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A NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS.

THE REV. JOHN ALBERT WILLIAMS, Editor

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## President Wilson Stops Attack on Negro Press

### PRESIDENT REFUSES TO SUPPRESS PAPER

Fears That Suppression May Inflammate Already Rebellious Spirit.

(Special Article Service.)  
WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—The soft pedal has been put on the attack against journals of our race by Senator Byrnes of South Carolina to be seditious. The arguments against these papers were to the effect that they were radical in the extreme and dangerous in their tendency to renew bloody outbreaks between the white and black races.

Representative McDuffie of the First Alabama district, incensed by the contents of several publications, interviewed the postmaster general in an effort to secure the suppression of these periodicals. He pointed out a cartoon representing a man driving an automobile through masses of fleeing whites, the colored man driving and shooting into the frantic crowds. Men falling were soldiers wearing service stripes. He pointed out editorials in which the editor congratulated our people for their successful opposition to mobs in Washington and Chicago. He also pointed out a paragraph in which it was said that in certain emergencies "a bullet as far more efficacious than a thousand prayers."

**Burleson Called.**  
Postmaster General Burleson was interviewed by Mr. Duffie. He agreed with Mr. McDuffie that the publications were inflammatory. Regarding the interview the Alabama member said:

"The postmaster told me that he had been considering and was still considering the advisability of denying the mails to 'The Messenger,' published at 2305 Seventh avenue, New York City. He stated also that the attorney general was also giving thought to the subject. He then declared that the president had suggested that no such action be taken at the present time. It is evidently another case of 'watchful waiting.' The postmaster general was entirely sympathetic, for he feels, of course, just as all other southern men feel."

**Department of Justice Tried.**  
From the postmaster general, McDuffie went to Mr. Lamar of the department of justice, who is also an Alabamian. Mr. Lamar stated that he was giving this periodical "earnest consideration. He clearly stated that he was bewildered because if any action was begun to suppress this paper, the best argument would be on the side of the paper."

**Papers Have Best Fight.**  
It was brought out in the course of the interview with Mr. Lamar that although he was opposed to the publishing of these papers, they could in any contest of their rights to publication state that they were simply attacking the lynching evil. This, of course, is a very embarrassing question in Washington. Mr. Lamar stated his opinion that these journals would arouse considerable sympathy in the north.

**Wilson Refuses to Act.**  
The matter was brought to the attention of President Wilson, who postponed any drastic action. Mr. McDuffie withheld a statement setting forth his opinion as to why the president suggested a postponement of action against the radical press. In all probability, however, the president was moved through fear of the "unrest" which prevails everywhere in the United States. It was probably his opinion that it would be wiser to suffer the danger of such publications precipitating other riots throughout the United States than to force the radical element of the north into the ranks of rebellious policemen, striking labor, pro German agitators, sleepless I. W. W.'s, extreme socialists and professional anarchists.

The prevailing opinion in Washington is that the action of the president is due to the danger of sovietism, bolshevism and actual revolution in the United States. The president, it is indicated, is moved through desire to compose the discordant elements rather than crush them with an iron hand. There are many members of congress who believe the president on the proper track. There are others who compare his course in the present emergency to his course in dealing with Mexico, a course apparently characterized by a lack of "punch" and aggressiveness in general.

For Monitor office call Doug. 3224.



UNION STOCK YARDS—PENS AND SHEDS

Omaha Is One of the Largest Packing Centers in the Country—Hundreds of Race Workmen Are Employed Here.

### FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION NATIONAL RACE CONGRESS

(Special to The Monitor, by Walter J. Singleton.)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—The fourth annual session of the National Race Congress of the United States of America opened their sessions in the Metropolitan Baptist Church, Tuesday morning, October 7th, with the Rev. W. H. Jernagin, president of the congress, presiding. Delegates representing nearly every state in the union were present and most of them spent the entire week here sightseeing between convention hours.

**Welcomed by the Mayor.**  
Commissioner Louis Brownlow opened the meeting with an address of welcome to the delegates, who represented practically every state in the Union.

Mr. Brownlow said that Washington is the logical place for such a convention and welcomed the delegates to the city.

