, N.Y.

Qualifications: "Has taken her place in recent seasons in the very top bracket of America's concert and opera stars. Her musical triumphs, both in this country and throughout Central and South America, have reflected honor not only upon her own name but the race which she represents.

"...1946 has been her banner year of achievement. It was on the evening of July 23, 1946, singing the title role of 'Aida' with the great Opera Nacional of Mexico City, that she became the first American Negro ever to have been starred by one of the major opera companies of the world..."

Miss Davis during 1946 also sang at the great Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires and became the first Negro ever to perform there. She was "singled out by the League of Composers (whose Executive Board includes many of the world's foremost writers of serious music) as the 'outstanding American Singer of the year'".

Miss Davis sang with the Boston Symphony, and five other leading symphony orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy, the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra under Dimitri Mitropoulis, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Denvery Symphony and the Erie Philharmonic.

Recommended by: Mr. Alix B. Williamson, New York, New York

ELLINGTON, DUKE (EDWARD KENNEDY) - New York City

Qualifications: "For more than 20 years... has been a leading composer and band leader in the field of popular American music. Year in and year out his band has been a significant exponent of the development of this music. Year in and year out, also, Mr. Ellington himself has increased his stature as a composer and conductor, being perhaps the only man in his field who can give a full concert consisting entirely of his distinctive compositions.

For the past several years Mr. Ellington's musical aggregation has given concerts in Carnegie Hall in New York City which have further highlighted his position as a leading interpreter of modern American music.

"For the year 1946 he and his band won first place in the poll of Downbeat magazine, the leading publication of its kind, for both 'swing' and 'sweet' music. In 1946, also, Broadway received 'Beggar's Holiday' for which Mr. Ellington wrote the music and it is rated as the most unusual musical that has come to Broadway in many years."

Recommended by: Mr. Roy Wilkins

GREENE, JOSEPH D. - New York City

Qualifications: Postal Clerk and outstanding "member of half dozen Negro clerks who desired to participate in the major trade union of their craft, "is recommended for his work in the smashing of jim crow in the American labor movement. "Greene is singled out from the original group of applicants because he has shown the most promising work as a trade unionist since his admission. In August 1946, President Morris Klein of the New York Branch selected Greene to serve as one of the Branch Delegates to the New York Central Trades & Labor Council, AFL, a body representing 750,000 trade union members in metropolitan area... ..(He) has done outstanding work on the Civil Rights Committee, Welfare Committee and is an active member of the National Alliance of Postal Employees... and also a member of the Post Office Holy Name Society. His active interest in the legislative work of the union has characterized his fine work."

Recommended by: Mr. Thomas N. Kelly, Chairman of Civil Rights Committee Of New York Branch, Railway Mail Association

HEDGEMAN, MRS. ANNA M. - Washington, D.C.

Qualifications: "For inter-racial teamwork in dramatizing the issue of FEPC in early 1946."

Recommended by: Pauli Murray, American Jewish Congress

HOUSTON, CHARLES H. - Washington, D.C.

Qualifications: Formerly Special Counsel for the NAACP; has won many victories in the courts.

Recommended by: Dr. Louis T. Wright

JACKSON, JUDGE PERRY BROOKS - Cleveland , Ohio

Qualifications: "First Negro ever to be elected Judge in Cleveland or in Ohio. Previously served as Municipal Judge by appointment.... Served as State Legislator, Councilman in Cleveland Council, Assistant Police Prosecutor, Grand Exalted Ruler of King Tutt, Elks and has practiced law in Cleveland for many years. Graduate of Western Reserve University where he was elected to membership in Phi Betta society, President of Ohio Elks Association, superintendent of St. James Sunday School (largest Sunday school in the United States.)

Recommended by: Eugene F. Cheeks, Editor, the Cleveland Guide

JOHNSON, CHARLES S. - Fisk University - Nashville, Tennessee

Qualifications: President of Fisk University. "Sociologist, publicist, and scholar and a fair-minded Christian citizen."

Recommended by: Anson Phelps Stokes, President of Phelps-Stokes Fund

JOHNSON, MRS. THOMASINA WALKER - Washington, D.C.

Qualifications: "As legislative representative of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs, Mrs. Johnson brilliantly and triumphantly led the fight against the exclusion of Negro women from admission into the WAVES. Her appointment by President Harry S. Truman as chief of the Minority Groups Section in the United States Department of Labor Employment Service represents the highest official position ever accorded a Negro woman by our Federal Government."

Recommended by: William Harrison, Associate Editor, Boston Chronicle

JULIAN, DR. PERCY L. - Chicago, Illinois

Qualifications: Dr. Percy L. Julian, chemist, graduated from DePauw University, Indiana serving as valedictorian of his class and as a Phi Beta Kappa orator. Taught chemistry at Fisk University and West Virginia State College, studied for four years at Harvard and in 1931 received his Ph. D. in Chemistry at the University of Vienna.

"Several years ago Dr. Julian synthesized and made in pure form for the first time Physostigmine (a miotic alkaloid from Calabar bean). This drug has been used in opthalmologic practice and in certain abdominal conditions by physicians for many years, but it had never been prepared synthetically in its pure state.

"The professor of chemistry at the University of London worked on this problem for over twenty years and failed.

"Dr. Julian has worked at Harvard University and De Pauw University and would have been made professor of chemistry at De Pauw University but for the fact that he was a Negro. At present he is employed by the Glidden Company where he is head of their research department and in this position he is the directing brain of many white and colored chemists.

"Dr. Julian's accomplishments represent an epoch in American chemistry because it is work that has been carried on on a level that requires mental ability, creative thinking, courage and technical skill."

"In the desperate days of our naval war in the Pacific Julian's new soya protein did its bit against the Japanese..... This was the basis of Aero-Foam.... that saved the lives of thousands of our sailors and airmen and many of our warships."

Also in the soybean experiments Dr. Julian developed the female hormone Progesterone which has been a "god-send to expectant mothers threatened with loss of their unborn babies by spontaneous abortion."

Recommended by: Dr. Louis T. Wright
Mr. W. J. O'Brien, Vice President of the Glidden Company, Cleveland, Ohio
Walter White

(Note: There is considerable material available on the work of Dr. Julian including article by Paul de Kruif in READER'S DIGEST for August 1946, article in OPPORTUNITY for March 1941, a resume of his research studies and numerous letters concerning his work.)

LOUIS, JOE - Detroit, Michigan and New York City

Qualifications: "Mr. Louis has engaged in 59 boxing contests; he scored 51 knock-outs, won 7 by decision and lost only one. Since 1934 he has been active in the ring and won the championship in 1937. During his reign as champion, he has been a credit to the race by his gentlemanly stature, character and conduct both in and out of the ring.

"Recently, he has been active in community activities and in this role has brought additional credit to himself and the community. He is at the zenith of his career, and because of his outstanding contribution to the world of sports which has had considerable bearing on the advancement of colored people, generally, he is worthy of consideration for this year's award."

