

NAACP

1945-47

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL FUNDS

MARCH, 1946

	MONTHLY BUDGET	CUMULATIVE 3 Mos.
Adler Trust Fund.....	-----	\$350.00
Bequest Reserve.....	1,050.00	1,050.00
Life Membership Reserve	225.00	1,160.00
Branch State Conf. Tax.	820.87	1,332.10
Willkie Memorial Bldg..	<u>48.00</u>	<u>84.50</u>
	\$2,143.87	\$3,976.60

EXPENSE

Scottsboro Committee...	\$41.00	-----	\$136.00
Branch State Conf. Tax.	<u>4,656.70</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>4,656.70</u>
	\$4,697.70	\$250.00	\$4,792.70

Actual, 1945

Budget, 1946

Actual, 1946

WITHOUT PREVIOUS WRITING

ju

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

INCOME STATEMENT

MARCH, 1946

		MONTHLY BUDGET	CUMULATIVE 3 Mos.
Branch Memberships & App..	\$14,646.32	\$15,000.00	\$27,815.05
Contr. Members at Large...	2,268.61	1,650.00	5,096.11
Armed Forces Contributions	119.50	2,100.00	2,036.15
Christmas Seals.....	995.04	---	4,238.29
Interests & Dividends.....	---	---	1,772.07
Branch Contr. to Travel...	124.88	---	319.88
Veterans' Survey.....	120.00	---	476.00
Buttons Sales.....	99.88	---	142.38
Literature Sales.....	31.84	---	116.62
Life Membership Income....	---	583.34	---
Accounts Receivable.....	1,032.00	---	2,687.28
Crisis Subs. (@ 1.50 Per).	4,042.15	6,000.00	6,270.45
Miscellaneous Income.....	287.66	1,666.66	1,658.60
	<u>\$23,747.88</u>	<u>\$27,000.00</u>	<u>\$52,628.88</u>

COMPARATIVE INCOME

Actual, 1946	\$23,747.88	\$52,628.88
Budget, 1946	27,000.00	81,000.00
Actual, 1945	26,425.19	69,569.95

Actual, 1946
Budget, 1946
Actual, 1945

COMPARATIVE INCOME

23,747.88
27,000.00
26,425.19

52,628.88
81,000.00
69,569.95

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

EXPENSE STATEMENT

MARCH, 1946

		MONTHLY BUDGET	CUMULATIVE 3 Mos.
Salaries.....	\$10,814.40	\$11,972.50	\$28,897.27
Subsidies to Branch Executive Secretaries. -- -- --		375.00	800.00
Eldg. Maintenance (6 Months).....	-- -- --	233.30	2,400.00
Postage (Current & Pre- paid).....	1,668.73	666.60	3,124.42
Printing.....	295.00	1,250.00	2,471.93
Telephone & Telegraph.	630.31	333.30	1,526.79
Stationery & Supplies.	48.56	416.67	2,628.27
Furniture & Equipment.	375.83	125.00	1,137.51
Books, Newspapers, Subs	48.34	41.60	61.84
Travel.....	1,337.81	666.67	4,455.15
Student Conference....	-- --	50.00	-- --
Crisis Subscriptions..	-- --	4,583.32	6,000.00
Leadership Tr. Conf....	-- --	125.00	-- --
Bulletin.....	3,686.37	3,000.00	11,368.53
Overhead, Gen. Exp, etc	1,640.88	901.66	3,461.04
Taxes--Fed., S.S., Unem- ployment.....	-- -- --	416.66	927.92
Pan-African Conf:....	-- -- --	166.66	-- --
World Youth Conf:....	-- -- --	25.00	-- --
Washington Bureau....	214.68	500.00	594.15
Veterans' Bureau.....	139.59	41.60	367.66
West Coast Reg. Off..	163.69	83.30	433.14
Participation in Allied Activities....	-- --	83.30	908.00
Annual Conference....	-- --	166.60	-- --
Entertainment.....	1.25	62.50	104.55
Medical Committee....	-- --	416.60	-- --
Special Research....	36.21	100.00	634.29
Membership Campaign..	2,359.29	563.33	3,674.70
Nominating Committee:	-- --	20.83	-- --
Accounts Receivable..	-- --	-- --	250.00
	<u>\$23,460.94</u>	<u>\$27,407.00</u>	<u>\$78,427.16</u>

COMPARATIVE EXPENSE

Actual, 1946	23,460.94	78,427.16
Budget, 1946	27,407.00	82,221.00
Actual, 1945	24,149.45	66,523.49

fit

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Board of Directors

April 8th, 1946

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the offices of the Association, 20 West 40th Street, New York City at 3:30 o'clock pursuant to notice.

Present: Messrs. Chalmers, Gannett, Hall, Hammond, Holmes, Lewis, Singleton, Spaulding, Spingarn, Tinsley, Wright, Tobias, Toney; Mrs. Alexander, Miss Cuthbert, Mrs. Spingarn, Mrs. Fenderson; the Secretary, the Administrative Assistant (New York Office), the Administrative Assistant (Washington Bureau), Assistant Special Counsel Perry, Carter, Williams, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Assistant Field Secretaries Jensen and Smith, the Director of Branches, the Membership Secretary, the Youth Secretary, the Assistant to the Director of Special Research and Oliver Harrington.

Regrets: Messrs. Cabot, Capper, Davis, Dickerson, Falconer, Callagher, Charles Houston, Norman Houston, Jackson, Jayne, LaGuardia, McClendon, Murphy, Randolph, Redmond, Smalls, Steele, Taggart, Miss Ovington, Mrs. Roosevelt.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING: The minutes of the March meeting were approved as mailed out.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Secretary's Report was approved as sent out with addition of the following items:

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S STAND RE POLL TAX: At a news conference in Chicago, President Truman stated that repeal of the poll tax must be left up to the states. The Secretary read a wire from the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax asking the Association to wire the President to reconsider his shocking stand.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED, That the Association should wire the President requesting that he reconsider his stand on repeal of the poll tax.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SSE UNION AND THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY:

The Secretary reported that there was correspondence between the Assistant Secretary and the Social Service Employees Union which he requested permission to refer to the Committee which was set up at the March Board meeting to negotiate with the union. This permission was granted, and report is to be made at the next Board meeting.

1946 CONFERENCE: The Secretary requested authorization to establish a pre-convention resolutions committee to meet either in New York or in Cincinnati prior to the conference. This committee

should be made up of members of the National Office, the Board and representatives of the branches to draft tentative resolutions for consideration by the Conference Resolutions Committee. These resolutions would not be binding on the Conference but simply suggestions.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That a pre-conference resolutions committee be authorized.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, duly seconded, it was VOTED, To authorize the setting up a preliminary credentials committee which could make at least a partial report of credentials prior to the conference, in order to make the task simpler for the credentials committee of the conference.

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH: The Secretary reported that the charges preferred against the President of the Philadelphia Branch had been mailed to the President in accordance with the Constitution and there have been a deluge of letters from both sides of the controversy. The recommendation of the Legal Department is that there is insufficient legal basis to warrant our declaring the presidency vacant and ordering a new election and a conference should be arranged between representatives of the National Office, the officers of the Branch and the complainants in an effort to iron the matter out.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That Mr. Marshall and Miss Baker be authorized to go to Philadelphia at the earliest possible time which is convenient to confer with the two opposing factions and endeavor to iron out the difficulties.

INDIANAPOLIS BRANCH: The Secretary reported that the reply from Lowell Trice, President of the Indianapolis Branch, had been received only a few minutes before the Board meeting; that the Legal Department had examined the reply and had found it not responsive to the charges made against Mr. Trice and sent to him in accordance with the Constitution; and that the reply does not answer the statements included in Mr. Theodore Berry's report on his investigation. It is therefore the recommendation of the Committee on Administration, the Legal Department, and the Secretary that Mr. Trice be removed as President of the Indianapolis Branch and that the branch be suspended pending reorganization by a representative of the National Office.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That the Presidency of the Indianapolis Branch be declared vacant and the Branch be suspended pending reorganization by a representative of the National Office.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RE VOTING: On April 5th, Solicitor General Howard J. McGrath issued a statement that the Justice Department would prosecute "any state or party official who attempts to prevent a person from voting because of color" in a primary or general election. Southern newspapers the next day carried articles in which the State political parties defied the ruling of the

Justice Department, saying it would state.
The Secretary recommended to Department of Justice on its stand.
Upon motion, duly seconded, VOTED, That the Association on its stand on the matter of vot

ended, it was
a preliminary credentials
report of credentials
the task simpler for the

ended, it was
nations committee be author-

onal Office, the Board and
tentative resolutions for
Committee. These
Conference but simply

- 3 -

Justice Department, saying it would not affect elections in their state.

The Secretary recommended that the Association commend the Department of Justice on its stand.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That the Association commend the Department of Justice on its stand on the matter of voting.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That we ask other large organizations to send similar letters or wires of commendation and support to the Department of Justice.

SPINGARN MEDAL COMMITTEE VACANCY: Due to the death of Dr. Neilson, there is a vacancy on the Spingarn Medal Award Committee, the term of which expires July 1, 1946

Upon nomination by Mr. Spingarn, it was VOTED, That Mr. Henry A. Wallace be elected to fill the vacancy on the Spingarn Medal Award Committee.

VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Dr. Neilson's death leaves a vacancy on the Board of Directors also.

Mr. Spingarn nominated Dr. Frank P. Graham of the University of North Carolina to fill this vacancy. Mr. Hammond nominated Mr. Palmer Webber of the Political Action Committee of the CIO, who has been working with the Association in recent weeks on various matters.

It was VOTED that Dr. Frank P. Graham be asked to fill the vacancy.

It was VOTED, that if for any reason Dr. Graham cannot accept, Mr. Palmer Webber be asked to serve on the Board.

GAYLORD CONTAINER CORPORATION STOCK: Mrs. Marion C. Ingersoll gave to the Association three shares of Gaylord Container Corporation stock which is to be sold and the proceeds divided between the Association and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. This calls for a vote of the Board.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That the three shares of Gaylord Container Corporation stock presented to the Association by Mrs. Marion C. Ingersoll be sold when properly signed by Arthur B. Spingarn, President and Walter White, Secretary.

BILL FOR COMMISSION ON UNITY: New York City councilman Stanley Isaacs will introduce a Bill setting up a Commission on Unity. The Secretary recommended that the Association endorse such bill.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That the Association endorse the bill setting up a Commission on Unity in New York City.

CITY-WIDE HARLEM WEEK: The fifth annual City-Wide Harlem Week will be May 27th to June 1st when an intensive campaign is conducted in order to focus attention on the specific needs of Negroes in New York City and on measures that can be taken to eliminate the most flagrant causes of intergroup tension and conflict. The Secretary recommended that the Association join in sponsoring City-Wide Harlem Week.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED, That the Association would join in sponsoring City-wide Harlem Week.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH THE POLL TAX: The Secretary reported that the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax has been doing a good job; they have lined up 61 Senators to vote for cloture. However, they need money to carry on the campaign. His recommendation was that the Association contribute \$250.00 to the Committee.

Upon motion by Mr. Hammond, duly seconded, it was
VOTED, That the Association contribute \$500.00 to the work of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax.

WALTER WHITE WORK SCHEDULE: The Secretary requested of the Board that he be given authority to work four days a week, having Fridays and Saturdays off beginning about the 15th of April. This request was made because he has been asked by a publishing house to write an autobiography which must be finished by September. The Secretary pointed out that though he works a shorter week, he will not work fewer hours.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was
VOTED, That the Secretary be granted authority to have Fridays and Saturdays off as requested.

PROFESSOR RALPH HARLOW: A letter from Professor Harlow in which he told of his work in Greece and extended greetings to the Board was read.

COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE SITUATION: The Secretary reported on the present status of the Columbia, Tennessee situation. A National Citizens Committee has been set up for the purpose of raising funds and publicizing the truth of the matter. A national Steering Committee is being selected to serve in an advisory capacity. The chief aims are to defend the Negroes indicted, attempt to secure punishment of the real culprits, to secure financial restitution for destruction of property of the Negroes and physical injury, and awaken America to the dangers inherent in this type of situation.