**Urges Fair Play for Colored Race.**  
Bishop I. N. Ross of the A. M. E. Church who sails for Africa on the 25th of this month, addressed the opening session of the National Congress, and said abolition of "Jim Crowism," proper use of the ballot by Negroes, stopping of proscription from the church and the necessity for cool judgment in race matters were the questions to be considered.

Referring to the race riots in Washington in July, Bishop Ross said that it was the lawless element of the city which began and continued the trouble and that the older head among both races counseled caution. The speaker, however, urged that some action be taken by the leaders of the colored race toward minimizing such danger in the future, by cautioned leaders to be sure of their footing before setting themselves up as standards for the race.

**The President's Address.**  
"The Negro is no longer regarded as an object of charity nor a child race in the American civilization," declared the Rev. Dr. W. H. Jernagin, of this city, in calling to order the fourth annual session, "and he must stand up and take a man's place, or he will be crushed to a frazzle. White men and black men have drifted into a misunderstanding in this country. Let the better class of both races get together to put down crime."

**Our Grievances.**  
Our grievances are a beam in the eye of America which must be removed before the moat is attacked in the eyes of other nations. If as appears, all movements toward liberty and justice and right must be made through precious blood, then our record is perfect, for our blood has been mingled with the blood of the makers, the saviours and the builders of this nation, since its earliest colonial period. Demand any proof you may, we have met it. And yet, despite the record, despite the law, despite the repeated assertion of those who constitute the custodians of the liberties and powers of this nation, your people and my people are lynched, mobbed and burned at the stake with a fiendishness which is beneath that of the savages who were found here, and courts declare themselves powerless to convict the perpetrators when your people and my people are the victims.

This session of the National Race Congress of America is fraught with issues of greatest moment, such, indeed, that I do not speak thoughtlessly. (Continued on Page 2.)

### ARMOUR & CO. TAKE COLORED WORKMEN TO ST. PAUL PLANT

(Associated Negro Press)

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 15.—The proposed importation to St. Paul of 1,500 Negro workmen at the new Armour plant, has resulted in the appointment of a committee by the St. Paul Association housing workers to consider the problem.

The fact that one of the strong underlying causes of the recent race riots in Chicago was due to no small extent to the housing situation has prompted the action of taking up the question here in advance.

Negro citizens in St. Paul are taking a strong interest in the satisfactory arrangements of housing the large increase in the Negro population. D. W. Alberts, member of the housing committee of the St. Paul Association, has taken up the work.

### NEW YORK DOCTORS WIN VICTORY; TO BE ADMITTED TO HARLEM HOSPITAL

A Crowning Victory for the United Civic League.

Six years ago the United Civic League started its fight for colored internes in Harlem hospital, and each year since then the organization has made colored internes in this hospital a campaign issue.

The League continued to hold conferences and send committees to meet Bellevue's board, under whose supervision the Harlem hospital property comes, until they were definitely promised that colored doctors would be admitted.

Dr. Louis T. Wright is the first of the colored doctors to be appointed. Others will follow. The League is now seeking to have colored women entered as nurses.

Honorable James D. Carr, of the corporation counsel's office, lent much valuable assistance to the League in bringing about this civic achievement for colored Harlem.

### NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE TO MEET IN DETROIT

National Body to Hold Important Conference—Negro Wage Earner Chief Topic of Discussion.

One of the most important conferences affecting Negroes in this country will be held on October 15 through the 19th at Detroit, Mich. This conference is being called by the National Urban League to discuss industrial problems brought about largely because of the Negroes' new position in the industrial world.

Prominent white and colored speakers who are interested in Negro welfare and who are thoroughly conversant with industrial problems will be present. Social workers, ministers, teachers, doctors and publishers, and all who are interested in the wage earning Negro should avail themselves of the unusual opportunity to be present to hear the important discussions.

We must deal with pleasure as we do with honey, only touch them with the tip of the finger and not with the whole hand for fear of surfeit.—Venerable Bede.

Monitor subscription contest closes Saturday, November 15. Get busy if your church is going to earn that \$100.

