

JUST KIDS—A Bad Excuse.

By Ad Carter



NEGRO AWAKENING IN SOUTH AND WEST

Large Delegations to Attend "Suffrage Session" of National Race Congress in Washington, October 7-11—Local Units Being Formed in Every Section of the Country—Make Careful Note of Exact Day and Date.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 3.—Word is being received from many states by the officials of the National Race Congress of America indicating that interest in the forthcoming "Suffrage Session" of that organization, called to meet in this city October 7-11, is growing by leaps and bounds, and its success is assured. It is especially desired by President W. H. Jernagin that the exact date of this session is kept thoroughly in mind by the people in general, to the end that the deliberations of the National Race Congress may not be confused with those of another body somewhat similar in name, also announced for this city sometime in September. The organizations are separate and distinct (although not antagonistic), and the program of the National Race Congress of America is peculiar unto itself in points of race protection to be emphasized and in the method of reaching the results to be achieved. Delegates planning to attend the National Race Congress will bear in mind that the convention to which they are being elected will assemble here October 7 to 11, inclusive, at the Metropolitan Baptist church, R street between 12th and 13th streets Northwest, of which Rev. M. W. D. Norman is pastor, and will govern themselves accordingly. Any further information that may be desired will be cheerfully furnished by Drs. Jernigan, Norman and Callis, or Prof. John R. Hawkins from the national headquarters, 902 3d street, Northwest.

Local Units Being Formed All Over the Land.

Encouraging reports are being received from Rev. A. C. Garner, Rev. Daniel L. Reed, Rev. A. A. Graham and other agents in the field, who are giving their entire time during the month of September to the work of forming local units of the National Race Congress in various states, which will send delegates from every section to Washington in October. The colored people are manifesting a greater measure of enthusiasm for their own welfare than has been known at any time since emancipation and the readiness with which they are responding to the call of the representative men in charge of this cause, bodes well for the future of all concerned. Active work in the organization of local units is being carried on day by day by public-spirited men and women, and to make the convention truly "national," particular attention is being paid to the territory as far west as Kansas City and as far south as Texas and the gulf border, where a personal canvass is being made.

Prof. John R. Hawkins, executive secretary in charge of the \$250,000 emergency defense fund for the protection of the race everywhere, reports a constant inflow of subscriptions, with churches, fraternities, clubs, and individuals responding generously and heartily. The recent unfortunate race happenings here and in other places have deeply impressed upon our people the necessity for the maintenance of a substantial defense fund for just such emergencies, and Prof. Hawkins is confident he will be able to make a showing at the October convention that will be both surprising and inspiring.

The Negro press is lending a cordial

support to this movement, "of the people, by the people, and for the people," and there is every reason to believe that October 7 will bring to Washington the most vigorous outpouring of the race that the nation has ever witnessed.

"KEEP THE FIRES OF AMERICANISM BURNING"

"Let Us Keep Them Burning Until We Burn Up Every Jim Crow Sign and Every Jim Crow Car in This Country," Declared Colonel Jackson in Ringing Speech to Pythians.

(By Associated Negro Press.)

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Sept. 3.—"Dollars or other material gains count for little compared to the realization of our sacred constitutional rights in the mighty struggle in which we, a suffering people, now are enlisted," Robert R. Jackson of Chicago, major general of the uniform rank of the Colored Knights of Pythias, declared today in the supreme lodge convention here.

"This is no common task," the Chicagoan, a former member of the Illinois legislature, continued. "It is a gigantic struggle and should be accepted by all. Let me say to the world that the 12,000,000 people of our race kept the fires of Americanism burning. Let us keep them burning until we burn up every Jim Crow sign and every Jim Crow car in this country, to the end that instead of reading un-American signs, 'For Negroes Only,' we will read real American signs, 'For American Citizens.'"

"We have fought for every flag and nation under the sun, why not now fight some for ourselves? I do not mean to fight with guns, bayonets, cannons, revolvers, but with race unity, race solidarity and race leadership that will knock at the doors of congress of our nation and secure our rights as American citizens; or, in the event of failure to demand that those who represent us shall only represent us in the same proportion as we are allowed to exercise our rights in the ballot box.

"The world fought for democracy. We fought for it, too. Organizations such as ours must continue the battle of a just peace and a real democracy—democracy in all states. Organization will solve the problem without a tragedy. It will require fearless leaders who have patience and tolerance. Hate will not solve it, neither will prejudice. It is a big problem and a good job for big-hearted men and women, who will make good use of that uncommon thing, common sense.

RAILROAD MEN'S INTERNATIONAL BENEVOLENT INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 3.—In accordance with the plans of this organization for a boosting membership campaign, President R. L. Mays, is about to leave for New Orleans and Birmingham, where he will deliver a Labor Day address before the Colored railroad men on September 1 at Nashville. The international secretary, Dr. M. O. Bousfield, is also leaving for the east and will visit locals at Washington, Philadelphia, Jersey City, New York and Boston. Under the auspices of President C. G. Bernard of Local No. 56 at Boston, he will deliver an address on August 29 on the recent race troubles in Chicago and the progress of this Association, which now has 95 locals and a membership of 7,000.