Recommended by: Gloster B. Current

LOOBY, Z. ALEXANDER - Nashville, Tennessee

Qualifications: Graduate of Howard University, of the law school of Columbia University and of the graduate division of law school of New York University.

"Member of the National Legal Committee of the NAACP ...recommended for work in the case of Redmond vs. The State of Tennessee; ... salary equalization case of the teachers in the public schools of Nashville, Tennessee;..... the Columbia, Tennessee cases..."

"Attorney Looby, resident Tennessean, exhibited the highest type of moral and physical courage, worked indefatigably and without stint with the highest efficiency not only in the trials themselves (Columbia, Tennessee trials) but also as the lawyer responsible for the preparation of the law of Tennessee on these cases and assumed the large obligation as counsel responsible for preparing the technical papers necessary to defeat the loss of the cases on technicalities."

Recommended by: Dean William Faulkner - Fisk University, Nashville
Charles H. Houston - Washington, D.C.

Letters of recommendation have been received from more than 110 additional persons over the country as result of a committee sponsoring Mr. Looby for the award.

RANSOM, LEON A. - Washington, D.C.

Qualifications: "For his work in the Columbia, Tennessee trials and for his leadership in the struggle to bring racial democracy to the District of Columbia."

Recommended by: Miss Pauli Murray - American Jewish Congress

RANSOM, BISHOP REVERDY C. - Wilberforce, Ohio

Qualifications: Bishop Ransom - President of the Bishop's Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"It is said that Bishop Ransom's speech at Harpers Ferry either in 1909 or 1910 was the inspiration that gave the NAACP its impetus as a national organization."

Recommended by: Rev. C. Baker Pearle - Minister Payne Memorial AME Church - Baltimore, Md.

SOLOMON, SAM B. - Miami, Florida

Qualifications: "For the part... he has played in arousing in the Southern Negro a desire to take an active part in politics... defied the Klan several years ago and led thousands of Negroes to the polls... Ran for the Miami City Commission, the first time in the history of the South that a Negro has had the nerve to qualify for such post."

Recommended by: Mr. Leon Lewis - The Miami Whip, Miami, Florida

SPAULDING, MR. CHARLES CLINTON - Durham, N.C.

Qualifications: "His greatest achievement in business is found in the building of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company... Also he is the president of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank of Durham and Raleigh, N.C.... President of the Mutual Building and Loan Association of Durham... Co-founder and Vice-President and Board of Directors member of the Bankers Fire Insurance Company, the only fire insurance company owned, controlled and operated by Negroes in the world; and the Southern Fidelity Mutual Bonding Company which is the only bonding company of its kind among our group in this company."

Recommended by: G. W. Cox, Vice President and Agency Director of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, Durham, N. C.

TOBIAS, DR. CHANNING H. - New York City

Qualifications: "Executive Director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund and for many years secretary of the National Council of the YMCA."

"The services of Dr. Tobias in behalf of the use of our race have been outstanding. Not only has he been effective as an executive but he has been a great influence for advancing the welfare of our race. His recent appointment as the successor to Dr. Jones of the Phelps-Stokes Fund and his recent selection as the first Negro chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hampton Institute, and his services on several important government commissions during the war-- all commend him distinctive service in behalf of our race."

Recommended by: Robert P. Daniel, President - Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C.

WALLS, BISHOP W. J. - Chicago, Illinois

Qualifications: Chairman of the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration of the AME Zion Church, held September 8-22, 1946 in New York City. This celebration "was a remarkable presentation of the progress made by the Negro in the field of religion, education, and civic advancement during the last century and a half.

"As Chairman of this celebration Bishop Walls directed the planning, scope and features of this notable historic event which was a crowning epoch in the history of the Negro in America. This celebration marked the 150th Anniversary of the AME Zion Church, one of the oldest Negro religious organizations in the world, and much of the success of this history-making occasion depended upon the leadership and gift of organization of Bishop Walls."

Recommended by: Cleveland G. Allen, New York City

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 12, 1947

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the offices of the Association, 20 West 40th Street, New York City, pursuant to notice.

Present: Messrs. Chalmers, Christopher, Delany, Harlow, Hammond, Lewis, Singleton, Spaulding, Spingarn, Tinsley, Tobias, Toney, Wright, Judge Bolin, Miss Ovington, Miss Cuthbert, the Assistant Secretary, the Administrative Assistant, the Director of Branches, the Labor Secretary, Assistant Special Counsel Marian Perry and the Youth Secretary.

Regrets: Messrs. Berry, Cabot, Capper, Davenport, Davis, Dickerson, Dunjee, Flemmings, Griffin, Hall, Charles Houston, Imes, Jayne, Johnston, LaGuardia, Murphy, Murray, Isadore Martin, McClendon, Powell, Lehman, Randolph, Smalls, Taggart, Villard, Weber, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Bethune, Mrs. Roosevelt.

The Minutes of the April meeting were approved as mailed out.

RESIGNATION OF ELMER CARTER: The Assistant Secretary read a letter from Elmer A. Carter in which Mr. Carter stated that after careful thought he had regretfully decided to resign as member of the NAACP Board of Directors. He stated:

> "The reasons are brief and not difficult to understand, for, as a member of the Commission Against Discrimination, I am placed in a position of having to decide the merits of complaints filed by the Legal Division of the N.A.A.C.P. against employers or labor unions or employment agencies."

Mr. Carter further stated that although not a member of the Board, he would deem it a privilege to render any service to the Association that he could.

Upon motion by Dr. Tobias, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that Mr. Elmer Carter's resignation be accepted with regret

NEW BOARD MEMBER: Professor Harlow stated that he had discussed the question of Rabbi Judah Cahn being elected as a member of the Board with the Secretary and with the Chairman of the Board and wished to recommend to the Board that Rabbi Cahn be elected to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Carter's resigning from the Board. He stated further that Rabbi Cahn was very much devoted to the cause for which the NAACP is working.

Dr. Tinsley stated that this Board does not now have a representative of the Catholic or Jewish clergy in its membership. He suggested that this be kept in mind.

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Dr. Tobias stated that in his opinion our method of election is a democratic method and that he felt we should have one or two people on the Board like Rabbi Judah Cahn.

Upon motion by Dr. Tobias, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that Rabbi Judah Cahn be elected to serve out the unexpired term of Mr. Elmer Carter.

MCMURTRIE ESTATE: The Assistant Secretary read a resolution to be passed by the Board for the sale of the Association's interest in the McMurtrie Estate, in accordance with the decision of the Board at a previous meeting.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that the following resolution, drawn up by Attorney Spaulding be accepted by the Board:

"RESOLVED: That the President and Assistant Secretary of the Association be and are hereby authorized to execute a deed of conveyance on behalf of the N.A.A.C.P. for its interest in lands known and designated as the McMurtrie Estate in the City of Philadelphia, to the Comstock-Boyd Company and that the consideration for said conveyance shall be one-half of the total land price of $4765.00."