### DR. JOHNSON AND ENTIRE FAMILY WIPED OUT

Killed by Arkansas Cotton Robbers, Who Are Fighting Against Giving Up Practice of Fleecing Negro Tenants.

Helena, Ark., Oct. 15.—The worst tragedy of the riot was the slaying of the Johnstone family, old residents of this section. They were halted by white men on a country road as they were returning from a fishing trip, unmindful of the riot. Orley R. Lilly (white), well known real estate dealer of Helena, stopped the men to question them, and it is claimed, became abusive. He was accompanied by several special deputy sheriffs. It is said that Lilly accused the Johnstones of being ringleaders of the affair, and ordered them to get in his automobile and prepare to journey to the county jail. Dr. Ellhue Johnston attempted to explain his absence from the city during the trouble, and that he and his brothers were innocent of any connection with the lawlessness. The deputies and Lilly attempted to force the men in the auto, and shooting began. Lilly was killed, one deputy seriously wounded, and the four Johnston boys were slain outright.

### ASKS CONGRESS TO ENFORCE AMENDMENTS

New York.—The twelfth annual session of the National Equal Rights League ended its three-day session at the Metropolitan A. M. E. church. It closed with the appointment of a committee of five to urge upon congress the passage of the Madden bill, directed against the "Jim Crow" cars on transportation lines and the strict enforcement of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution. This action of the league followed the story told by William Monroe Trotter, peace petitioner from the league, who told how he had reached Paris under trying difficulties despite the positive attitude of the government that none of the league's delegates should be given passports to Paris.

### TURN BACK CLOCKS TO OLD TIME OCTOBER 26

Much Misunderstanding Due to Action of Congress in Killing Daylight Saving.

Washington, Oct. 15.—General uncertainty as to when the clocks of the nation may be turned back and daylight saving abolished seems to have resulted from the recent action of congress in repealing the daylight saving act. In answer to numerous inquiries officials have pointed out that clocks may not be turned back until the last Sunday of October, or October 26, at 1 a. m.

The Monitor's Phone Number Is Douglas 3224

### THE REIGN OF TERROR IN ARKANSAS

Truth About Alleged Uprising of Negroes Against Whites—Negroes Form Progressive Farmers' Association to Make Reasonable Terms With White Farmers on Share Crop Proposition.

White Man Accused of Inciting Riot Is Prominent Attorney Employed by Tenants to Take Cases to Court—National Association Issues Statement.

### COTTON PRICE CAUSE OF TROUBLE

HELENA, ARK.—In the section south of Helena and elsewhere in the black belt in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, the big land owners and many who are not big land owners, never settle with the share croppers on the farms. The tenants pick the cotton, put it in houses in the fields; the agent sends wagons to these houses, hauls the cotton to the gin, has it ginned, and tells the poor tenant nothing about what amount of cotton belonging to him was ginned nor anything about the price paid for it. In fact, the tenant has nothing to do with cotton after it is picked. When one of them goes for a settlement, the agent is always too busy. The owner, when he is on the farm, always is in a hurry and refers the tenant to the agent. So the Negro tenant never knows anything about what his account is or what his produce is worth or sold for. The trouble is no settlement is ever made. He is told that he can get whatever he needs. He is given a few dollars in cash for Christmas and that ends it. If he kicks or grumbles, he is kicked out of the store and if he strikes back he is mobbed. So in desperation, these Negroes concluded to organize so as to secure some relief from these outrageous proceedings. This organization has no other object than to secure some sort of settlement for their crops. To secure a hearing, the organization secured the services of the legal firm of Bratton & Bratton, of Little Rock, one of the leading and representative legal lights of the Arkansas bar.

### Tenants Received No Settlement in Years.

The truth of these statements, any unprejudiced jury can verify on examination. Most of those whose names the Negro furnished to their attorney, have made no settlement with their tenants in years.

Those Johnson boys, who were killed, were out on a fishing trip with a brother who was visiting them from Oklahoma and had nothing whatever to do with the society or the farmers. The four guns found in their homes were fowling pieces which they used in bird hunting. The guns found at the State Normal Branch School at Pine Bluff, were those furnished by the government for the military training of colored boys during the war. No leading colored man in this section of the state knew anything about the Negroes arming. The constitution of the society was published in the papers and prominent white men had attended and addressed the organization and no one believed then or now that there was any intention on the part of the members to do the whites any harm.