Thirty-one Negroes have been indicted. A federal grand jury was to begin hearings on April 8th. The Special Counsel will be in Nashville as soon as he finishes the two franchise cases which he is trying in Louisiana. The cases will go to trial somewhere about the 14th.

The Secretary recommended that the Board invite Messrs. Weaver

and Lobby to meet with them as a
of the case permits, duly seconded.
Upon motion, Messrs. Weaver
VOTED, That the case be per-
Board in May if the case per-
It was reported that
Charleston, South Carolina
and Charleston in cash was

and Looby to meet with them at the next Board meeting if the progress of the case permits their leaving.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That Messrs. Weaver and Looby be asked to meet with the Board in May if the case permits their leaving.

It was reported that the Secretary spoke at meetings in Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina and the interest in the Columbia situation was very high. Dr. Tobias spoke at a meeting in Washington where \$500.00 in cash was raised and \$1,000 in pledges.

Mr. Oliver Harrington was introduced as the person doing special publicity on the case. Pamphlets have been written which are now being printed. Mr. Harrington is working on getting the story dramatized over the Columbia Work Shop. A movie on the matter is also being explored.

NEW FIELD WORKER: Mr. Rufus Smith, the now Assistant Field Secretary, was introduced to the Board.

CONFERENCE ON UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN SOCIAL LEGISLATION; It was reported that the Association has been requested by Miss Helon Hall of the Henry Street Settlement to join in a Conference on Unfinished Business in Social Legislation. The idea was originally conceived by the National Federation of Settlements and is now being sponsored by a number of large national organizations. The Conference will be held May 1st and 2nd in Washington. Sponsoring organizations will be required to contribute up to \$100 toward expenses of the conference.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That the NAACP serve as sponsoring organization and appropriate a sum of not to exceed \$100.00 toward expenses.

WELCOME UNO WEEK: The American Association for the United Nations, Inc. have requested the Association to cooperate in plans for "Welcome UNO Week", April 25th to May 1st.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That the Association cooperate in plans for "Welcome UNO Week".

NAACP DANCE: On May 3rd, the Association will sponsor a dance at the Savoy Ballroom for the benefit of the defense of the Columbia riot victims.

NEW BRANCH CHARTERS: Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That charters be granted to the newly organized branches at
Greenville, North Car.
Brownsville, Pa.
Ferry, Iowa
Lonoke, Arkansas
Santa Barbara, Cal.
Palestine, Texas
Cumberland, Kentucky
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Secretary
Sponsoring City
A City-Wide Harlem
ensive campaign is
taken to eliminate the
conflict. The
in sponsoring City

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was accepted as attached.

YMCA: Dr. Wright suggested that the Association should do something about getting the YMCA to change its policy of discrimination. Dr. Chalmers reported that the YMCA has recently set up a commission on race relations and has asked Dr. Chalmers to head it up. He suggested that the Association should prod them, but do it with the Commission in mind.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That a resolution should be drafted asking the YMCA to change its policy regarding Negroes in view of the stand taken by the YWCA. It was further suggested that the resolution should itemize steps which might be taken.

POLITICS : Mr. Spaulding suggested that in view of the recently proved coalition between conservative Republicans and Southern Democrats the Association should study its policies on political matters.

Upon motion by Mr. Spaulding, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That a Committee be appointed to re-examine the Association's policies with reference to political activity having in mind this coalition, this Committee to bring back to the board a report to determine whether or not we should take any positive action on our attitudes with respect to politics.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS: The Report of the Editor of the Crisis showed an income during March 1946 of \$4,046.38 and an expense of \$6,699.31.

There was considerable discussion concerning the Crisis Magazine. Mr. Hammond suggested that the Bulletin should be concentrated on more than the Crisis. Others suggested that thought should be given to improving the Crisis.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was VOTED, That the Secretary give this matter considerable thought as to what to do about improving the Crisis by utilizing the present editorial Board and other methods.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION: The Secretary reported on action taken by the Committee on Administration.

SEGREGATED VETERANS HOSPITAL: The Committee recommended to the Board that the Association condemn building of a segregated hospital in Mississippi or elsewhere. This the Board approved.

YOUTH WORK COMMITTEE: This Committee made a recommendation regarding the settling of internal conflict in Youth Councils as follows:

"That persons who do not exhaust the possibilities of settlement of grievances through regular channels and carry their fight to outsiders, either to individuals, other organizations, the press or to public meetings should be subject to discipline which may include expulsion from the council for tactics which are obviously or intended to be inimical to the best interests of the National Association."

This recommendation and a specific recommendation regarding Clinton Henry Lewis were referred to the Legal Committee, the Committee on Administration and then to be reported back to the Board.

The Committee further "recommended that its chairman and the Youth Secretary draft a set of rules to govern the National Planning and Advisory Committee. When these rules have been approved and adopted, they should be included in the constitution for youth councils."

It was agreed that these rules be drafted and submitted to the Legal Committee.

The Committee also recommended that the National Planning and Advisory Committee be called to meet in Cincinnati at the time of the Annual Conference.

The cost of calling together these youth was questioned and it was agreed that this matter be referred to the Committee on the National Conference.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Acting Chairman of the Board

Walter White

Secretary

File with Committee file

April
22nd
1946

*Call for Mr. Tobias
A. Channing Tobias NAACP*

MEMORANDUM TO MRS. ROOSEVELT, CHANNING TOBIAS AND MR. SPINGARN
FROM MR. WHITE:

Messrs. Tobias, Palmer Webber and Clark Foreman had on April 19th a conference with respect to certain points raised by Messrs. Foreman, George Marshall and John Hammond at the meeting of the sub-committee on the Columbia case on April 17th. This conference followed one between Messrs. Foreman, Webber and myself on the morning of April 19th. It is desirable that at its meeting on April 24th which, unfortunately, I shall not be able to attend because of appointments in Washington, that certain matters be cleared up so that the Committee can begin to function effectively. Among them are the following:

1. Decision should be made on which organizations, if any, shall be given authority to raise funds officially for the Columbia case. To avoid confusion in the public's mind or any suspicion of the mishandling of funds by any organization or individual, it seems imperative to me that all funds should be raised only through the Committee or the NAACP. It would be difficult if not impossible to authorize one organization without authorizing a great many to raise funds. Aside from the possible criticism with respect to the handling of money, there would be wasteful duplications. It would be both difficult and embarrassing in some instances to require and obtain exact accountings of monies raised and expended. It would be equally difficult to work out machinery for authorization of expenditures.

It is, therefore, suggested that no organization or individual be authorized to raise funds except the Committee headed by Mrs. Roosevelt and Dr. Tobias and by the NAACP. The latter exception is made on the basis of the Association's being the organization asked by the defendants to represent them.

2. The question has been raised as to expenditures which have been made by some organizations prior to the formation of the Committee. This should be threshed out and decided upon.
3. Mrs. Marian Perry has raised the question as to the exact duties which she is to perform. There should be clarification for her sake and that of the NAACP as well as the other organizations.

2--Memorandum to Mrs. Roosevelt, Dr. Tobias and Mr. Spingarn from
Mr. White--April 22, 1946

4. In this connection, stationery as ordered by the Committee has been sent to the printer but final proofs will not be okayed until after the meeting on Wednesday when the question of Mrs. Perry's status has been decided.
5. It will be necessary for me to obtain authority from the Board of the NAACP with respect to the handling of (A) funds already raised by the NAACP for the Columbia defense (B) whether those funds as yet unexpended shall be held in the Association's treasury or put into a joint fund and (C) where the final authority for the expenditure of those funds and of the Association's participation in the expenditure of funds which may be contributed to the Joint Committee. Whatever recommendation is made will be based, of course, upon the decisions reached on the above matters.

NATIONAL OFFICERS**President**

Arthur B. Spingarn

Chairman of the Board

Dr. Louis T. Wright

Acting Chairman of the Board

Hon. Charles E. Toney

Vice-Presidents

Mary McLeod Bethune

Nannie H. Burroughs

Godfrey Lowell Cabot

Hon. Arthur Capper

Hon. Harry E. Davis

Bishop John A. Gregg

Rev. John Haynes Holmes

Dr. William Lloyd Ives

Hon. Ira W. Jayne

Isadore Martin

T. G. Nutter

Rev. A. Clayton Powell

A. Philip Randolph

Treasurer

Mary White Ovington

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Atlanta**

Eugene M. Martin

Baltimore

Cori Murphy

Berkley, Calif.

Dr. Buell G. Gallagher

Birmingham, Ala.

Dr. E. W. Taggart

Boston

Dr. John B. Hall

Chicago

Julian D. Steele

Cincinnati

Earl B. Dickerson

Des Moines, Ia.

Bishop W. J. Walls

Detroit

Theodore M. Barry

Greenwich, Conn.

Ike Simola

Hartford, Conn.

Dr. James J. McClendon

Hyde Park, N. Y.

R. J. Thomas

Jamaica, N. Y.

Alfred Baker Lewis

Los Angeles, Calif.

Dr. Allen F. Jackson

Newark, N. J.

Eleanor Roosevelt

New York

Dr. John A. Singleton

Norman Houston

Grace B. Fenderson

Lillian A. Alexander

Hon. Jane M. Bolin

Elmer A. Carter

Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers

Marion Cuthbert

Russell W. Davenport

Hon. Hubert T. Delany

Douglas P. Falconer

Lewis S. Gannett

John Hammond

Rev. John Haynes Holmes

Hon. Fiorella H. LaGuardia

Hon. Herbert H. Lehman

Dr. G. Clay Maxwell

Mary White Ovington

Rev. James H. Robinson

Amy E. Spingarn

Arthur B. Spingarn

Dr. Channing H. Tobias

Hon. Charles E. Toney

Dr. Louis T. Wright

Prof. S. Ralph Harlow

Roscoe Dunjee

Theodore Spaulding

Dr. J. M. Tinsley

Sidney R. Redmond

Hon. Arthur Capper

William H. Hastie

Charles H. Houston

Northampton, Mass.

Oklahoma City

Philadelphia

Richmond, Va.

St. Louis

Topeka, Kans.

Washington

NATIONAL LEGAL COMMITTEEWilliam H. Hastie, Washington, *Chairman***Atlanta**

A. T. Walden

Birmingham, Ala.

Arthur D. Shores

Charleston, W. Va.

T. G. Nutter

Cincinnati

Theodore M. Barry

Cleveland

William T. McKnight

Dallas, Texas

W. J. Durham

Erie, Pa.

William F. Illig

Los Angeles

Thomas L. Griffith, Jr.

Louisville

Loren Miller

Madison, Wis.

Charles W. Anderson

Nashville, Tenn.

Lloyd Garrison

New York

Z. Alexander Looby

Donald Crichton

Morris L. Ernst

Osmond K. Fraenkel

Arthur Garfield Hays

Karl N. Llewellyn

James Marshall

Shad Polier

Hope Stevens

Charles H. Studin

Andrew D. Weinberger

Homer S. Brown

Spottswood W. Robinson, III

Bartley C. Crum

Amos T. Hall

Charles H. Houston

Edward P. Lovett

Leon A. Ransom

Ruth Weyand

Louis L. Redding

Pittsburgh

Richmond, Va.

San Francisco

Tulsa, Okla.

Washington

Wilmington, Del.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

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

LONGACRE 3-6890

Official Organ: The Crisis**August
13th
1948****EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Walter White

Ray Wilkins

Madison S. Jones, Jr.

Thurgood Marshall

Robert L. Carter

Marion Wynn Perry

Franklin W. Williams

Edward R. Dudley (on leave)

Milton R. Kanvitz (on leave)

Leslie S. Perry

W. E. B. Du Bois

Daisy E. Lumpkin

Ella J. Baker

Donald Jones

Neema Jensen

LaRoy E. Carter

E. Frederic Morrow

N. W. Griffin

Lucille Black

Ruby Hurley

Jesse O. Dedmon, Jr.