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: The Report of the Treasurer was accepted, copies of which were distributed.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS: The Assistant Secretary and Editor of the CRISIS summarized the report of the CRISIS for the month of April, copies of which were distributed.

Professor Harlow stated that he has only received one copy of the CRISIS this year and that two persons from whom he secured life memberships have not yet received the CRISIS.

Dr. Wright, Mr. Lewis, Dr. Tinsley and Dr. Christopher took part in the discussion on the handling of CRISIS subscriptions.

The Assistant Secretary stated that subscriptions to the CRISIS are handled by a great many people, approximately ten, and three or four handle these subscriptions before they even get to New York. After getting to New York these subscriptions go through the bookkeeping, membership and branch departments before coming to the CRISIS. As a result, a number of mistakes can be made on a CRISIS subscription. He stated further that he would be happy if some way could be devised for more efficient handling of these subscriptions.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that this matter be referred to a special staff committee and that a report be made at the next meeting of the Board; further that the Board of Directors be notified when the special staff committee is to meet so that as many Board members as wish to may be present at the meeting.

STAFF CONFERENCE: Professor Harlow recommended that in the early Fall a one-day or week-end conference be called to which the entire staff of the NAACP, CRISIS, and Directors would be invited, but that expenses of the staff be paid out of funds of the NAACP and Directors pay their own expenses.

REPORTS OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT TO BE SENT TO LAW SCHOOLS: Professor Harlow stated that he wrote to the Deans of 25 law schools asking for the names of faculty members who are interested in seeing that justice is done in the courts to the Negro, and offering to see that the Legal Department of the N.A.A.C.P. furnished such men with legal information concerning such cases. He also wrote to the Chicago DEFENDER, the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN, and the Pittsburgh COURIER enclosing a list of the faculty members sent him by the Deans of these law schools, requesting that these newspapers send the persons on the list all editorials which have a bearing on such cases. Professor Harlow read excerpts from some of the letters he had received from the Deans of various law schools. He stated that he was turning all of this material over to the Legal Department of the N.A.A.C.P.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that the Legal Department send material on all our important cases to the law schools on the list which Professor Harlow has turned over to the Legal Department.

SPINGARN MEDAL AWARD COMMITTEE: Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED that in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Administration, the following persons be elected to serve on the Spingarn Medal Award Committee for the term July 1, 1946 to July 1, 1949.

Mrs. Ruth B. Lipper
Mr. Thurgood Marshall
Mr. Roscoe Dunjee

REPORT OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE: It was briefly reported that Mr. Marshall, NAACP Special Counsel, is presently in Austin, Texas, working on re-trial of the case of Sweatt v. University of Texas. The report of the Legal Committee was accepted.

BRANCHES AND YOUTH COUNCILS TO BE CHARTERED:
Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that charters be granted to the newly-organized branches at:

Klamath Falls, Oregon
DeWitt, Ark.
Madison Co., Fla.
Unadilla, Ga.
Howard Co., Md.
Woodruff, S. C.
Temple, Texas
Wilcox Co., Ala.
Artesia, N. Mexico
Sarasota, Fla.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Lebanon, Ohio
Lincoln Parish, La.
Walla Walla, Wash.
Greenwood Co., S. C.

and the newly-organized youth councils at

Miami, Fla.
Greensboro, N.C.
Carbondale, Ill.
Newport News, Va.

and the newly-organized college chapter at

Long Island University.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BRANCHES AND YOUTH WORK: Judge Delany, reporting for the Committee on Branches and Youth Work, recommended that special attention be given to our college chapters. He stated that it had been decided that college chapters were worth concentrating on and as a result we have begun to enlarge our youth program. He stated further that we have 36 all-Negro college chapters, 10 interracial chapters and three all-white chapters. In his opinion, the NAACP is doing the only real, effective, organized job in the interracial field. We have about 10,000 members in various college chapters and want to extend our program.

It was recommended that the Board request the Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. to advance or give $5,000 for youth educational work and to expand the youth program.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that the above recommendation be accepted by the Board.

It was further recommended that the Committee on Branches and Youth Work be authorized by the Board to raise a Special Youth Fund by appeals to branches, youth councils, etc. of $5,000 or more.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that the above recommendation be accepted by the Board.

It was recommended that permission be given to the Plainfield Youth Council to retain profits from dance held May 10, 1947 in connection with entertainment of the State Youth Conference.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that the above recommendation be accepted by the Board.

Certain recommendations were made by the Committee on Branches with regard to amendments to the Constitution.

Attention was called to the procedure provided for in the Constitution, which must be followed before an amendment can become effective Mr. Lewis stated that he hoped Mr. Spingarn would not raise this point of order since the amendments proposed involved a specific order which was given to the Board at the last Annual Conference and that unless this matter was brought up now it would not be possible to comply with the order of the Annual Conference before the next meeting in June. Dr. Tinsley spoke in favor of Mr. Lewis' point.

However, Mr. Spingarn stated that he did wish to raise this point. The Chairman stated that these amendments could not be discussed until they were brought up in accordance with the procedure provided for in the Constitution.

Judge Delany asked that it be considered that these amendments had been filed with the Assistant Secretary and that proper notice be sent out so that the matter could be properly brought up at the June meeting of the Board.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Dr. Tinsley brought up the question of the dating of membership cards. The Assistant Secretary stated that this matter had been brought up a number of times and it has been proposed that the membership cards be dated as of the date that the money was received by the secretary of the branch, rather than as of the date on which the money is received in the National Office.

RADIO BROADCAST FOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Mr. Lewis made a motion that the Acting Secretary or someone designated by him proceed to make arrangements for radio broadcasts in connection with our Annual Membership Campaign. He stated that it is unfortunate that this has not been done and since the Publicity Director is in Texas he will not be able to do it. The Assistant Secretary stated that he would not be able to make such arrangements, that plans had been worked out in January and February to be broken in April and there is no reason why this was not done.

Mr. Hammond moved that the motion be amended to provide for hiring someone to work on radio broadcasts in connection with the drive at a maximum salary of $100 per week until July 3rd.

Mr. Spingarn stated that in his opinion it was too late for this and that if this had been done some months ago he would have voted for it. Mr. Hammond said he knew a number of people who would be glad to do this job and he thought it would be a good investment.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that someone be hired to make arrangements for radio broadcasts in connection with our membership drive, until July 3rd, at a maximum salary of $100 per week and that Mr. John Hammond be designated by the Board to work on this.

RESOLUTIONS FROM BRANCHES: The Assistant Secretary reported that resolutions have come in for the Annual Conference from the Santa Monica Bay, California branch and from the Boston branch.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: The Assistant Secretary reported briefly on the plans for the Annaul Conference and said that he would welcome suggestions from Board members.