"The Uprising" was manufactured by these farm agents to permit them to continue the practice of wholesale robbery of the tenants. The good white people of the state should thoroughly investigate the complaints of those tenants and see that the same state of affairs does not exist in other sections of the state. The practice of robbing Negro tenants ought to be stopped if it requires the state troops to do it. If the state troops were used to stop the robbery of Negro tenants, they would not be needed to stop Negroes from demanding what is their own.

### Planters Incite Trouble.

As soon as the planters and agents were notified that the claims of their Negro tenants had been placed in such safe hands, they began to circulate false and misleading statements about Negroes arming. They, it appeared, got this man Lilly, whom it is alleged, was fined and fled from Mississippi under the charge of peonage and who, at this time, was some kind of an officer for the railroad corporation, to go out to the church where a meeting of the organization was being held

for the sole purpose of breaking up the meeting. They fired many shots in the neighborhood of the church, intending thereby to intimidate the Negroes, who were assembled there in a peaceful meeting. The men led by Lilly fired several shots in front of the church. Believing themselves to be the object of an unprovoked attack, Lilly and his crowd retired and soon returned and attacked a Negro who returned the fire killing Lilly and wounding his companion. Immediately the cry went forth that the Negroes were armed and rising to slaughter the whites.

The names of white farmers who were guilty of robbing their tenants, of course, were to be given to their attorney and these were the men whose names, that it is alleged the Negroes had intended murdering. Nothing was further from their intentions. Mr. Bratton, the white man implicated, of course, was there in the interests of his clients and had no other business than to see that they, for once, got a settlement.

These white landlords have resented for years any interference with their robbery of the colored tenants and the colored tenants have stood this about as long as they can.

### Arrest White Lawyer.

It has been asserted that Attorney O. S. Bratton (white), Little Rock, had advised our people to uprising. Bratton had done legal business for the Progressive Farmers' association and at one time had addressed the gathering during the Liberty Loan drive for the purpose of aiding the government war fund. Men who were employed by white farmers on the share crop proposition appealed to Bratton to aid them in bringing about a settlement with their land-owners, and he had prepared legal papers to present in court in defense of his clients. It is the work of enemies to destroy his influence in the community, he declared. Bratton is now in jail awaiting a hearing.

### N. A. A. C. P. ISSUES STATEMENT

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 70 Fifth avenue, New York, makes public the following letter from a correspondent near the scene of the race riots in Arkansas, showing cotton prices, not Negro insurrection, as the cause of the trouble. The correspondent, whose standing the association vouches for, writes:

"The whole trouble, as I understand it, started because a Mr. Braxton, a white lawyer from Little Rock, Ark. was employed by sixty or seventy colored families to go to Elaine and represent them in a dispute with the white planters relative to the sale price of cotton. The rumor is that the planters had organized to settle with the tenants for their cotton on a twenty-five cent basis, when it turns the planters would sell it for much more. Quite naturally the tenants objected to this and employed Mr. Bratton to represent them. A full statement by Mr. Bratton appears in some of the clippings I have sent."

"This 'Federated Union of America' is a camouflage. The real issue was the dispute over the price of cotton between the tenants and planters. The propaganda published in the press about 'Negroes being armed to kill all white people and take their farms away from them' is too ridiculous to be given any thought."

The clipping referred to is from the Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal, of Friday morning, October 3. According to U. S. Bratton, father of the attorney accused of "inciting" the Negroes, therein quoted, his clients "claimed that it had been impossible for them to obtain itemized statements of accounts or in fact to obtain statements at all, and that the manager was preparing to ship their cotton, they being share croppers and having a half interest therein, off without settling with them or allowing them to sell their half of the crop and pay up their accounts. As we were informed, there were some 65 or 70 of these share croppers who desired us to represent them. If it's a crime to represent people in an effort to make honest settlements, then he has committed a crime. If this is a crime in a country where we have been spending our money and the lives of our boys to make the country safe for democracy we do not understand what the word means."

Buy a home.