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Editor, *The Crisis*

Administrative Assistant

National Officer

Special Counsel

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Director, Special Research

Field Secretary

Director of Branches

Assistant Special Counsel

Administrative Assistant

Washington Bureau

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I want to share with you the enclosed note from Marc Connelly expressing appreciation for your and the other comments on **MEN OF TWO WORLDS** and telling what use he has made of your excellent and appreciated comment.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square
New York City

WW:RJW
Enc.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
25 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

THE ST. REGIS

New York

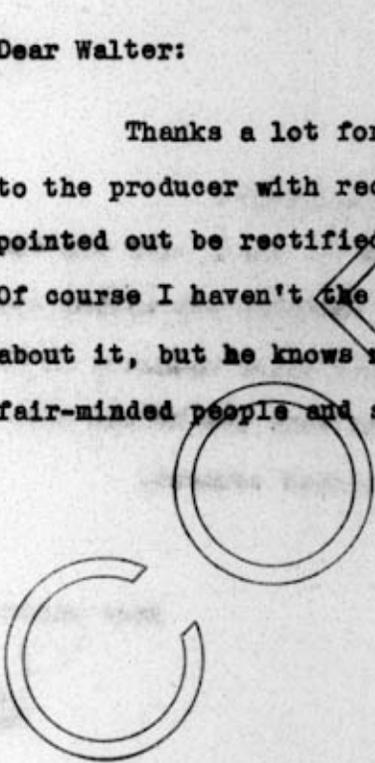
August 7, 1946

Dear Walter:

Thanks a lot for those letters. I sent them to the producer with recommendations that all the faults pointed out be rectified before the film is shown here. Of course I haven't the faintest idea what he'll do about it, but he knows now the opinions of a group of fair-minded people and something good may come of it.

Gratefully,

(Signed)
Marc



Mr. Robert Johnson
10 Madison Avenue
New York City

WJW:HW
100

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
25 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

MEMO:

N.A. Co.

*Call + saw
affrone telegram
but on end page
word should be
made equal to*

PHONE VANDERBILT 6-5145

WHEN YOU NEED A MESSENGER

Airline Delivery Service Co.

MAIN OFFICE, 60 EAST 42nd ST.

Branches Throughout the City

CLASS OF SERVICE
 This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

846 SEP 18 AM 4:00
 J I WEST 4TH ST.
 ALCONQUIN 4 2098

WESTERN UNION

SYMBOLS	
DL	Day Letter
NL	Night Letter
LC	Deferred Cable
NT	Cable Night Letter
	Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and cablegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

V4CC LT 449

AV NEW YORK N.Y. SEP 18 1946

MRS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
 29 WASHINGTON SQUARE NYK

Telephone call from Mrs. Roosevelt to Mr. West 9:00 AM 9/18/46

WILL YOU TELEGRAPH ME COLLECT IMMEDIATELY IF YOU APPROVE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WE PLAN PRESENT TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN TOMORROW MORNING? (QUOTE ENTIRE STATEMENT)

WHILE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES TODAY LABOR AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE AND IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO CREATE A WORLD OF PEACE BASED ON HUMAN FREEDOM AND JUSTICE, THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS ARE MADE A MOCKERY BY AN UNPRECEDENTED WAVE OF MOB VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES, AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND IN PARTICULAR NEGRO VETERANS OF THE LATE WAR FOR HUMAN FREEDOM, HAVE BEEN DONE TO DEATH OR MUTILATED WITH SAVAGERY EQUALLED ONLY AT BUCHENWALD, AT LEAST THE EXCUSE WAS GIVEN FOR THE TORTURE AND EXECUTION IN NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS THAT THE VICTIMS WERE "ENEMIES" OF THE STATE. BUT RECENT VICTIMS OF AMERICAN LYNCHERS WERE IN NUMEROUS INSTANCES MEN WHO BUT RECENTLY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AFTER HAVING FOUGHT FOR ITS PRESERVATION OVERSEAS. INSTEAD OF GRATITUDE THEY HAVE BEEN PAID OFF IN SAVAGERY.

WE COME TO YOU TODAY, MR, PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, NOT TO PLEAD THE CAUSE OF ANY ONE SEGMENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE,

WE REPRESENT VARIOUS PARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA--CHURCH, LABOR, MANAGEMENT, MINORITIES--AND WE ARE CONFIDENT WE VOICE THE SENTIMENT OF ALL DECENT AMERICANS WHEN WE EMPHASIZE THE OBVIOUS FACT THAT UNCHECKED--

END 1

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

LC-Deferred Cable
NLT-Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

2/4CC NEW YORK CK 449 ROOSEVELT 29 WASH SQUARE NYK

MOB VIOLENCE CAN DO MORE TO INJURE OUR COUNTRY AT HOME AND ABROAD THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE EVIL.

THE NAMES OF A NUMBER OF MOB LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN GATHERED AND TURNED OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS INCLUDING, WE FREELY ADMIT, THE ADEQUATE OF PRESENT FEDERAL LEGISLATION, ^{inadequate} THERE HAS BEEN NO VISIBLE ACTION IN THE FORM OF ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS. THIS ABSENCE OF ACTION IS SERVING AS A GREEN LIGHT TO ORGANIZED AND UNORGANIZED MOBS AND SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SEEK TO SUBSTITUTE THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

WE, THEREFORE, RESPECTFULLY PETITION YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

TO INSIST THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATE UPON SECURING EVIDENCE AGAINST AND PROSECUTION OF LYNCHERS WITHOUT DELAY OR APPEASEMENT OF ANY POLITICAL, SECTIONAL OR OTHER DEFENDERS OF MOB VIOLENCE

THAT YOU ROUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY RADIO, PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA TO OPPOSE ACTIVELY EVERY FORM OF MOB VIOLENCE.

THAT YOU CALL UPON THE CONGRESS TO RECONVENE TO ENACT SUCH LEGISLATION AS IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATES, TO STOP LYNCHING AND TO PUNISH LYNCHERS.

END 2

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

dictated by a suitable
symbol above or pre-
ceding the address.

UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

LC - Cable Letter
NLT - Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

3/V4CC NEW YORK ROOSEVELT 29 WASH SQUARE NYK

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT ONLY PROMPT AND UNEQUIVOCAL ACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN POSSIBLY AVERT A DISASTROUS SPURTING OF THIS EYE WHICH IS VICTIMIZING NOT ONLY MEMBERS OF MINORITIES BUT IS THREATENING TO ENGULF ALL AMERICA

WALTER WHITE

345P

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

I will be glad to serve on
your new committee & pray
that I can attend the meetings.

Your program seems
excellent ✓

NATIONAL OFFICERS

President
 Arthur B. Spingarn
Chairman of the Board
 Dr. Louis T. Wright
Acting Chairman of the Board
 Hon. Charles E. Toney

Vice Presidents
 Mary McLeod Bethune
 Nannie H. Burroughs
 Godfrey Lowell Cabot
 Hon. Arthur Capper
 Hon. Harry E. Davis
 Bishop John A. Gregg
 Rev. John Haynes Holmes
 Dr. William Lloyd Jones
 Hon. Ira W. Jayne
 Isadore Martin
 T. G. Nutter
 Rev. A. Clayton Powell
 A. Philip Randolph
 Oswald Garrison Villard

Treasurer
 Mary White Orvington

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Atlanta
 Eugene M. Martin
Baltimore
 Carl Murphy
Berkeley, Calif.
 Dr. Buell G. Gallagher
Birmingham, Ala.
 Dr. E. W. Tappan
Boston
 Dr. John B. Hill
 Julian D. Steese
Chicago
 Earl S. Dickerson
 Bishop W. J. Walls
 Theodore M. Berry
 Ika Smalls
Cincinnati
 Dr. James J. McClendon
Des Moines, Ia.
 R. J. Thomas
Detroit
 Alfred Baker Lewis
Greenwich, Conn.
 Dr. Allen F. Jackson
Hartford, Conn.
 Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N. Y.
 Dr. John A. Singleton
Jamaica, N. Y.
 Norman Houston
Los Angeles, Calif.
 Grace B. Farnsworth
Newark, N. J.
 Lillian A. Alexander
New York
 Hon. Jane M. Bolin
 Elmer A. Carter
 Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers
 Marion Cuthbert
 Russell W. Davenport
 Hon. Hubert T. Deury
 Douglas P. Falconer
 Lewis S. Gannett
 John Hammond
 Rev. John Haynes Holmes
 Hon. Fiorello H. LaGuardia
 Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
 Dr. G. Clay Macorell
 Mary White Orvington
 Rev. James H. Robinson
 Amy E. Spingarn
 Arthur B. Spingarn
 Dr. Chauncy H. Tobias
 Hon. Charles E. Toney
 Palmer Weber
 Dr. Louis T. Wright
Northampton, Mass.
 Dr. S. Ralph Harlow
Oklahoma City
 Roscoe Duryea
Philadelphia
 Theodore Spaulding
Richmond, Va.
 Dr. J. M. Tinsley
St. Louis
 Sidney R. Richmond
Tapoka, Kans.
 Hon. Arthur Capper
Washington
 William H. Hastie
 Charles H. Houston

NATIONAL LEGAL COMMITTEE

William H. Hastie, Washington, **Chairman**

Atlanta
 A. T. Walden
Birmingham, Ala.
 Arthur D. Shores
Charleston, W. Va.
 T. G. Nutter
Cincinnati
 Theodore M. Berry
Cleveland
 William T. McKnight
Dallas, Texas
 W. J. Durham
Erie, Pa.
 William F. Hill
Los Angeles
 Thomas L. Griffith, Jr.
 Loren Miller
Louisville
 Charles W. Anderson
Madison, Wis.
 Lloyd Garrison
Nashville, Tenn.
 Z. Alexander Loomy
New York
 Donald Critchton
 Morris L. Ernst
 Raymond K. Froenkel
 Arthur Garfield Hays
 Karl N. Llewellyn
 James Marshall
 Shad Polier
 Hope Stevens
 Charles H. Studin
 Andrew D. Weinberger
Pittsburgh
 Homer S. Brown
Richmond, Va.
 Spottswood W. Robinson, III
San Francisco
 Bartley C. Crum
Texas, Okla.
 Armas T. Hall
Washington
 Charles H. Houston
 Edward P. Lovett
 Leon A. Ransom
 Ruth Weyand
 Louis L. Radding

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
 ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

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

LONGACRE 3-6890

Official Organ: *The Crisis*



Sept.
 27th
 1946

*Accept copy of C. to at meeting - Program
 Terms enclosed*

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Walter White **Secretary**
 Roy Wilkins **Assistant Secretary, Editor, The Crisis**
 Madison S. Jones, Jr. **Administrative Assistant, National Office**
 Thurgood Marshall **Special Counsel**
 Robert L. Carter **Assistant Secretary, Editor, The Crisis**
 Marlon Wynn Perry **Administrative Assistant, National Office**
 Franklin H. Williams
 Edward R. Dudley (on leave)
 Milton R. Kowitz (on leave)
Assistant Special Counsel
 Leslie S. Perry **Administrative Assistant, Washington Bureau**
 W. E. B. Du Bois **Director, Special Research**
 Daley E. Lamplink **Field Secretary**
 Gloster S. Current **Director of Branches**
 Donald Jones **Home Branch**
 Home Jones
 LeRoy E. Carter
 Rufus W. Smith
 E. Frederic Morrow
 (On leave in Armed Services)
Assistant Field Secretary
 N. W. Griffin **West Coast Regional Secretary**
 Lucille Black
Membership Secretary
 Ruby Harley **Youth Secretary**
 Jesse G. Dedmon, Jr. **Secretary, Veterans' Affairs**
 Oliver W. Harrington **Director, Public Relations**
 Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. **Labor Secretary**

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

One of the most challenging aspects of the NAACP's program is the new Labor Department. Under the supervision of Clarence Mitchell, former Director of Field Operations for the Fair Employment Practice Committee, action in this field is already under way on some of the vital problems such as full utilization of labor in the Veterans Housing Program and the establishment of standards against discrimination for the United States Employment Service.

In its July meeting, the Board of Directors voted to establish a committee to work with Mr. Mitchell in achieving the objectives of this part of the Association's activity. A copy of the proposed labor program is enclosed for your study. This will be subject to discussion and revision as determined by the Committee when the first meeting is held.

I am writing you to ask that you serve as a member of this important group. Because all the members will be busy and there will be much demand on their time from other sources, we are planning four meetings a year for this Committee. We shall poll the members by correspondence or personal contact on any important policy matters which may come up between meetings.