Dr. Christopher recommended that the Credentials Committee be organized and oporated so that it will have the credentials and be ready to report early in the Conference. He stated that last year a whole afternoon was lost because controversial questions came up.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: Mr. Lewis reported that the Association is $41,000 behind our income for the first four months, but that this is not as serious as it sounds. It is the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee that $20,000 in government bonds now part of the bond reserve be sold, funds from such sale to be allocated as follows:

$3,000 to the CRISIS
$12,000 to the Inc. Fund
$5,000 to be deposited in our cash balance.

Bonds to be sold as follows:

$11,000--1950-52 2% government bonds, September
$ 9,000--1951-53 2% government bonds, September.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was VOTED:

"RESOLVED that the president and assistant secretary be and are hereby authorized to sell United States of America 2% Treasury bonds in the amount of $11,000, 1950-52 and United States of America 2% Treasury bonds in the amount of $9,000, 1951-53, now held in custody for the Association by the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Fifth Avenue branch."

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY DISCRIMINATION IN N. Y. PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE: Dr. Wright reported that there had been a meeting of the Committee appointed to study discrimination in the New York State Psychiatric Institute and that Albert Deutsch had been invited to and was present at this meeting. Dr. Wright stated that Dr. Harold Ellis gave the lie to the statement that no qualified Negro had ever applied and been turned away from the Institute, as Dr. Ellis applied and was not accepted. He stated that as soon as further material was obtained and our position is stronger, Dr. Lewis' position that Negroes and whites cannot be mixed in psychiatric research because of scientific objections, will be attacked.

With reference to the articles by Dr. Cobb, Dr. Wright stated that the entire study will be in the hands of the Editor of the CRISIS by June for publication.

The report of the Medical Committee was accepted.

DUEL IN THE SUN: The Assistant Secretary stated that members of the staff had been instructed to see the picture DUEL IN THE SUN and requested to concentrate on the role of Vashti, Negro servant girl, played by Butterfly McQueen.

The Assistant Secretary inquired whether the Board wished to issue any statement in this connection, since the picture perpetuates a stereotype which we have continually objected to.

Judge Bolin inquired as to the work of the Hollywood Bureau which was discussed some time ago. She stated that pictures seem to be getting worse rather than better.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED that a letter be written to David Selznick pointing out that the role of Vashti played by Butterfly McQueen perpetuates a stereotype; also pointing out the viciousness of the entire picture.

HOLLYWOOD BUREAU: Upon motion by Judge Bolin, duly seconded, it was VOTED that a report be submitted at the next meeting of the Board on the activities of the Hollywood Bureau and the names of those composing the committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Acting Chairman,

Roy Wilkins

Assistant Secretary.

rw/mj

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890

Official Organ: The Crisis

Please direct reply to:
WASHINGTON BUREAU NAACP
100 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.
Telephone National 5794

Walter White, *Director*
Jesse O. Dedmon, Jr., *Secretary, Veterans' Affairs*
Leslie S. Perry, *Administrative Assistant*
Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., *Labor Secretary*

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May 28, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed are the minutes of the Labor Committee Meeting which was held on April 21 in the New York office. In addition, I am enclosing copies of letters I prepared for the signatures of Mr. White and Mr. Wilkins on problems in government employment. As yet, we have had no reply from the White House on what disposition will be made of our proposal.

There is also enclosed a copy of my testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations. It deals with the curtailment of funds for the employment service operations of the Department of Labor.

Cordially yours,

Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary

Enclosures

CMM:mbh

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Meeting of the National Labor Committee

Monday, April 21, 1947

The quarterly meeting of the National Labor Committee of the NAACP was held on Monday, April 21, at 2:00 p.m. in the offices of the Association, 20 West 40th Street, New York City, pursuant to notice.

Present: Messrs. Current, Wilkins, Weaver, and Mitchell.

VOCATIONAL RETRAINING OF DISPLACED PERSONS

Mr. Weaver discussed the plan which was formulated at the meeting held on January 4th with Lester Granger, Madison S. Jones, and himself. The meeting was held to work out a program of vocational retraining of displaced persons in rural areas and industrial centers. He pointed out that the first thing needed was to bring to the attention of the public and the city administrations and state administrations in border line communities where the greatest impact is found the need for retraining people from the agricultural to the industrial.

It was the tentative agreement between Lester Granger and Madison Jones that

1. **A research sub-committee of both organizations would be formed to analyze available data to be published in the CRISIS and in OPPORTUNITY.**

2. **Recommended to Boards of both organizations that they issue a joint statement on the scope of the problem. This was thought to be the most effective means of getting a good coverage.**

3. **The group expressed the possibility of having the Secretaries of Agriculture, Labor, and Commerce formulate a program to submit to the Congress. It was realized that this program would take a three-four year period to be accomplished.**

Mr. Weaver stated that a sub-committee would be formed from both organizations to evaluate existing materials. This would have to be done before any other step could be taken.

Mr. Wilkins pointed out that such a group could quite readily have joint action on the program suggested. He stated further that it was a field in which all concerned could have joint action without sacrificing any prerequisites. He interpreted the program as follows:

1. **Retraining would take place in some rural areas and small towns to prevent the labor from leaving.**

2. **It would take place in towns in border and other industrial centers after labor had left the rural areas ill-equipped to take jobs, if the jobs were available.**

COPY

Mr. Wilkins suggested that Mr. Mitchell go over the whole situation with Mr. Weaver and set down in memorandum form to be presented to the Committee on Administration what he feels should be done about the plan with respect to cooperation with the Urban League and the CIO. It was agreed that this be done.

My dear Mr. President:

Mr. Weaver suggested that the AFL be included in this project.

ACTION ON ANTI-LABOR LEGISLATION

Since the NAACP's letter of April 21 urging the establishment of complaints of discrimination and prevent unfair practices against colored persons by government agencies, **Mr. Mitchell brought up the question of whether or not any further action should be considered on anti-labor legislation. Mr. Wilkins suggested that the testimony of Mr. Mitchell before the Senate Labor Committee be printed in pamphlet form and distributed to the public.** upporting evidence is available for inspection.

We have affidavits from fifteen honorably discharged veterans and two non-veterans who charge that they w employment in the Post Office in New Orleans solely be ace. One of the complainants, who is a former marine, earned a grade of 100.2 on his examination and the majority of the others were in the high 90 and 80 brackets. Two of the veterans have ten point disabilities and charge that no white veterans of similar status have been passed over by the appointing officer.

Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary

Although it was established that the Postmaster of New Orleans passed over these persons and appointed white individuals who had lower grades, the Tenth Regional Office of the Civil Service Commission justified the action on the ground that after the eligibles had received three opportunities for consideration, it was no longer necessary for the Postmaster to consider them at all.