OMAHA WOULD SOLVE THE RACE PROBLEM

By John Tholmer

To the credit of Omaha be it said, that while other communities are, to use a fitting phrase, "Sitting on the powder barrel," this fast growing and thriving city is too busy forging ahead to mid-western leadership to stoop to race entanglements.

Despite some newspapers who delight in printing large headlines on their front pages when a Colored man is accused of crime the town seems destined to keep on its remarkable progress towards wealth and upbuilding and still live in peace.

The people here, both white and Colored, are intelligent, law abiding and level-headed. Good citizens of both races have long ago made up their minds that if united lawlessness cannot develop and are set towards that end. True, there are in all races, good people and bad ones, but the breeders of evil are in such small numbers that a clash such as has disgraced some of our leading American cities is very remote here indeed. The Negroes who come here to escape southern peonage and oppression are as a rule hard working, honest folk. They have learned to labor and to wait. Years of disadvantages have been, while not of benefit to them in education, taught them to be patient. Given a fair chance they will be a credit to any community and a help to themselves. That the Colored man is a respecter of law and order was proved in several instances of late in which members of their race here were accused of crime.

Several weeks ago a Negro was alleged to have committed an assault on a white girl. The police called on several Colored men of prominence and explained the matter, giving a description of the assailant. These men with several more Colored men accompanied the officers to where the man was reported to be in hiding. After making a thorough search without avail, the chase was given up.

Several days ago a Negro was reported to have made indecent advances to a white woman and when she repulsed him he caught her by the arm, she screamed and he ran. Several Colored men from nearby gave chase and overtook him and turned him over to the police. They also appeared against him in court, where he was held in \$10,000 bail. Not only is the Colored man showing a proper regard for the law, but the white man who loves his family, his home and his country is determined also that every man without regard to circumstance shall be given a square deal. And especially so is this true of the returned soldier. They and the Colored brother were brothers in arms only a short while ago, all striving for the same end. Theirs were the same trials and toils, it was every American's job white and black, red, brown and yellow. When the call sounded every man went forth to do his duty and they did it well. Now that the task is done if there are any plums to pass around let the spirit of fairness rule. The Nebraska soldier has determined that it will not be all for Jim and none for Henry. Their better judgment has said, "Not only do we say those things, but we will put them in practice and do it honorably same as we did credit to our state and the nation." And they did. The city of Omaha joined in a welcome to its returned heroes all on Wednesday, August 27. A general holiday was proclaimed and Krug park was selected for the festivities. Thousands of buttons were passed out to the veterans of the world war.

A committee of citizens of both races were in charge of the activities. Thousands of soldiers, sailors and marines and their families and friends attended.

There were games, races, roller coasting, dancing and other sports. When the band struck up, Colored soldiers, like white ones, grabbed their partners and started to reel off their steps. The great pavilion was a dense mass of humanity, all bent on having a great time. Soon the orchestra noticed that Colored couples were mixed in among white and were dancing, too; without any apparent embarrassment—then things began to happen—they stopped playing. Several white soldiers approached the band stand and learned that it was caused by the presence of Colored couples on the floor. A hurried consultation was held by gentlemen representing both sides and a decision quickly reached that if the band would not play for the Colored they could not play for the whites, for it was a picnic for all, not only in word but in fact. The band played on and until a late hour everybody made merry. There was no disturbance, never a cross word passed by anyone and everybody went home thoroughly happy and overjoyed by the day's treat.

To Omaha we will raise our hats as the foremost city in the country that will solve a vexed question.

Wrinkles and black hair don't look well together.

DENIES MURDER; CRITICISES POLICE WORK

Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 31.—Maurice Mays, charged with murdering Mrs. Gertie Lindsey at Knoxville Saturday, and which was the basis for a race riot here last night, made a written statement in the county jail here tonight in which he sets up a complete alibi. Mays, who appears to be above the average intelligence, criticises the methods of the Knoxville police and declares that he will be cleared of the charge against him.

Mays in his statement says that he spent all Friday afternoon in a buggy, campaigning for a candidate for mayor, leaving the vehicle at the livery stable at about 8:30 o'clock at night. After talking awhile with some Negro girls on the street, Mays says that he met a friend, who carried him home about 12 o'clock. He then went to bed and was awakened about 3 a. m. by officers, who took him to the scene of the tragedy, where he was shown to a white woman, who identified him as the slayer of Mrs. Lindsey. Mays claimed that he urged the officers to leave the woman look him over the second time, but that they refused this request. He claims that some of the officers are prejudiced against him and that he had been cursed by Officer Andy White on a former occasion. Mays concludes with this statement:

"The case is one of oppression and injustice. Had the officers been honest in their actions they would have arrested several suspects filling the description and kept the arrest secret; then they would have allowed the lady to come in a composed condition and pick out the guilty party. As it is, it looks like bad management based on oppression and prejudice. I believe the court will believe me, as I am telling the truth if I die this very moment."

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