It is my earnest hope that you will agree to serve.

Ever sincerely

Walter White

Secretary

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
 Hyde Park
 New York

(Proposed Program)

NAACP LABOR DEPARTMENT

OBJECTIVES

1. Elimination of: discriminatory employment practices in industry and government which result in refusal to hire colored workers, wage differentials based on race, unequal opportunities for training and promotion, unfair dismissals, and segregation in employment because of race.
2. Greater participation of colored persons in the trade union movement.
3. Ending of segregated locals, auxiliaries, and any other discriminatory practices in labor unions.
4. Passage of state and federal FEPC legislation.
5. Inclusion of non-discrimination clauses in state and federal laws pertaining to the employment of persons in the execution of government contracts.
6. Joining with labor unions for the enactment of legislation favored by labor and for the repealing of unfavorable labor legislation.
7. Expanding and improving opportunities for vocational training on the basis of non-segregation.

STRUCTURE

The Secretary of the Labor Department is responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Association. The work of this department shall be coordinated with the activities of the Legal Department and the Branch Department by regular meetings with the Secretary and these department heads.

There shall be formed a labor committee of Board members and such other persons as may be needed to further the objectives of this program. Labor committees shall also be formed in local branches.

DUTIES

The National Committee shall work with the Secretary in achieving the objectives of this program. This committee shall also make recommendations to the Board of Directors on the labor policy to be followed by the NAACP. This shall include recommendations on the endorsement or rejection of proposed labor legislation.

Local committees shall initiate, within the framework of a specified operating procedure, positive action to achieve the objectives of this program.

Branch labor committees shall also receive and investigate complaints alleging discrimination because of race in hiring, upgrading, wage payments, training, or dismissals from employment.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNIONS

It shall be the duty of branches to keep informed on the local practices of labor unions. This includes giving assistance in building the membership of these unions organizing on a non-segregated basis.

Some unions such as the United Automobile Workers have extensive machinery against discrimination. Branch labor committees should become familiar with this machinery and urge local union officials to make it work. In other cases locals of international unions with discriminatory policies are working to eliminate such policies. This is true in the case of the International Association of Machinists. Although the union has a prohibition against Negroes in its ritual, many locals have actually included colored persons and in recent conventions of the machinists, the vote to eliminate the color bar has gained new support. The branch committee can speed up this type of progress by informing the National Office of liberal persons in such unions who may be counted on to give support to a plan of ending discriminatory features. Whenever local unions are negotiating contracts with management, the branch committee should seek the inclusion of non-discrimination clauses in such contracts both as to hiring and conditions of employment. Whenever such requests are made, the National Office should be advised in order that it may obtain assistance from the international union on this matter.

It is important that branch labor committees promote a more active participation of Negroes in local unions. This means that committee representatives should meet with local union officials to study ways of increasing these meetings during which important policy questions are being discussed or elections are being held.

LABOR LEGISLATION

The labor committee of the branch shall have the responsibility of reporting to the National Office any proposed city ordinances or state laws which are against the best interest of labor. Also favorable legislation proposed shall be submitted to the National Office in order that the Association may have a uniform policy on such matters throughout the country. Such legislation shall be studied jointly by the labor and legal departments of the National Office. In submitting matters of this kind the recommendations of the branch shall be included. It is important that this phase of the program be given careful attention. Numerous state bills and proposed city Fair Employment Practices are being submitted in various parts of the country. The NAACP should endorse only the strongest and best of such legislative proposals. In addition, various state legislatures undertake the passage of hostile labor laws which should be defeated because of the adverse effect they have on the progress of organized labor with the resultant ill effect on colored persons.

By showing its recognition of the common objectives existing for both colored persons and labor, the NAACP will promote increased harmony between these groups.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The branch labor committee shall work with the education committee (where the latter exists) in evaluating local tax-supported vocational programs. Where such programs fail to offer equal opportunity for colored and white students, the labor committee shall take action to eliminate such inequality. The National Office labor department shall be kept informed on such matters in order that it may give advice and assistance in handling them.



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

October 8, 1946.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of September 23, 1946, enclosing a memorandum from Mr. Robert Carter, Special Counsel, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, concerning the Department's handling of the Columbia, Tennessee case.

Mr. Carter's memorandum has been read with interest and I should like to submit some comments concerning it. Numbered paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of Mr. Carter's memorandum purport to set out the statutory authority for action by the Department in this case. There is no question but that the statutes he refers to are on the books and the investigation by the Grand Jury was undertaken to ascertain whether these statutes had been violated. As you may recall, over 390 witnesses were thoroughly interrogated and the Grand Jury reached the conclusion that the evidence before them would not justify indictment or presentment for the violation of any Federal statute.

Paragraph 4 of Mr. Carter's memorandum relates certain alleged activities of the State Patrol and State Guard. He states that "about six o'clock the following morning, February 26, 1946, the State Patrol and the State Guard stood off from the Negro section, drew up their machine guns and tommy-guns, and fired a barrage of shots directly into the area and then moved in." This statement does not jibe with the findings of the Grand Jury. All of the testimony before the Grand Jury from both Negro and white witnesses was reported by the Grand Jury as follows:

"Shortly after daybreak the highway patrolmen stationed at the intersections of Woodland and South Main Streets with East 8th Street, accompanied by the Sheriff, advanced into 'Mink Slide.' As they advanced they announced that no person surrendering would be harmed. As the officers came abreast of Sol Blair's barber shop they were met by shotgun fire from within, three of the officers being slightly wounded as a result. Members of the Highway Patrol, armed with machine guns,

*with Assoc'n Advance
of Colored People*

Spock

"rifles and shotguns, thereupon opened fire directing the same toward the interior of the barber shop. Continuing to voice the demand that the occupants surrender peaceably the officers forced an entrance into the barber shop and arrested its two Negro occupants, who were wholly unharmed despite the gunfire preceding the arrest. The officers then proceeded as before; they came to a building containing a lodge hall on its second floor, the entrance to which was padlocked. Despite gunfire emanating from the building, a group of highway patrolmen forced an entrance and proceeded upstairs, where they arrested a number of Negroes."

Mr. Carter's statement in paragraph 4 that, "they shot out windows, broke up show cases, stole money, tore up radios, broke up the tables and chairs, tore the top off the frigidaire, threw away all the instruments and generally wrecked a doctor's office, destroyed all the files and records in the Atlanta Life Insurance Company and Morton's Funeral Home which was completely wrecked", I understand to be substantially correct. No witness before the Grand Jury identified any State officer or State guardsman as having committed these acts.

Mr. Carter relates in paragraph 4(c) that "they went into all the Negro homes and removed from them the arms without any warrants, lined up all the men, women and children and arrested them without warrants." As we understand the facts developed by the Grand Jury, the search referred to was confined to the immediate "Mink Slide" area and involved the homes of both Negroes and whites. Only individuals in the "Mink Slide" area were arrested.

The allegation that most of the Negroes in the area were held in jail incommunicado did not amount, under the circumstances, to an invasion of any Federal right and it should be correctly stated that they were held for only a short while. The Grand Jury concluded that the death of the two prisoners at the jail in Columbia was justifiable homicide. The Grand Jury report in this matter relates as follows:

"On Thursday, February 28, 1946, three Negroes, James 'Digger' Johnson, Willie Gordon, and Napoleon Stewart, were questioned, informed that they would be permitted to make bond in nominal sums, and thereafter be released. Pending execution of their bonds, these three Negroes were placed in the Sheriff's

"office, located on the first floor of the Maury County Jail. A large quantity of guns seized during the arrests and the search heretofore mentioned were stored in the office. Two deputies sheriff were in the room with the Negroes, one of whom Deputy Darnell, was in the act of telephoning. The other, Deputy Pennington, was lying across a bed. A newspaper photographer was likewise in the room and was then engaging in loading his camera. At this point Johnson and Gordon were observed to seize guns from a group of weapons stored against the wall. Deputy Darnell dropped the telephone and seized the gun in the hands of Gordon. At the same moment Johnson fired wounding Darnell in the arm. Hearing shots, highway patrolmen outside the office rushed to the doorway, saw Gordon aiming his gun in their direction, and began firing at the Negroes. The officers continued firing until both Gordon and Johnson fell. During the firing the third Negro, Napoleon Stewart, backed into a corner and stood there with his hands raised. Commissioner Bomar obtained an ambulance by which Johnson and Gordon were removed to the hospital, where they received treatment. On the advice of attendant physicians, the Negroes were rushed by ambulance to Nashville. Both Negroes died en route."

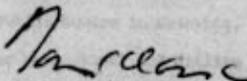
The Grand Jury concluded that they could not fix responsibility for damage to property on any identifiable officer of the law. In the absence of such identification we could not, of course, undertake further prosecutive action. A copy of the Grand Jury's full report is enclosed.

It is my understanding that Mr. Carter has had numerous conferences in the Criminal Division and I believe he is aware of the Department's position. I am sure you will understand that until an identification of the persons responsible for particular depredations is made, we cannot determine (1) whether we have jurisdiction, and (2) who might be named as defendants.

I hope the foregoing information will assist you in considering this matter and that I may soon have an opportunity to discuss it with you in person.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,


Attorney General

L

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

TO THE HONORABLE ELMER D. DAVIES, JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT:

REPORT OF GRAND JURY IN THE MATTER OF
THE RACIAL DISTURBANCE AT COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

We, the regular Grand Jury for the Middle District of Tennessee, were convened on April 8, 1946, and charged by Your Honor to make a "full, complete, fair and impartial investigation" into the racial disturbance at Columbia, Tennessee, occurring during the week of February 25, 1946, and especially as to the invasion of civil rights in violation of Federal law alleged to have occurred in connection therewith.

Our inquiry has been facilitated by the several reports submitted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reflecting an exhaustive and painstaking investigation by that agency in connection with which 390 persons were interviewed for the purpose of securing all facts relating to the disturbance in question.

We have had before us and have examined under oath all persons, both white and colored, who were substantially connected with the disturbance or who were known or believed to be in possession of factual information pertinent and material to this investigation, and we have concluded after careful consideration that there is no evidence before us that would justify an indictment or presentment for the violation of any Federal statute.

Now, in keeping with Your Honor's charge, we further report as follows:

On Monday, February 25, 1946, at about 10:00 A.M., following a disagreement concerning repairs to a radio a fight occurred in front of a department store located on the Public Square in Columbia, between two Negroes, Gladys Stephenson and her son, James, and William Fleming, a white employee of the radio section of the department store, and a white passer-by.

(OVER)

Police, in response to a call made during the altercation, arrived on the scene and arrested the Stephensons. At the time of the arrests Fleming was inside the store receiving first aid and the arresting officers were not at that time informed that any one else had participated in the affair.

Reports have circulated in pamphlets and press that the fight was started inside the store by Fleming, by his striking or kicking Gladys Stephenson, and that thereupon James Stephenson came to the defense of his mother. Such reports have no foundation in fact. The undisputed testimony before us shows that the fight commenced between James Stephenson and William Fleming on the street in front of the store. Thereupon the mother Gladys Stephenson entered the affray in aid of her son. At this stage the above mentioned passer-by came to the aid of Fleming and engaged in a fight with Mrs. Stephenson. Blows were struck by all parties.

At the outset of the fighting Fleming was propelled through the glass front of the store and received a gash in his leg as a result. From the statements of witnesses situated within the Department store it appears that during the course of the fight Gladys Stephenson seized a piece of glass that had fallen from the shattered window and struck Fleming with the same, at about which time she was assaulted by the white passer-by hereinbefore mentioned.

Both the Stephensons and the City Police officers responsible for their arrest have appeared before us and have testified fully, under oath, concerning the circumstances thereof. It is undisputed that in the course of arresting Gladys Stephenson a City Police officer struck her with a night stick. From all of the evidence before us it appears that the force used by the arresting officer in this respect was neither brutal nor wanton but was reasonably necessitated in the course of overcoming resistance to the arrest. It is undisputed that James Stephenson was not struck or harmed during the course of the arrest and that neither he nor his mother was subjected to any physical mistreatment throughout the period of their incarceration. At the City Jail the Stephensons were charged with a breach of the peace before the

city magistrate on their plea
While the Stephensons
Fleming, were arrested with intent to
Fleming, with assault with intent to
kill.
The latter received
where he is imprisoned in the
also engaged in the

During the altercation, arrived
at the time of the arrests
aid and the arresting officers
who had participated in the
d press that the fight was
being or kicking Gladys
away to the

city magistrate; on their pleas of guilty they were each fined \$50.