The Commission had before it evidence of discrimination in the Post Office going back over a period of years. However, it declined to take action on this evidence. It is most important that some action be taken at this time to prevent such serious violations of government fair employment policies. We again urge that favorable consideration be given to our proposal of April 21.

Respectfully,

Assistant Secretary.

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

COPY

May 16, 1947

My dear Mr. President:

Since the NAACP's letter of April 21 urging the establishment of a temporary agency to handle complaints of discrimination and prevent unfair practices against colored persons by government agencies, there has come from the city of New Orleans a flagrant example of the type of discrimination which is now practiced. We describe it briefly because it illustrates the impotence of the Civil Service Commission's approach in matters of this kind. The full file with supporting evidence is available for inspection.

We have affidavits from fifteen honorably discharged veterans and two non-veterans who charge that they were denied regular employment in the Post Office in New Orleans solely because of their race. One of the complainants, who is a former marine, earned a grade of 100.2 on his examination and the majority of the others were in the high 90 and 80 brackets. Two of the veterans have ten point disabilities and charge that no white veterans of similar status have been passed over by the appointing officer.

Although it was established that the Postmaster of New Orleans passed over these persons and appointed white individuals who had lower grades, the Tenth Regional Office of the Civil Service Commission justified the action on the ground that after the eligibles had received three opportunities for consideration, it was no longer necessary for the Postmaster to consider them at all.

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Respectfully,

Assistant Secretary.

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

21st
April
1947

My dear Mr. President:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is deeply concerned about instances of discrimination against colored persons seeking employment or transfers in government agencies. Now that Executive Order No. 9830 will become effective on May 1st, it is especially urgent that steps be taken to prevent action which will unfairly deny employment to qualified persons solely because of their race.

We have carefully considered the possibility of preventive action by the Civil Service Commission and have reached the conclusion that it will not be effective in checking discriminatory hiring practices on the part of personnel officers and other government officials.

Paragraph f of Part I of the Order provides that the Commission shall maintain an adequate system of inspection to determine that equitable and sound application of statutes, executive orders, regulations, and standards relating to personnel management is being carried out by the agencies. It is also provided in Section 4.3 of Rule IV that the appointing officer shall exercise his discretion in all personnel action solely on the basis of merit and fitness without regard to political or religious affiliations, marital status, or race. It is unlikely that these provisions will give adequate protection to minority groups.

It has been our experience that, because of its many other duties, the Commission does not give proper emphasis to enforcing regulations against discrimination. The Final Report of the FEPC indicates that the Commission itself reported finding discrimination in only 58 cases out of nearly 2,000 handled during the war. We agree with the FEPC's conclusion that "discretion" of departmental personnel officers is wide enough to permit much discrimination over and beyond that which the Commission defines as a violation of its rules.

We strongly urge that you create by executive order a temporary agency which will have the authority to investigate complaints of discrimination and take effective steps to remedy such discrimination when it is found. This body would serve pending the establishment of a Fair Employment Practice Commission by Congress.

In order to operate successfully, this agency would need to be clothed with the authority to order the hiring of specific individuals who are discriminated against and the disciplining of employees who wilfully violate the principles set forth in your letter of December 18, 1945 to government agencies.

Because of the long range implications of any new hiring which takes place in government, if discrimination is allowed to go unchecked all of the wartime gains of colored government employees will be wiped out. There will be substituted the pre-war pattern of using colored individuals primarily in messenger and laboring capacities in the government.

It is sincerely hoped that you will take favorable action on this matter.

Respectfully yours

Secretary

Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

WW:emw

Statement of Clarence Mitchell, Labor Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, before the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations for the U. S. Department of Labor, April 17, 1947

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to appear before you today as Labor Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. We urgently request that your Committee restore the operating funds to the United States Employment Service which were cut by the House Appropriations Committee.

From the information before us, if these cuts are allowed to stand, the Department of Labor will be forced to curtail, and, in many cases completely eliminate, important activities designed to standardize the operations of employment services throughout the country. The present Minority Groups Service which works for the full utilization of labor without discrimination would be among the activities which would be dropped.

For a number of years, our organization has been interested in making the standards of the employment service high and efficient. We regard this agency as an important factor in promoting the full and non-discriminatory use of minority groups in the labor force. We were opposed to the return of the employment service to the states because, under state operation, many offices concentrate on placing minority group workers in domestic service, unskilled, and other low paid jobs regardless of the applicants' qualifications or previous experience in skilled or white collar occupations. Even when discriminatory standards are relaxed by employers, some state agencies have a tendency to continue these practices.

During the past year, we have been working with the governors of the states in an effort to obtain approval of certain standards which we believe are necessary if there is to be a minimum of discrimination against minorities in this agency. Prior to November 15 when the employment service was returned to the states, I communicated with thirty-nine governors and asked whether they would approve the adoption of the following standards as part of the requirement for receiving federal funds.

1. All segregated offices of the employment service shall be abolished.
2. No discriminatory orders shall be accepted, and all referrals shall be made on the basis of qualifications without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin.
3. When an employer refuses a qualified individual referred by the employment service solely because of race, creed, color, or national origin, no additional referrals will be made by the employment service until the discriminatory policy is corrected.
4. Each state plan of operation shall contain policies and procedures for promoting the full utilization of minority groups in local employment and training programs serviced by the agency.
5. Adequate qualified personnel shall be assigned to see that non-discrimination policies are followed in local offices.
6. All persons shall have equal opportunity for employment on the staff of the agency without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin.

We received replies from twenty-eight governors. They expressed varying degrees of cooperation. However, in only three states, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, can it be said all of these standards are being followed. Even Wisconsin and Indiana which have Fair Employment Practice Laws have failed to give specific commitments on the points raised. I wish to note for the record that a great part of the opposition to desirable standards affecting minority groups came from the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies. Stanley Rector, Counsel for the Wisconsin Industrial Commission's Unemployment Compensation Department, is a key figure in this organization which from behind the scenes in cloak and dagger fashion vigorously works against decent national standards on minority group matters. The list of states replying to our communication as well as those which received the letter are submitted for the record.

Even though the Federal Government has not adopted standards which we believe to be entirely satisfactory, it is clear from the replies received and follow-up reports from our branches that there will be virtually no program of protecting minority group in many of the states if federal supervision is withdrawn.

I recently talked with an employment service official in a middle western state who, though personally interested in curtailing discriminatory practices within the agency, admitted that if left to the state's discretion very little would be done about the matter. Unfortunately, in many other states even friendly interest is not present in local offices. More or less typical of the southern states is the attitude of Harry B. Crozier, Chairman and Executive Director of the Texas Unemployment

Compensation Commission, who was quoted in the Dallas News of October 1, 1946, as vigorously opposed to any plan to "service all orders by referring workers on the basis of qualifications without regard to discriminatory specifications concerning race, creed, color, national origin, or citizenship." I would like to submit for the record a copy of a letter we sent to Governor Coke Stevenson on this matter. A similar letter was also sent to Governor-Elect Beauford Jester. Neither of them replied. On a recent visit to Texas, I learned that, so far as employment service policies on minority groups are concerned, Mr. Crozier's views seem to be the order of the day.