While the Stephensons were still in custody warrants charging them with assault with intent to commit murder, sworn out by the father of William Fleming, were served on them and they were thereupon transported to the County Jail.

After receiving first aid Fleming was transported to the hospital where he remained until the following day. The identity of the white passer-by, who engaged in the fight, was and remains unascertained. It is our considered opinion that the responsibility for aggression in this assault is not determinable in view of the direct conflict in testimony supplied by the known participants in this connection. The evidence before us establishes that the Stephensons were the only persons arrested in connection with this disturbance of the peace although police officers, subsequent to the arrest, learned of the part played in the affair by Fleming and the passer-by who assisted him.

As is not unusual in the world of men, it is abundantly evident that throughout the day, in recounting the circumstances of the fight and the ensuing events, fact and fancy were freely intermingled in the accounts of white as well as colored citizens—especially among the less stable elements of both races. Among the group of white people attracted by the fight, indignation at the occurrence was expressed, and the matter was discussed on the streets of Columbia thereafter during the day. In the Negro districts of Columbia a rumor was circulated to the effect that a white man had bought a rope, stating that he intended to hang a Negro with it.

A thorough investigation involving inquiry at all Columbia business establishments engaged in the sale of rope has failed to lend any factual reality to the occurrence thus rumored and diligent inquiry among the Negro citizens of Columbia has likewise failed to lend the slightest substantiation thereto.

Throughout the afternoon following the Stephenson-Fleming fight, small groups of white individuals gathered from time to time on the Public Square and in the streets nearby. The Sheriff and his deputies and the Chief of Police and his force moved freely among such groups and dispersed them without

difficulty. These groups, the majority of which were composed of teen-aged youths were unarmed and were responsive to orders. To City and County officials there appeared to be no manifestation of mob spirit and no organized leadership was evident among the persons thus assembled.

At approximately 5:00 P. M., the Stephensons were released from custody on bond. Following their release the mother was first driven to her home in Columbia, and thereafter James Stephenson was driven to "Mink Slide," a Negro district devoted exclusively to business and located one block south of the Public Square, on East 8th Street, between South Main and Woodland Streets. At the time of James Stephenson's arrival in "Mink Slide," armed and unarmed Negroes had gathered and were continuing to gather in the area, having come from other sections of Columbia and the surrounding countryside. By the evidence of several Negro witnesses it appears that such witnesses, activated by the rumor of a possible lynching, armed themselves and assembled in the "Mink Slide" area for the purpose of protecting James Stephenson from mob violence. Evidence supplied by several other Negro witnesses establishes that said witnesses circulated throughout the "Mink Slide" area during Monday afternoon and evening with no genuine apprehension of impending trouble, having discounted the rumor as baseless in fact, which it has since proved to be. By the testimony of these latter witnesses it is apparent that many of the Negroes then assembled in "Mink Slide" were not appreciably alarmed over the safety of James Stephenson or the likelihood of any serious outbreak between white and negro citizens. The evidence is undisputed that following his release on bond and upon his arrival at the "Mink Slide" area at approximately 5:30 P. M., James Stephenson mingled freely and openly with other Negroes on the street in front of and within several business establishments and that at approximately 6 P. M., he entered the barber shop of Sol Blair and casually procured a haircut and shoe shine. The evidence is likewise undisputed that at approximately 6:30 P. M., James Stephenson drove his girl friend from the "Mink Slide" area to her home in the colored residential section of Columbia, passing en route around the City Square without molestation in any form, returned to the "Mink Slide" section and entered Patton's restaurant where he had some drinks. That after

which were composed of teen-aged
orders. To City and County officials
spliffs and no organized leadership
persons were released from custody
a first driven to her home in
ven to Mink Slide, a Negro
ed one block south of the
in and Woodland st.

leaving Patton's Restaurant he again entered Sol Blair's barber shop, secured a rifle from a stack of weapons there assembled and in company with approximately twenty-five other armed Negroes climbed to the roof of the building and maintained a look-out, without incident, in the direction of South Main Street. The evidence is likewise undisputed that sometime between 7:30 and 8 P. M., James Stephenson descended from the roof and in company with three other Negroes entered an automobile which was then parked on East 8th Street and, thereafter, without molestation, drove to Nashville, Tennessee, where he boarded a train for Chicago, Illinois.

At 6:00 P. M., after receiving information of the situation in "Mink Slide," the Sheriff of Maury County went to that area, and found there over one hundred Negroes, a third of whom were openly bearing arms, on the street. He walked among the Negroes, told them there would be no trouble from the white people and asked them to disarm and return to their homes.

Some thirty minutes after leaving "Mink Slide," - or about 6:30 P. M., - the Sheriff called James Morton, a prominent Negro, at his funeral establishment in "Mink Slide," and asked him if the Negroes were still armed and on the street. Being informed that they were, the Sheriff asked Morton to tell the Negroes that if they did not disband he would enter the area with sufficient force to arrest those under arms. At approximately 7:00 P. M., city policemen went to "Mink Slide" and told the Negroes there congregated that there would be no violence done them by the white people, that the white people were completely under control, and ordered the Negroes to disarm and disperse. Other Negroes armed and unarmed continued to arrive in "Mink Slide." Evidence as to the total number of Negroes congregated in the block-long business section ranged from two to four hundred. Shortly after darkness fell, the Negroes extinguished all lights in "Mink Slide." The evidence is undisputed that certain armed Negroes made demand upon proprietors of several colored business establishments to extinguish their lights and upon refusal shot such lights out with gunfire. As a Negro undertaker (not James Morton) drove through the area on business, his car was fired upon. The car of a tourist from California who lost his way and drove through the area, was also fired upon.

At about 8:30 P. M., a group of twenty to thirty white persons the majority of whom were teen age boys went to the county jail and demanded to know the whereabouts of the Stephensons. The Sheriff, machine gun in hand, answered their demand by arresting two drunken white men who appeared to be the leaders of the group, and dispersed the remainder, who appeared to be unarmed.

At about 9:00 P. M., the Chief of Police, with three of his uniformed officers, decided to enter the "Mink Slide" area and to investigate and put a stop to the shooting which was intermittently occurring in that area. The officers crossed the lighted intersection of East 8th Street with South Main Street, and proceeded into "Mink Slide" for a distance of approximately 75 feet. At this point they were met by aimed shotgun fire. All four officers were struck, and one of them was critically wounded. The officers did not return the fire or draw their guns, but taking cover as best they could they withdrew from the scene and sought medical aid.

In certain pamphlets and press articles which have come to our attention it has been asserted that when the city police officers proceeded into the "Mink Slide" area they were accompanied by a crowd of armed white men. We have found no evidence whatsoever that tends to substantiate such assertion. However, as word of the assault on the officers spread armed white people began to assemble on the Public Square and on South Main Street near the entrance to "Mink Slide."

With one exception, the evidence is undisputed that no white citizen, saying local officials, were observed to be bearing arms until after the shooting of the policemen. The exception noted appears in the testimony of one Negro who stated that at approximately 6:30 P. M., while driving around the Public Square he observed three armed white men but that he didn't notice what kind of guns they carried.

Realizing that violence threatened, the Sheriff called the Governor of Tennessee and asked for assistance. This call was made at about 9:30 P. M., and immediately thereafter elements of the Tennessee State Guard, and the State Highway Patrol were alerted and ordered to proceed to Columbia at once. Elements

of these organizations headed by
of Safety Lynn Bomer (head of
within an hour.
While it is now clear
congregated in "Mink Slide"
Police officers, State and
...ed in the basin

Thirty white persons the
only jail and demanded the
off, machine gun in hand,
man who appeared to be
, who appeared to be
three of his uniform

of these organizations headed by Brig. Gen. J. M. Dickinson and Commissioner of Safety Lynn Bomar (head of the Highway Patrol) began arriving in Columbia within an hour.

While it is now clear from all of the evidence that many of the Negroes congregated in "Mink Slide" left the area following the shooting of the City Police officers, State and County officials were unaware of the number of armed men barricaded in the business establishments throughout the night. General Dickinson and Commissioner Bomar conferred with the Sheriff on their arrival in Columbia, decided to seal off and isolate the "Mink Slide" area, and to attempt no entrance into the area until daybreak. As fast as they arrived and were available for guard duty, highway patrolmen were stationed at the several street intersections encompassing the "Mink Slide" section in keeping with the course of action decided upon.

Intermittent gunfire was heard in the "Mink Slide" area throughout the balance of the night. Two white men attempted to enter the area and were wounded slightly by shotgun fire. Two armed Negroes were arrested as they attempted to enter "Mink Slide." At about 3:00 A. M. Tuesday, February 26, 1946, officers entered the home of James Morton, located on the corner of East 8th and Woodland Streets but a few feet distant from a guard-post which had been maintained by the State Guard and Highway Patrol throughout the night. The officers there arrested twelve Negroes and seized a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Shortly after daybreak the highway patrolmen stationed at the intersections of Woodland and South Main Streets with East 8th Street, accompanied by the Sheriff, advanced into "Mink Slide." As they advanced they announced that no person surrendering would be harmed. As the officers came abreast of Sol Blair's barber shop they were met by shotgun fire from within, three of the officers being slightly wounded as a result. Members of the Highway Patrol, armed with machine guns, rifles and shotguns, thereupon opened fire directing the same toward the interior of the barber shop. Continuing to voice the demand that the occupants surrender peaceably the officers forced an entrance into the barber shop and arrested its two Negro occupants, who were wholly unharmed despite the gunfire preceding the arrest. The officers then proceeded as before;

they came to a building containing a lodge hall on its second floor, the entrance to which was padlocked. Despite gunfire emanating from the building, a group of highway patrolmen forced an entrance and proceeded upstairs, where they arrested a number of Negroes. It was at this point that a negro, John Blackwell was struck on the head with a gun butt by a highway patrolman. The blow knocked him down and he was seriously injured. The testimony with respect to the circumstances surrounding this incident is in conflict. The negro witnesses state that Blackwell was not armed. Highway patrol officers making these arrests have testified that Blackwell emerged from an ante room and aimed a shotgun at them and that he was struck on the head as a measure of self defense. Following their arrest at the lodge hall all negroes in the building were removed. Blackwell, whose picture (as he lay in the street before the entrance to the lodge hall) has been widely reproduced, was taken to the hospital by an officer of the State Guard. He was subsequently removed to the jail where he was separately confined, and later was transferred to a hospital in Nashville.

Approximately thirty Negroes were arrested, and a quantity of arms and ammunition seized, in the "Mink Slide" area. As a result of the gunfire one negro was wounded in the arm. On information obtained from the Negroes under arrest as to those present in "Mink Slide" when the officers were fired upon, further arrests were made, bringing the total apprehended to approximately one hundred.

After conferring with the Governor of Tennessee and the State Attorney General, and at their direction, the Sheriff, aided by some sixty members of the State Guard, conducted a search of the territory immediately adjacent to the "Mink Slide" area. During this search approximately 250 guns of various descriptions were seized. The search was indiscriminate; weapons were taken from Negro and white citizens alike.

Paul P. Bumpus, District Attorney General for Maury and other counties, with the assistance of the few other local officials at hand, began an investigation of the assault on the police officers immediately after the arrests of February 26, questioning all Negroes in confinement. Of the number arrested,

lodge hall on its second floor, the
the gunfire emanating from the building,
entrance and proceeded upstairs, where
was at this point that a negro, John
a gun butt by a highway patrolman. The
nearly injured. The testimony with respect

approximately forty were released after questioning without charges being placed against them, and without being required to make bond.