We wish also to remind the members of this Committee that the present federal funds given to states for the operation of employment service offices carry no provisions forbidding discrimination because of race. Therefore, some states are using these funds in a manner which actually promotes discrimination. They maintain segregated offices. They freely accept and fill orders which specify race and religion.

The NAACP has over a thousand branches throughout the country. Almost all of them have had first hand experience with state employment service discrimination against colored applicants. These applicants must use back entrances, cool their heels in Jim-Crow waiting rooms in basements, and finally be insulted by some clerk who refuses to classify them properly during an interview.

The members of your Committee and this Congress would perform an important service if each state would be required to show that in its expenditure of federal grants there is no discrimination because of race by segregation, by processing flagrantly discriminatory orders, or any other device.

COPY

April 24, 1947

April 25, 1947

Honorable Styles Bridges
Chairman, Senate Committee
on Appropriations
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Bridges:

In your consideration of appropriations for the Department of Labor, I sincerely hope that you will note the testimony which I offered for the Association on April 17.

In that testimony, I pointed out that cuts in the United States Employment Service appropriations would eliminate work being done by that agency in behalf of minority groups in the labor market.

I also pointed out that many states now use their federal appropriations in a manner which actually promotes racial discrimination in employment. Hence, I urged that the appropriations for state offices carry a provision prohibiting discrimination in the use of these funds.

I earnestly hope that your Committee will give favorable consideration to these two suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary

CMM:mbh

C O P Y

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on Appropriations

April 25, 1947

Mr. Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
100 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I want to thank you for your letter of April twenty-fourth, calling my attention to your testimony on the House side with reference to the United States Employment Service.

I should be delighted to direct my study to your remarks and you may be assured of the attention of the Senate Committee on Appropriations to this item.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Styles Bridges

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20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890

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Secretary, Veterans' Affairs
Oliver W. Harrington
Director, Public Relations
Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr.
Labor Secretary

July
8th
1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Your note is characteristically gracious.

Yes, Sunday's meeting was a great occasion and its greatness was due in greater measure to you than any other person who participated in it. I think the warmth of the welcome the crowd gave you showed you and everyone else how deeply entrenched you are in the hearts of those who heard you.

Once again I say thanks on behalf of the Association to you.

Ever sincerely,

Walter White

Secretary.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, N. Y.

ww/mdj

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Oliver W. Harrington, *Director, Public Relations*
Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., *Labor Secretary*

July 31st
1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Although I know you have just recently been requested by our Assistant Office Manager, Miss Bobbie Branche, to furnish us with your photograph for our collection of NAACP Board members, to be used here in the national office, I do hope you will not mind our making this further request of you.

Mr. N. W. Griffin, Secretary of our West Coast Regional Office, which is located at 916 Kearny Street, Suite 603, San Francisco 11, California, has asked us for photographs of certain members of the Board to be placed in their offices in San Francisco. Listed among these select Board members is your own name. If you can furnish your photograph for this purpose we should be very glad and would appreciate your having it mailed directly to Mr. Griffin in San Francisco.

With appreciation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Catherine T. Freeland

Catherine T. Freeland,
OFFICE MANAGER.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square, W., Apt. 15A
New York 11, N. Y.

Campobello Island
New Brunswick, Canada
August 3, 1947

Dear Mr. ~~Whitel~~ Mitchell

Thank you for sending me a copy of the report of the 38th annual conference which I read with interest. I am so glad it was such a success.

As I have been re-appointed as delegate to the General Assembly of the UN, which meets September 16th, I do not know whether or not I shall be able to attend an October meeting. These sessions usually last seven or eight weeks. I think it is wiser to set the date and if I can attend, you may be sure that I will do so.

I expect to be back in Hyde Park on the 15th of this month.

Very sincerely yours,

Houston,
Ithaca,
Los Ange

Louisville
Madison,
Nashville
New Yor

Pittsbu
Richmo
San Fr
Tulsa,
Wash

Wilmington, Del. Louis L. Redding

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Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. — *Labor Secretary*

July 24, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The 38th Annual Conference of the NAACP was a splendid success. I am enclosing a copy of a report I submitted for our Department to the delegates. In addition, there is also attached a copy of the Labor Resolutions. I am glad to say the delegates were unanimous in their support of the resolution against the Taft Hartley Law.

The next meeting of the Labor Committee will be in October and I will notify you of the time and place during that month. If you have a date which would be more convenient for you, please let me know when you have an opportunity to do so.

Because you are so busy, I do not know whether you plan a vacation this summer, but, if you do, I trust it will be restful and refreshing.

Cordially yours,

Clarence Mitchell mbh

Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary

Enclosures

CMM:mbh

REPORT OF NAACP LABOR DEPARTMENT
AT THE 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 26, 1947

The NAACP's Labor Department was established one year ago. Important national leaders are members of its advisory committee. In quarterly meetings, this committee has been charting broad strategy on labor legislation, employment problems, and matters on which there can be mutual NAACP and Labor cooperation. A basic Manual of Operations is now available for the guidance of branch labor committees. For the record it should be stated that branch labor committees are established by the Constitution.

Discrimination in Government

The pattern of racial discrimination in the Federal Government is appalling. Some of the cases we have handled during the last twelve months are as follows:

Approximately twenty colored workers, who had been transferred to the Federal Trade Commission from the Office of Price Administration in January, 1947, were refused employment solely because of their race. At a conference arranged by the NAACP Labor Department with the Federal Trade Commission and the United Public Workers, Mr. Garland S. Ferguson, FTC Chairman, agreed that this discriminatory policy would cease.

After our intervention, during the month of May, the Chicago Regional Office of the U. S. Weather Bureau agreed to hire as a meterological aide an applicant who had been denied employment in one of the installations. The Bureau had previously expressed the fear that pilots would object to receiving weather information from a colored man.

In the general wave of discriminatory practices in Washington, sixty colored taxicab drivers who daily reported to the Pentagon faced the loss of this source of income because the Public Buildings Administration had decided to oust them and give the hacking privilege to a single company. The NAACP's action in their behalf resulted in the Public Buildings Administration's withdrawal of its plan. These drivers are continuing their service.

The NAACP Labor Department is presently working on the problem of seventeen colored applicants, including disabled veterans, who have been denied employment in the New Orleans Post Office. One applicant, a former Marine, has an average of 100.2, while the others are in the high 80 and 90 brackets.

We called to the attention of the War Department the complaint of a colored advanced electricity instructor for the Army Air Forces in Japan. This resulted in an investigation which corrected practices of segregation in the dining hall where he was stationed in Japan. In retaliation, however, the Command at the field refused to renew his contract and shipped him home. We are seeking his reinstatement.