On Thursday, February 28, 1946, three Negroes, James "Digger" Johnson, Willie Gordon, and Napoleon Stewart, were questioned, informed that they would be permitted to make bond in nominal sums, and thereafter be released. Pending execution of their bonds, these three Negroes were placed in the Sheriff's office, located on the first floor of the Maury County jail. A large quantity of guns seized during the arrests and the search heretofore mentioned were stored in the office. Two deputy sheriffs were in the room with the Negroes, one of whom Deputy Darnell, was in the act of telephoning. The other, Deputy Pennington, was lying across a bed. A newspaper photographer was likewise in the room and was then engaging in loading his camera. At this point Johnson and Gordon were observed to seized guns from a group of weapons stored against the wall. Deputy Darnell dropped the telephone and seized the gun in the hands of Gordon. At the same moment Johnson fired wounding Darnell in the arm. Hearing shots, highway patrolmen outside the office rushed to the doorway, saw Gordon aiming his gun in their direction, and began firing at the Negroes. The officers continued firing until both Gordon and Johnson fell. During the firing the third Negro, Napoleon Stewart, backed into a corner and stood there with his hands raised. Commissioner Bomar obtained an ambulance by which Johnson and Gordon were removed to the hospital, where they received treatment. On the advice of attendant physicians, the Negroes were rushed by ambulance to Nashville. Both Negroes died en route.

After the shooting of these Negroes, forty of the confined Negroes were transferred to the county jail at Nashville, Tennessee. They were returned to Columbia on the following day. As the questioning and investigation proceeded, bonds were fixed, and upon execution the Negroes questioned were released from custody.

After the arrest of the Negroes found in "Mink Slide" on Tuesday, various business establishments, the fixtures therein, and certain personal property located in "Mink Slide" and particularly the properties of James Morton, Sol Blair, and Julius Blair, were found to be in a wrecked and damaged condition.

The proprietors of several of the business establishments assert that merchandise and other valuable items of personal property were carried away from their premises during the course of the disturbance,

The evidence before us establishes that a portion of the damage was done by the Negroes occupying the premises throughout the night and prior to their arrest, and that extensive damage also resulted from gunfire immediately preceding and during the course of the arrests. It is likewise clear that much of the damage was wantonly committed after the arrest of the Negroes, and while the area was under the control of the Highway Patrol and Members of the Tennessee State Guard,

It is manifest from the evidence of willful destruction of property that during the confusion and excitement arising in connection with the extensive gunfire and the ensuing arrests that an efficient and adequate guard was not maintained throughout the "Mink Slide" area for a period of several hours thereafter. Throughout this period divers civilians, including newspaper reporters and photographers and many members of the Tennessee State Guard entered the "Mink Slide" area and several business establishments situated therein. During, and for some hours following the arrests, divers highway patrolmen likewise entered and re-entered the buildings in this area. By dint of the most painstaking investigation all persons known to have been present in the "Mink Slide" section throughout the period in question have been interrogated searchingly and at length and we have diligently examined all witnesses before us in an effort to ascertain the identity of the person or persons committing these acts of vandalism.

As recently announced by the foreman in open court it was the desire of this Grand Jury to remain in session and to continue our efforts to fasten responsibility for such property destruction. Despite the fact that we have exhausted every reasonable avenue of inquiry it has proved wholly impossible to determine the identity of such person or persons or to elicit facts upon which to predicate an indictment in this respect,

We have also particularly considered certain other matters, and have carefully viewed the action of the law enforcement officers with respect thereto

to the end that any officer des
disturbance, of a right secure
Statute, or decisions inheren
conduct. Among these matie
of Columbia were subjected to
were subjected to

Laborers assert that property were carried away hence, action of the damage was the night and prior to from gunfire immediately likewise clear that such of the

to the end that any officer depriving an inhabitant of Columbia during this disturbance, of a right secured to him by the Constitution, laws of the United States, or decisions interpreting them, be made to answer an indictment of his conduct. Among these matters are widely circulated charges that the Negroes of Columbia were subjected to mass and indiscriminate arrests, that their homes were subjected to unreasonable search and their weapons to unjustifiable seizure, that excessive force was used in making the arrests; that prisoners were subjected to brutality while in confinement, were denied the right to counsel, were made to incriminate themselves, and were confined for unreasonable lengths of time, being denied the right to bail.

The police officers, when shot, were in full uniform and were fired upon immediately after crossing a lighted intersection. Negro witnesses in "Mink Slide" at the time testified that uniforms were clearly distinguishable in the light at the intersection. The felonious assault was committed by unknown persons in a general area and probable cause therefore existed to believe that those in the area had participated in the assault, were accessories thereto, or were in possession of knowledge concerning the same. The arrests made on account of the assault were therefore lawful. Arrests made for the lawful purpose of preserving the peace and security of society are in violation of no man's civil rights.

There is evidence before us that during the course of the arrests certain Negroes were struck by the arresting officers. The evidence establishes that such incidents occurred as a result of a failure to comply with orders of the arresting officers. The Negroes appearing before us from that group arrested in "Mink Slide," have testified that some of their number were unnecessarily struck during the course of such arrests. They have sworn that after their arrest they were not subjected to physical abuse. Considering the basis of the arrests and the tense and dangerous atmosphere under which the arrests were accomplished, it is the considered judgment of this body that the force shown to have been used was not unreasonable.

We consider the killing of the Negroes Johnson and Gordon justifiable homicide. The testimony of eye witnesses, including Napoleon Stewart, admits of no other interpretation.

Falsehoods and half-truths
under the sponsorship
of Negroes were killed
streets of Columbia
describable brutality
lacking in factuality

In the evidence before us, it affirmatively appears that during their confinement the prisoners were not subjected to brutality or denied the right to counsel. The testimony before us establishes that before they were questioned all prisoners were advised of their constitutional right not to incriminate themselves. In the light of all of the circumstances prevailing prisoners were allowed to make bond and were released from custody without unreasonable delay. The searches and the seizure of weapons in the homes adjacent to the "Mink Slide" area were made at the direction of the Governor of Tennessee, and were not, in our opinion, unreasonable.

During the late afternoon and evening of February 25, 1946, the Sheriff of Maury County and the Chief of Police at Columbia were confronted with a grave and menacing situation. They made every effort to disperse the crowds and to prevent any clashes between the races. In doing so, they acted impartially and with an evident desire to uphold the law and to prevent violence. When the four policemen were shot, the Sheriff immediately called on the Governor of the State for assistance, and the Governor's prompt action in getting the State Patrol and the State Guard to Columbia is to be commended, as is the action of the State forces in sealing off the Mink Slide area, and in preventing any clash between white and Negro citizens. The prompt arrival and deployment of State forces, in our opinion, prevented a bloody race war which threatened to arise out of the heat of excitement following the wounding of a number of officers of the law, who, it is evident, were acting solely in an effort to preserve the peace and to fulfill their sworn duties.

There have been lurid and inflammatory stories published and circulated to the effect that large numbers of people were killed during the racial disorder at Columbia. Two Negroes were killed at the jail, as heretofore set out, and we have found that they were the only Negroes who lost their lives. During the disturbance two Negroes were wounded, one seriously. Two white civilians were wounded, and seven white officers were wounded, one seriously. These are the actual figures concerning the number killed and wounded during the action following the initial trouble on February 25, 1946.

We have found during the course of our investigation that the events transpiring at Columbia have been the subject of nationwide misrepresentation.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

President
Arthur B. Spingarn
Chairman of the Board
Dr. Louis T. Wright
Acting Chairman of the Board
Hon. Charles E. Toney

Vice-Presidents

Mary McLeod Bethune
Nannie H. Burroughs
Godfrey Lowell Cabot
Hon. Arthur Capper
Hon. Harry E. Davis
Bishop John A. Gregg
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Dr. William Lloyd Imes
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Isadore Martin
T. G. Nutter
Rev. A. Clayton Powell
A. Philip Randolph

Treasurer

Mary White Ovington

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Atlanta	Eugene M. Martin
Baltimore	Carl Murphy
Berkeley, Calif.	Dr. Buell G. Gallagher
Birmingham, Ala.	Dr. E. W. Toppert
Boston	Dr. John B. Hall
	Julian D. Steele
Chicago	Earl B. Dickerson
	Bishop W. J. Walls
Cincinnati	Theodore M. Berry
Des Moines, Ia.	Ike Smalls
Detroit	Dr. James J. McClendon
	R. J. Thomas
Falls Village, Conn.	Dr. William Allan Neilson
Greenwich, Conn.	Alfred Baker Lewis
Hartford, Conn.	Dr. Allen F. Jackson
Hyde Park, N. Y.	Eleanor Roosevelt
Jamaica, N. Y.	Dr. John A. Singleton
Los Angeles, Calif.	Norman Houston
Newark, N. J.	Grace B. Fenderson
New York	Lillian A. Alexander
	Hon. Jane M. Bolin
	Elmer A. Carter
	Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers
	Marion Cuthbert
	Russell W. Davenport
	Hon. Hubert T. Delany
	Douglas P. Falconer
	Lewis S. Gannett
	John Hammond
	Rev. John Haynes Holmes
	Hon. Fiorella H. LaGuardia
	Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
	Dr. O. Clay Maxwell
	Mary White Ovington
	Rev. James H. Robinson
	Amy E. Spingarn
	Arthur B. Spingarn
	Dr. Channing H. Tobias
	Hon. Charles E. Toney
	Dr. Louis T. Wright
Northampton, Mass.	Prof. S. Ralph Harlow
Oklahoma City	Roscoe Dunjee
Philadelphia	Theodore Spaulding
Richmond, Va.	Dr. J. M. Tinsley
St. Louis	Sidney R. Redmond
Topeka, Kans.	Hon. Arthur Capper
Washington	William H. Hastie
	Charles H. Houston

NATIONAL LEGAL COMMITTEE

William H. Hastie, Washington, *Chairman*

Atlanta	A. T. Walden
Birmingham, Ala.	Arthur D. Shores
Charleston, W. Va.	T. G. Nutter
Cincinnati	Theodore M. Berry
Cleveland	William T. McKnight
Dallas, Texas	W. J. Durham
Erie, Pa.	William F. Illig
Los Angeles	Thomas L. Griffith, Jr.
	Loren Miller
Louisville	Charles W. Anderson
Madison, Wis.	Lloyd Garrison
Nashville, Tenn.	Z. Alexander Looby
New York	Donald Crichton
	Morris L. Ernst
	Osmond K. Fraenkel
	Arthur Garfield Hays
	Karl N. Llewellyn
	James Marshall
	Shad Polier
	Hope Stevens
	Charles H. Studlin
	Andrew D. Weinberger
	Homer S. Brown
Pittsburgh	Spottswood W. Robinson, III
Richmond, Va.	Bartley C. Crum
San Francisco	Amos T. Hall
Tulsa, Okla.	Charles H. Houston
Washington	Edward P. Lovett
	Leon A. Ransom
	Ruth Weyand
Wilmington, Del.	Louis L. Redding

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*

Leslie S. Perry
Administrative Assistant

Jesse O. Dodman, Jr.
Secretary, Veterans' Affairs

J. O. Dodman, Jr.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Walter White *Secretary*
 Roy Wilkins *Assistant Secretary*
 Editor, *The Crisis*
 Modison S. Jones, Jr. *Administrative Assistant*
 National Office
 Thurgood Marshall *Special Counsel*

Robert L. Carter
 Marlan Wynn Perry
 Franklin N. Williams
 Edward R. Dudley (on leave)
 Milton R. Konvits (on leave)
Assistant Special Counsel
 Leslie S. Perry *Administrative Assistant*
 Washington Bureau

W. E. B. Du Bois
Director, Special Research

Daisy E. Lumpkin *Field Secretary*
 Ella J. Baker *Director of Branches*
 Donald Jones
 Home Jensen
 LeRoy E. Carter
 E. Frederic Morrow
 [On leave in Armed Services]
Assistant Field Secretaries

N. W. Griffin
West Coast Regional Secretary

Lucille Block
Membership Secretary

Ruby Hurley *Youth Secretary*
 Jesse O. Dodman, Jr.
Secretary, Veterans' Affairs

November 4, 1946

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have sent to Mr. Walter S. Gifford, President, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, for your information and comment.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence Mitchell

Clarence Mitchell
 Labor Secretary

Enclosure

CMM:mbh

C O P Y

Mr. Walter S. Gifford
President, American Telephone
and Telegraph Company
195 Broadway
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Gifford:

With the closing of the Fair Employment Practice Committee, there were left unsettled a number of cases involving the telephone companies of the country. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was instrumental in bringing some of these complaints to the attention of the FEPC. They came mainly from California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In all of these cases, the local companies had refused to hire colored operators.

Now that non-white operators are working in New York and New Jersey, the policy question in these areas appears to be resolved. We are also advised that recently the telephone companies in Detroit and Minneapolis have hired colored operators. We are eager to see a similar policy in the other areas. Accordingly, we would like to know whether the telephone company will now hire colored applicants in these states without discrimination.

We are interested in establishing a national policy which would provide for the hiring of all persons by the telephone company solely on the basis of qualifications. Favorable action in those areas where there were clearly defined instances of discrimination against colored applicants for operator jobs would be an indication of good faith on the part of the company. Any follow-up conversations on this matter will be useful, but I sincerely hope that your company is now ready to make a public commitment on specific action it will take.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

Meeting of the National Labor Committee

Thursday, October 24, 1946

The first meeting of the National Labor Committee of the NAACP was held on Thursday, October 24, at 11 a.m., in the offices of the Association, 20 West 40th Street, New York City, pursuant to notice.

Present: Messrs. Frank Fenton of the American Federation of Labor, Boris Bishkin of the American Federation of Labor, Alfred Baker Lewis, Joseph Waddy representing Charles H. Houston of Washington, the Secretary, the Labor Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the Administrative Assistant in the New York Office and the Special Counsel, and the Director of Branches. Mr. Walter Reuther had promised to send an alternate, but was unable to do so. However, Mr. Victor Reuther was in the office on other business and stepped in the meeting for a few minutes. He expressed full cooperation of the UAW with the Labor Committee. Mr. George Weaver was unable to be present but sent written approval of the program. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt also sent her approval of the Committee's objectives. A similar letter was received from Father Francis J. Gilligan of St. Paul.

LABOR DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES: The proposed objectives of the Labor Department of the Association as outlined by the Labor Secretary were discussed.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the Committee
VOTED, To accept the following as objectives of the Labor Department:

- "1. Elimination of: discriminatory employment practices in industry and government which result in refusal to hire colored workers, wage differentials based on race, unequal opportunities for training and promotion, unfair dismissals, and segregation in employment because of race.
2. Greater participation of colored persons in the trade union movement.
3. Ending of segregated locals, auxiliaries, and any other discriminatory practices in labor unions.
4. Passage of state and federal FEPC legislation.
5. Inclusion of non-discrimination clauses in state and federal laws pertaining to the employment of persons in the execution of government contracts.
6. Joining with labor unions for the enactment of legislation favored by labor for the advancement of wage and welfare standards and for the repealing of unfavorable labor legislation.
7. Expanding and improving opportunities for vocational training on the basis of non-segregation."

SO VONET POSH UTREEST' HAN KOLA
ON UNILATEDA' OORAPDEL Sp' UZ I
THE LITLAE WEECTING OF THE HEST

RECEIVED
RECEIVED OF THE
RECEIVED

POST-WAR UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG COLORED WORKERS: In the discussion on this subject, it was pointed out that many Negroes were hired during the war time only because of the pressure of having to get someone to work or pressure from FEPC. In most instances they were the last to be hired and so on the basis of seniority, they are the first to be laid off when there are curtailments in the industry.

There was discussion on the matter of securing figures on the number of Negroes being laid off, downgraded, and presently hired in the various industries. It was pointed out that there is great difficulty in securing such figures as they are not available from usual government sources. The Labor Secretary suggested that if the unions were willing to cooperate such figures might be secured from them.

The Director of Branches asked whether it was inconsistent to fight on one hand to keep unions and government from identifying workers by race on their records and then on the other hand request such information from them. The Special Counsel pointed out that he did not feel this to be inconsistent because even though we are fighting against the keeping of such records, they are being kept in a great many instances.

It was understood that exact figures could not be secured, but it was generally agreed that unions should be contacted and asked to give an approximation. Thus, at least in certain industries where there have been large cutbacks, we would have an idea of what the picture is with regard to Negroes.

Mr. Fenton stated that he felt that we should use as much affirmative action as possible--that is we should try to get representatives on the various boards and committees set up by government and unions so that in that way we will know what is happening. He further stated that he felt the NAACP should work with all groups in its labor program and not single out any particular one.

SOUTHERN ORGANIZING DRIVES: By a resolution adopted at the Cincinnati conference in July, the NAACP voted to support the organizing drives of the AFL and CIO in the South.

Mr. Lewis suggested that the National Office should contact all branches in the areas where drives are going on and inform them where they can contact AFL and CIO and urge them to take part in the organizing. It was suggested that heads of the drives in the South should be contacted and asked to furnish NAACP with information about when they are going into certain areas in order that this information can be furnished to branches.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY: Some information has been secured re shortages of workers by skills in specific areas in the construction industry. The Labor Secretary reported that this information has been sent to the branches with the request that they check to see if it is an accurate picture of their communities. Suggestions have been made as to how they may obtain full use of available skilled colored workers. They are urged to get colored workers to apply to the USCS for jobs in the industry, determine whether they are sent out on any of these jobs, and whether or not they are hired. The branches were also asked to aid in locating colored veterans who performed construction jobs in the armed services.

REPORT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
DATE: 10/15/54
TO: THE SECRETARY
FROM: MR. SHLEKIN
SUBJECT: DISCRIMINATION IN THE
EMPLOYMENT OF NEGROES
There are discussions in the
report on the subject of
discrimination in the
employment of Negroes
in the United States.

Mr. Shleikin reported that there are 12,000 communities set up under the government apprenticeship training program--that in each community there is a labor-management committee. Some larger cities have office set-ups. However, the government has secured only about 60% current reporting from these communities as to what is actually going on. The method of dealing with discrimination in this set up would be through the local USIS first, then taking the matter to the local building trades council and the local employers who are on the committee. Many communities have long waiting lists because employers have not been willing to take the responsibility of opening up employment to these men.

Mr. Shleikin suggested that he felt the Association should concentrate mainly on apprentice training for veterans because there might be more leverage there.

It was pointed out that many Negroes are kept from these trades because the unions in the localities where they are will not accept them to membership. It was agreed that this should be worked on. Mr. Shleikin suggested that the situations which offer chances for success should be concentrated on first. Where some have been accepted, try to get more in. Have branches point to the best situations and say this is what should be done.

It was pointed out that the Advisory Committee to General Erskine has adopted a statement of policy which covers non-discrimination. The AFL at its national convention also passed a resolution covering non-discrimination in policy. It was suggested that copies of these two resolutions should be secured and sent to our branches, that armed with these, they may be able to win some of their discrimination battles locally. If not, the suggestion was made that a committee from the top should take up the matter with the particular union. It was agreed, therefore, that when problems arise locally, which cannot be handled locally, the labor secretary will take them to the AFL or the CIO representatives on the committee for help from the top.

UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE: The labor secretary explained that the whole matter of discrimination in the USIS has been taken up with Secretary Schmollenbach. However, when the states take over the USIS case again there is little assurance that there will not be discrimination in many states. The governors of the various states have been written asking what they plan to do to keep discrimination against apprentices for employment at a minimum and listing suggestions given to the secretary of labor by the NAAOP. A few have answered. It is obvious that the South accepts the return of the USIS to the states and the announced minority group policy as a complete victory, the labor secretary said.

The suggestion was made that we transmit to the branches the recommendations which were made to the secretary of labor and to the various states, telling them this is what we have tried to get on a national scale and urging that they fight for such rights locally.

It was agreed that the fight for federalization of the USIS should still be pursued. It was stated that the AFL voted to keep on fighting for federalization.

The Labor Secretary pointed out that the Secretary of Labor indicated he would not withdraw federal funds from those states who discriminate because the Department would be open to too much criticism.

The Administrative Assistant suggested that in states where there are fair employment practice laws in effect, it would be well to ask the branches to work with the FEPC set-up in policing the USES to see that there is no discrimination.

The question was asked about possibility of bringing suit in cases of discrimination. Mr. Waddy pointed out that suit might be brought on the grounds that such discrimination is against rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. That would be the only grounds. It was agreed that the possibilities of a legal approach should be explored as a last approach.

LABOR LEGISLATION: Mr. Shishkin announced that in December the Department of Labor holds its conference on labor legislation. Labor union representatives are invited to this conference, and they have opportunity to get across some good things at this time.

The Committee listed a number of bills the passage of which both labor unions and the NAACP are working toward. Included were:

- Anti-Lynching Bill
- Anti-Poll Tax Bill
- FEPC Bill
- Federal Control of the USES
- Fair Labor Standards Act
- Wagner-Elender-Taft Housing Bill
- Federal Aid to Education Bill
- Strengthening of the Civil Rights Act.

Mr. Fenton pointed out that state legislatures need to be watched, and suggested that the NAACP get on state mailing lists so that it might know of new legislation in the states. He also said that the AFL plans to campaign against unfair state legislation.

LABOR EDUCATION: The Labor Secretary stated that he understood that both the AFL and CIO as well as the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce were to be given free radio time over a period of several weeks to present their programs to the public. He wondered how the NAACP could tie into these programs with the unions in order that the Negro aspect be included as part of the whole and not as a separate part of labor's program.

Mr. Fenton explained that the advertising Council which handled most war-time advertising or propaganda is going to furnish most of material for the AFL and suggested that NAACP contact them.

The Administrative Assistant suggested that we get our branches to secure local radio time over some of the smaller stations and work on labor education in that way.

Mr. Lewis recommended that the Association officially urge its branches to activate their members who are union members. Many belong to unions only because they have to and never take part in union activity. The Branch and Labor Departments should jointly notify the membership of the part that they can and should play in organized labor. Many Negro members are new members and do not know their responsibilities as union members.

SETTING OF MEETING DATES: It was decided that regular meeting dates would not be set up over any long period of time - but it was the consensus that quarterly meetings would be good. It was decided that the tentative date for the next meeting should be Tuesday, January 14, 1947.

The Labor Secretary stated that when issues arise which needed immediate attention, he would contact the Washington members of the Committee, if that were agreeable, for their opinion, mailing the material to the members of the committee who are not in Washington. This was generally agreed to.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Clarence Mitchell
Labor Secretary

November 6, 1946

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I communicated the contents of your letter about the Columbia, Tennessee case to Mr. Thurgood Marshall of the N.A.A.C.P.

Enclosed is a memo of part of his reply and I am sending it to you so you will know how he feels.

Very sincerely yours,

N. A. A. C. P. LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

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

LONGACRE 3-6890

President
ARTHUR B. SPINGARN
Vice-Presidents
HON. HUBERT T. DELANY
DR. WILLIAM A. NELSON
Treasurer
MARY WHITE OVINGTON

Executive Officers
WALTER WHITE *Secretary*
ROY WILKINS *Assistant Secretary*
THURGOOD MARSHALL *Special Counsel*
ROBERT L. CARTER
MARIAN WYNN PERRY
FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS
EDWARD K. DUDLEY (on leave)
MILTON B. KONVITZ (on leave)
Assistant Special Counsel

Board of Directors

ATLANTA, GA.
Eugene M. Martin
Rev. Joseph W. Nicholson
BALTIMORE, MD.
George B. Murphy, Sr.
CHARLESTON, W. VA.
John W. Davis
FALLS VILLAGE, CONN.
Dr. William Allan Nelson
NEW YORK, N. Y.
Hon. Hubert T. Delany
Douglas F. Felchner
Lewis S. Gannett
John Hammond
Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
Mary White Ovington
E. George Payne
Arthur B. Spingarn
Hon. Charles E. Toney
NORTHAMPTON, MASS.
S. Ralph Harlow
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Hon. William H. Hastie
Dr. Charles H. Thompson
Dr. Elizabeth Yates Webb

National Legal Committee

HON. WILLIAM H. HASTIE, *Chairman*
ATLANTA, GA.
A. T. Walden
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
Arthur D. Shores
CHARLESTON, W. VA.
T. G. Nutter
CINCINNATI, OHIO
Theodore M. Berry
CLEVELAND, OHIO
William T. McKnight
DALLAS, TEXAS
W. J. Durham
ERIE, PA.
William F. Illig
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
Thomas L. Griffith, Jr.
Loren Miller
LOUISVILLE, KY.
Charles W. Anderson
MADISON, WIS.
Lloyd Garrison
NASHVILLE, TENN.
Z. Alexander Loubby
NEW YORK, N. Y.
Donald Crichton
Morris L. Ernst
Osmond K. Fraenkel
Arthur Garfield Hays
Karl N. Llewellyn
James Marshall
Shad Poller
Hope Stevens
Charles H. Studle
Andrew D. Walenberger
PITTSBURGH, PA.
Homer S. Brown
RICHMOND, VA.
Spottswood W. Rabinsone, III
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
Bertley C. Crum
TULSA, OKLA.
Amos T. Hall
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Charles H. Houston
Edward F. Lovell
Leon A. Eansom
Ruth Wayand
WILMINGTON, DEL.
Louis L. Redding

October 28, 1946

Handwritten signature: Arthur B. Spingarn

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I returned to the office a few days ago and have gone over the correspondence between you and Attorney General Tom Clark, concerning the Grand Jury investigation of the Columbia, Tennessee, case.