Because discrimination in government employment is so widespread, any attack upon it must be made with the full approval of the President. Therefore, we have asked that there be established by executive order a temporary fair employment practice commission in government. This body would function until the Congress

establishes a permanent fair employment practice commission. It is important that something be done in this interim period because agencies have new powers in the hiring of applicants and currently employment is shifting from wartime temporary arrangements to the regular permanent Civil Service System.

Anti-Labor Legislation

We have been among the leaders of national organizations fighting against anti-labor legislation in this session of Congress. We opposed these bills in our testimony before the Senate Labor Committee and furnished each member of the House and Senate Labor Committees with copies of the NAACP's regional conference resolutions against such bills. We urged President Truman to veto the Taft-Hartley Bill. This legislation makes possible suits in the Federal Court against labor unions, undermines union security and seriously interferes with the internal regulations of labor organizations. In short it wipes out most of the gains of labor under the Wagner Act. The branches have also urged their Representatives in Congress to support the President's veto.

Private Employment

Building Trades - We have been pushing for the inclusion of colored workers in the construction industry and apprenticeship training. This program will be measurably weakened by the so-called economy drive in Congress which at this writing has wiped out the racial relations advisors in the National Housing Administration. These men are an important link in the NAACP's effort to obtain full use of all skilled colored building tradesmen.

Telephone Operators - Many of the complaints against telephone companies filed with the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice were submitted by branches of our organization. It was logical that a major objective of the Association's labor program would be a continuation of this effort. Six operators are now employed in the telephone exchange at Trenton, New Jersey because of a change in hiring policy brought about by the local NAACP labor committee. In spite of such instances, there are still far too many cities in which advertisement for operators means white only. The fact that experience is meaningless was demonstrated recently when a trained operator formerly employed in Atlantic City came to Washington but was denied employment because of her race. Although the telephone companies have hired operators in such states as New York, Massachusetts, New York, Michigan and California they have resisted our efforts in border areas and the South.

Trade Unions

The NAACP has offered advice and assistance to the representatives of two labor organizations whose members are seeking ways to eliminate segregated locals and other Jim Crow practices. We are glad to report also that the AFL this year distributed model state fair employment practice bills to a number of areas. It is well known of course that the CIO also has a model bill of this kind. This will unquestionably help the movement for a national fair employment practice law.

When the New York State Commission Against Discrimination announced that a number of unions, which are commonly thought of as following discriminatory practices

against colored persons, had been approached and agreed to cease such practices, we urged the New Jersey and Massachusetts Commissions to follow the New York example. It is recognized that there is a long step between promise and practice but it is important that the promise be given.

United States Employment Service

Private agencies can never hope to reach the masses of workers who should be given assistance in finding jobs. This is the duty of the United States Employment Service and the state offices which are supported by federal funds. For this reason, the NAACP has been working for a number of years to correct discriminatory practices of the employment service offices.

On September 11, Secretary Schwellenbach of the Department of Labor met with organizations and labor groups who at the NAACP's request had joined us in asking for the conference. We proposed that in the transfer of the employment service offices back to the states the Department of Labor establish certain standards including provisions against the acceptance of discriminatory orders or the establishment of segregated offices. The Secretary, at this conference, announced for the first time that the Department of Labor would abandon practices of segregation at the United States Employment Service office in the District of Columbia. He declined to set up similar standards for the states. We then took the matter to the governors of the states and obtained some commitments. However, only in Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York was it agreed that discriminatory orders would not be accepted.

When the Department of Labor's appropriation was severly cut by Congress, we appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee to ask for a restoration of this cut and cited the discriminatory practices of the state offices as an example of the need for broader federal control than now exists. We also asked that a provision prohibiting the use of funds in the states for operating segregated offices or accepting discriminatory orders be incorporated in the legislation.

Agriculture

The National Labor Committee of the NAACP is exploring the problems of farm workers who will be displaced by the increasing mechanization of agriculture. We are also working with the Farm Labor Union of the A.F. of L. and other organizations in behalf of migratory agricultural workers. We have joined in the opposition to H. R. 3367, which is a bill primarily for the benefit of the large farmers, although it purports to be for the "effective use of agricultural workers." This bill would remove the farm placement service from the national employment system and thereby increase the exploitation of farm laborers by those employers who always try to keep wages low by having on hand more workers than are necessary. It makes possible the purchase of certain existing housing facilities by large land owners, but does not make provision for such purchases by cooperative groups of employers or local communities. It makes possible the continued importation of foreign agricultural workers even though the native supply may be under utilized.

Branch Action

Labor Committees in the local branches are becoming increasingly active. Los Angeles is in a dual drive to save jobs of girls employed by the Owl Drug chain and to open new opportunities in other fields. This committee has announced its intention to get 5000 new NAACP members from the ranks of the AFL and CIO.

St. Louis has recently completed an investigation of charges of employment discrimination involving a government hospital.

Dallas is engaged in an employment survey of the community.

The Baltimore Branch spearheaded a drive which netted approximately $3,000 for the relief of colored strikers in retail stores.

Many southern branches have implemented with their active support the 1946 Cincinnati Conference pledge to aid the AFL and CIO organizing drives in the South.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary

Labor Resolutions Passed at the 38th Annual Conference

1. Federal and state fair employment practice legislation is now more urgently needed than ever. Increasing discrimination in private employment and the federal government itself places upon the members of this Congress the responsibility of enacting a strong federal law. Senate Bill No. 984 represents the minimum in acceptable legislation. We oppose the proposal of Senator Alexander Smith of New Jersey which would exempt certain states from complying with the full requirements of a federal law. We shall also work for the passage of state fair employment practice legislation, and the strengthening of existing legislation.

2. The Taft-Hartley anti-labor law is an incredible attack upon the rights of organized labor. It is false and misleading to consider any part of this measure as beneficial to colored people. We instruct the Labor Department of this Association to give its full support to plans and programs for the repeal of this law.

3. The ever growing problems of migratory farm workers demand constructive action by the Congress. The Labor Department of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is instructed to work for the passage of legislation which will make adequate provisions for the orderly recruitment, housing, health, and other requirements of farm workers. We oppose continued importation of foreign agricultural workers when large supplies of unused agricultural laborers are available.

4. The increasing mechanization of agriculture will result in extended displacement of workers. The Labor Department is directed to continue its study of this problem and make plans with other interested organizations for the purpose of giving maximum assistance to such displaced persons. Farm laborers need the benefits of minimum wage legislation which they do not now enjoy; they need social security legislation for workmen's compensation, old age pensions, and unemployment insurance which they do not now have; and they need protection in their rights to organize such as is given to industrial workers. We pledge our support to the efforts made to organize farm laborers and to all attempts to win legislative advantages for them such as those outlined.