In the first place, Mr. Clark takes the position throughout the letter that there is no positive identification of any of the state officials responsible for the destruction of property and other items. I have always been surprised at these statements because the United States Department of Justice never seems to have any hesitancy in admitting its inability to perform its functions in regard to Negroes' rights. The F.B.I. has one of the finest records of any investigating organization that we know of. They have been able to ferret out spies and other espionage agents, saboteurs, well-known gangsters such as Dillinger, etc., and I know of no instance where they have been unable to get positive identification of criminals or to build up cases where there has been a violation of federal law except where the victims are Negroes. A huge National Guard Unit was present on the scene when this property was destroyed. There were also a tremendous number of Highway Patrolmen. There were large numbers of white former mob members standing around, and now the Department of Justice says they cannot get a single person to identify at least one person guilty of what can only be termed as

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

October 28, 1946

"wholesale destruction of people's property".

Either the Department of Justice, including the F. B. I., fell down on the job of investigating the case or they deliberately closed their eyes. However, I would not be completely frank unless I admitted that I did not expect a whole-hearted attempt by the Department of Justice to bring about any convictions of any state officers in Senator McKellar's home state. I am always aware of at least one other very important case where a sheriff killed at least one Negro without cause and the Department of Justice found itself unable to prosecute because it was, I imagine, too close to Boss Crump's territory. This was, of course, before Attorney General Clark's term of office.

As to the Grand Jury investigation itself, there are several questions which Attorney General Clark has ignored, one of which is that the Negro witnesses who were the victims were placed before the Grand Jury without any consultation whatsoever with any lawyer of the United States Department of Justice. In all of my years of practice, I have never heard of a prosecuting attorney presenting a complaining witness, or witnesses, to a Grand Jury without first talking with him. It has also never been satisfactorily explained to me why it was necessary to hear all of the state officials accused of committing the crimes before hearing from the complaining witnesses. It has never been satisfactorily explained to me why the Negro complaining witnesses before the Grand Jury were required to stand around in the hall waiting day after day to be called in. It likewise has never been satisfactorily explained to me why the Federal Government permitted one of its witnesses, while waiting to testify before the Grand Jury, to be carried away by state officers to be questioned for a long time and otherwise threatened. It is also an anomaly to consider the all-white jury investigating an occurrence between white and colored people where the whole question was as to whether the Negro or the white group was responsible.

Last, but not least, it has never been satisfactorily explained to me why the Attorney General, while conversant with the conditions in Nashville, and especially in view of the fact that the United States District Attorney was a resident of Columbia, Tennessee, who had already issued a statement that no federal rights had been violated, did not proceed by the filing of an information rather than by having a Grand Jury investigation. I do not think there is any doubt that the Grand Jury investigation turned out to be an investigation not of a violation of the civil rights of Negroes, but an investigation of organizations and other matters foreign to the subject,

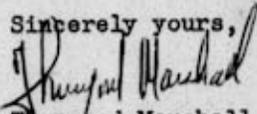
As to the Grand Jury report, I think we can gather from the admissions of Mr. Bomar at the Columbia trials that there can be no question that federal civil rights were violated. If the

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

October 28, 1946

Department of Justice would only go after Mr. Bomar as they should, I have no doubt, after observing him at the earlier portions of the Columbia trial, that he would "tell it all".

Sincerely yours,



Thurgood Marshall
Special Counsel

TM:GS
uopwa-19-CIO



NRA C P

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

November 26, 1946

Handwritten: Mr. Marshall
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of November 6, 1946, enclosing a portion of Mr. Thurgood Marshall's memorandum concerning the contents of my letter to you of October 8, 1946. My letter discussed the Columbia, Tennessee, racial disorder and stated, among other things, that the grand jury was unable to return indictments because there was no identification of any person violating Federal laws.

Mr. Marshall expresses surprise at this statement and points out that, at the time the property of the Negro people was destroyed, the National Guard Unit was present, as well as a great number of Highway Patrolmen. The record shows, however, that none of the witnesses appearing before the grand jury could identify any person responsible for the property damage which occurred or for any other act prohibited by Federal laws. As a lawyer, I am sure that Mr. Marshall knows the necessity for such identification and that no indictment could have been returned against the National Guard or Highway Patrolmen as units or organizations without such identification. I might add that the witnesses before the grand jury numbered more than 390 and included those whose names were supplied by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and similar organizations.

Mr. Marshall further states that it is to be gathered from the admissions of Mr. Bomar at the Columbia trials that there can be no question that federal civil rights were violated. In this connection, Mr. Theron L. Gaudle, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Original Division,

and others of the Department conferred at length on October 23, 1946, with Mr. Leon A. Ransom, one of the NAACP attorneys in the Lawrenceburg trials. At that time, Mr. Ransom expressed an opinion similar to that of Mr. Marshall and promised to furnish the Department with a Transcript of the Testimony containing Mr. Bomar's alleged admissions. The Transcript has not yet been received, but, when it is placed in our hands, it will be given careful study and attention. Should our examination reveal evidence of violation of Federal civil rights statutes, appropriate measures will be quickly taken.

W. L. Ransom

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

W. L. Ransom
Attorney General

N. A. A. C. P. LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

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

LONGACRE 3-6890

Executive Officers

WALTER WHITE
ROY WILKINS
THURGOOD MARSHALL
ROBERT L. CARTER
MARIAN WYNN PERRY
FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS
EDWARD R. DUDLEY (on leave)
MILTON R. KONVITZ (on leave)

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Special Counsel

Assistant Special Counsel

President

ARTHUR B. SPINGARN

Vice-Presidents

HON. HUBERT T. DELANY
DR. WILLIAM A. NEILSON

Treasurer

MARY WHITE OVINGTON

Board of Directors

ATLANTA, GA.
Eugene M. Martin
Rev. Joseph W. Nicholson
BALTIMORE, MD.
George B. Murphy, Sr.
CHARLESTON, W. VA.
John W. Davis
FALLS VILLAGE, CONN.
Dr. William Allan Neilson
NEW YORK, N. Y.
Hon. Hubert T. Delany
Douglas P. Falconer
Lewis S. Gannett
John Hammond
Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
Mary White Ovington
E. George Payne
Arthur B. Spingarn
Hon. Charles E. Toney
NORTHAMPTON, MASS.
S. Ralph Harlow
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Hon. William H. Hastie
Dr. Charles H. Thompson
Dr. Elizabeth Yates Webb

National Legal Committee

HON. WILLIAM H. HASTIE, Chairman
ATLANTA, GA.
A. T. Walden
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
Arthur D. Shores
CHARLESTON, W. VA.
T. G. Nutt
CINCINNATI, OHIO
Theodore M. Berry
CLEVELAND, OHIO
William T. McKnight
DALLAS, TEXAS
W. J. Durham
ERIE, PA.
William F. Illig
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
Thomas L. Griffith, Jr.
Loren Miller
LOUISVILLE, KY.
Charles W. Anderson
MADISON, WIS.
Lloyd Garrison
NASHVILLE, TENN.
Z. Alexander Looby
NEW YORK, N. Y.
Donald Crichton
Morris L. Ernst
Osmond K. Fraenkel
Arthur Garfield Hays
Karl N. Llewellyn
James Marshall
Shad Poller
Hope Stevens
Charles H. Studin
Andrew D. Weinberger
PITTSBURGH, PA.
Homer S. Brown
RICHMOND, VA.
Spottswood W. Robinson, III
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
Bartley C. Crum
TULSA, OKLA.
Amos T. Hall
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Charles H. Houston
Edward P. Lovett
Leon A. Ransom
Ruth Weyand
WILMINGTON, DEL.
Louis L. Redding

December 30, 1946

Jill

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Pursuant to Mr. Marshall's instructions,
I am enclosing herein copy of a self-explanatory
letter to Mr. Tom C. Clark re the Federal Bureau
of Investigation.

Mr. Marshall extends his best wishes to
you for a very happy New Year!

Very truly yours,

Gloria Samuels
Gloria Samuels
Secretary to Mr. Marshall

Enc.

December 27, 1946

Hon. Tom C. Clark
Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

You will remember that sometime ago, I agreed to bring to your personal attention matters which affect Negroes in connection with the Department of Justice. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has done a good job on peonage in the South. With the exception of peonage, the record of the F.B.I. in investigating cases involving Negroes has been notably one-sided. The inability of the F.B.I. to identify any members of the lynch mob in the Monroe, Georgia, lynchings is the latest example of this. In the disturbance at Columbia, Tennessee, on February 25th and 26th of this year, it is reported that F.B.I. agents were sent in almost immediately and were supposed to have made a thorough and complete investigation, yet, they were unable to produce the name of a single individual responsible for the acts of violence and the destruction of the property of the Negroes in that town.

In the past, the N.A.A.C.P. and other organizations have used inexperienced investigators who have usually been able to produce the names of the members of the mobs. In the recent Minden, Louisiana; lynching, the President of our New Orleans Branch, with no experience as an investigator, was able to produce the names of members of that mob. In the beating of Isaac Woodard by Officer Shull, in Batesburg, S. C., we were able to produce eyewitnesses and the name of the police officer.

The F.B.I. has established for itself an uncomparable record for ferreting out persons violating

Hon. Tom C. Clark

December 27, 1946

our federal laws. This great record extends from the prosecution of vicious spies and saboteurs, who are trained in the methods of evading identification and arrest, to nondescript hoodlums who steal cheap automobiles and drive them across the state lines. On the other hand, the F.B.I. has been unable to identify or bring to trial persons charged with violations of federal statutes where Negroes are the victims. Such a record demonstrates the uneven administration of federal criminal statutes, which should not be tolerated.

You have called for a strengthening of the Federal Civil Rights Statutes, yet, I am sure it is apparent that there would be very little use to strengthen these Civil Rights Statutes if the F.B.I. continues its policy of being unable to produce the names of persons guilty of such crimes.

You will remember that Section 49 of Title 8 provides that you and other officials of the Federal Government are specifically required, at the expense of the United States, "to institute prosecution against all persons violating any of the provisions of Chapter 3 of Title 18 ... and to cause such persons to be arrested and imprisoned, or bailed, for trial before the Court of the United States or the territorial court having cognizance of the offense." This statute places an additional burden upon you and other law enforcement officials of the Federal Government over and above other duties included in the oath of office. For this reason, I believe that you, as Attorney General of the United States, have the clear duty and responsibility of making a complete investigation of one of your departments, namely, the F.B.I., to determine why it is impossible for this department to maintain a record as to crimes in which Negroes are victims comparable to its record as to other crimes.

This letter is being sent to you without being released to the press, and no publicity whatsoever is being given to it other than possible discussion with members of our staff. I expect to be in Washington during the early part of January and would appreciate an opportunity to discuss this matter further with you if you so desire.

Very truly yours,

TM:GS
uopwa-19-CIO

Thurgood Marshall
Special Counsel

P.S. In connection with the failure to identify members of the mob in the Monroe, Ga., lynchings, I imagine you have noticed the editorial in the NEW YORK TIMES for Saturday, December 21st, captioned "The Silent Indictment".