5. We reaffirm our support of collective bargaining and democratic trade unions, and we call on all our members who are eligible to do so to join a union and take an active part in its affairs. We welcome the support which organized labor has given to many of the measures in which we are interested. We will support every effort made within the ranks of labor to get rid of the color bar in those unions where it still exists. We also support to the full the policy of our legal department to oppose the color bar by court action.

6. The United States Employment Service must be returned to federal control. We condemn and shall work to eliminate practices of segregation and the acceptance of discriminatory job orders by local offices of the state employment services.

7. The rising cost of living has dramatized the problem of underpaid workers. We support legislation for increasing the minimum wage level. This legislation should be extended to include agricultural and domestic workers.

8. We favor legislation to strengthen and improve our Social Security system in the following ways:

   a. An increase in the minimum benefits for both unemployment insurance and old age pensions in keeping with the increased cost of living.

   b. Federalizing the unemployment insurance system so as to avoid the crazy quilt of 50 separate systems of unemployment insurance and to guarantee greater justice in administration to our members in states where Negroes are denied effective political influence.

   c. Extension of the benefits of unemployment insurance and old age pensions to persons now excluded, such as seamen, government employees, employees of charitable and educational institutions, domestic workers and farm workers.

   d. Provision of cash benefits and medical and hospital care to people who cannot work because of sickness or non-industrial accidents, through a system of health insurance which will permit patients to choose their doctors and vice versa.

9. This organization takes notice of the problems of workers from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands who are brought to the states for household employment. As citizens of the United States these individuals have the right of free movement. However, there must be adequate safeguards to prevent them from being exploited by unscrupulous employment agencies and employers. The Labor Secretary is instructed to consult with the U. S. Department of Labor and other interested agencies on ways of meeting this problem.

10. We urge the President to create by executive order a temporary agency to take effective steps to remedy discrimination in agencies of the federal government pending the establishment of an FEPC by Congress.

naacp

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK • FIELDSTONE 7-1100

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

REFERENCE:

October 17, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The Secretary-General was glad to have your letter of September 24 with which you forwarded a letter from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People regarding a petition which the Association wished to present to the General Assembly or to the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. Lie thought you would be interested in knowing that arrangements are now being made for the Department of Social Affairs to receive the petition from the Association.

Sincerely yours,

Clyde Nichols

Clyde Nichols,
Office of the Secretary-General.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, N. Y.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890

Official Organ: The Crisis

20th
October
1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I tried to reach you at the United Nations today but without success. I wanted to ask your advice and, if it would not embarrass you in your official connection, your aid in the matter of arrangements for presentation of our petition to the United Nations on this Thursday at 12 noon in M. Henri Laugier's office. M. Laugier and Mr. John P. Humphrey are to receive the petition.

The ceremony will be brief and simple. I shall make a two-minute preliminary statement and then introduce Dr. Du Bois who will speak for about the same length of time.

We have invited approximately 125 distinguished white and Negro Americans to be present as well as the heads of all delegations to the United Nations. We estimate that between 100 and 150 persons will be present. In addition we have notified the newspapers, newsreel and radio companies.

The fact that such attention is being paid to the petition seems to disturb some of the United Nations personnel and there has been indicated to us a desire to limit the number of persons to not more than five or six including newspaper men. This, I fear, is quite impossible.

A dozen or more United Nations delegations have requested copies of the petition including the United Kingdom, Russia, Union of South Africa, India, Argentina, Denmark, Mexico, Poland, Pakistan, Egypt, Haiti and Liberia. Newspapermen from all over the world have requested copies. And even as I dictate this a Norwegian journalist is waiting to see me. The matter cannot be kept secret, so great is the interest. We hope that the matter can be worked out satisfactorily and to this end I ask your advice and assistance.

Mr. Humphrey has informed us that it will not be possible to bring the petition before either the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council unless the matter is taken up by a member Government and circulation of the petition proposed by it. He adds, however, that there does exist certain machinery for bringing petitions of this kind to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights and that this is what will be done with our petition.

Ever sincerely

Walter White

Secretary

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square
New York 11, New York

WW:emw

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

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UD NEWYORK NY 401P OCT 21 1947

MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

29 WASHINGTON SQUARE NYK

PETITION ON DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO CITIZENS OF NEGRO DESCENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND APPEAL TO UNITED NATIONS FOR REDRESS WILL BE PRESENTED TO M. HENRI LAUGIER, OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT, AND MR. JOHN P. HUMPHREY, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IN M. LAUGIERS OFFICE AT LAKE SUCCESS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, AT 12 NOON SHARP. BY A DELEGATION REPRESENTING NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BE PRESENT AS DEMONSTRATION OF DEEP CONCERN OF RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN OPINION WITH THIS PROBLEM WHICH IS INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS NATIONAL WE VERY MUCH HOPE YOU WILL ARRANGE TO BE WITH US. PLEASE WIRE OR TELEGRAPH COLLECT IF WE MAY EXPECT YOU. THIS TELEGRAM WILL ADMIT YOU TO M. LAUGIER'S OFFICE

WALTER WHITE 20 WEST 40 STREET

606P

Laugier
174

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

NAACP

October 22, 1947

Dear Mr. White:

I am very sorry that I can not be with you tomorrow morning at twelve o'clock. As an individual I should like to be present, but as a member of the delegation I feel that until this subject comes before us in the proper way, in a report of the Human Rights Commission or otherwise, I should not seem to be lining myself up in any particular way on any subject.

It isn't as though everyone did not know where I stand. It is just a matter of proper procedure.

Very sincerely yours,

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October 22nd, 1947

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

I send you herewith the magnificent presentation the Association is making to the United Nations as prepared by Dr. DuBois and others.

This has had extraordinary attention both in the press and from a variety of other sources, including many ambassadors to the United States.

Every sincerely,
Walter White

Secretary.

WW/mdj
Enc:

FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT

Mr. Burnett —

Mr. Sandifer agrees with your recommendation that Mrs. R should not attend.

nmg

Do you want me to write a reply to this? — It would be retroactive since meeting is tomorrow. — PMB

[illegible] that

I am glad you feel

the ceremony at Lake Success

went smoothly & briefly.

As to sending a representative

to Geneva - I really do not

think it necessary or of

value

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25th
October
1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I understand your position perfectly. I told Miss Thompson on Wednesday that while it would be an honor to have you present at the presentation we understood that it might not be according to protocol in view of your chairmanship of the Human Rights Commission.

The ceremony went off smoothly and swiftly. M. Laugier and Professor Humphrey were most cordial but apparently afraid of the document. It will be interesting to see what happens now.

There is one thing I would like to get your opinion on-- whether there would be any value in the NAACP sending a representative to the meeting in Geneva on December 1st. no

Ever sincerely

Walter White
Secretary

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square, W. Apt 15A
New York 11, New York

WW:emw