

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS

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350,000 Attend 426 Negro Confabs During 1950

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—An estimated 350,000 persons attended 426 Negro conventions, according to the U. S. Census report released this week.

These 426 conventions were held in 218 different places with 138 in the South, 66 in the North, and 18 in the West.

Chicago and Washington, D. C., top the nation as convention centers, playing hosts to 14 each. Philadelphia was the site of 13 conventions; Kansas City, Mo., 12, Atlanta, 11, and New York, Nashville, Tenn., Tuskegee Institute, Ala., and Richmond, Va., 10 each.

Sponsoring the conventions were 224 organizations with total membership of 10,188,773.

Leading the types of conven-

Harry Buford, Omaha Police Officer, Dies

OMAHA, Nebr.—Lt. Harry Buford died 3 a. m. Monday, January 8, 1951 at his home, 1804 N. 30th St. after a short illness.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, January 10th, at 10 a. m. at St. Phillips Church, 26th and Binley Sts. Pallbearers were Dr. Price Terrell, Mr. Milton Johnson, Atty. Charles F. Davis, Mr. M. A. McGee, Sgt. C. C. Dudley, Mr. Cleveland Lockard.

Survivors are his wife, Carrie, and two aunts, Mrs. Florence Johnson of Omaha, Nebr., and Mrs. Effie Brown of Atkinson, Kansas.

tions were religious and general fraternal, followed by educational.

Role of Religion in Personal Life

Part of the report from the Midcentury White House conference on children and youth.

"If we cannot learn to live together here, how can we expect to get along with people of other nations?" asked Professor Moses Jung of Columbia University, New York, in opening a discussion of the part religion should play in the personal life of Americans. Professor Jung pointed out that there are areas of agreement among the different faiths which are enough to link their efforts together. He emphasized their common concern for children and youth.

Dr. Raymond B. Johnson, Pastor of the First Parish Church, Hingham, Mass., said he was appalled by statistics which showed that not even half of the nation's children were even nominally connected with a church. "Nevertheless," he added, "among the other unchurched half we could find many persons who have many of the basic religious impulses."

The speaker declared that the religious factor is necessary for rounded personality development. "We need to broaden the base of our conception of religion," he said. "The difficulty is that we start off with definitions instead of developing in the individual a capacity for religion, giving him an opportunity to think the subject through and then to follow any particular faith which he may prefer." He described the fundamental concept of religion as consisting of three factors: A feeling that there is order in the universe guided by a supreme intelligence; a feeling that the individual has a right to a place in the overall scheme; active participation by the individual.

Msgr. John J. McClafferty, Washington, D. C., Dean of the National Catholic School of Social Work, Catholic University, discussed religion as a way of life. "Religion is not magic," he declared, "nor is it philosophy or ethics or art. Essentially, it is the liaison between man and God." Monsignor McClafferty added that it is impossible for religion to be free of doctrine. He called faith a valid method of acquiring knowledge. "Life is meaningless without religion," he said. "Unfortunately, many persons try to use religion as they would use a trolley car—only when, and as long as, it is going in their direction."

Rabbi Uri Miller, New York, Director of the Synagogue Council of America, said that the role of religion in relation to the normal child is long-range rather than remedial. "Lack of religion is the principal reason for the wide development of psychiatry in recent years," declared Rabbi Miller. "Nearly all religion teaches that this is a friendly world that there is a God who loves us. Because the religious person does not feel that he lives in a hostile world he is much less subject to emotional disturbances. Religion also stresses the importance of the individual, and the religious person is therefore less likely to have a feeling of being rejected."

March of Dimes

BY DR. R. G. GUSTAVSON

Chancellor, University of Nebraska; State March of Dimes Chairman and Member, National Research Advisory Committee, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

(Editor's Note: To bring our readers up to date on the most recent progress in the fight against infantile paralysis, The Voice will publish a series of articles especially written by Dr. Gustavson. This is the second of the series. The next article will appear next week.)

Last week we discussed what polio means to the people of the U.S. and of Nebraska in terms of money. But this does not give us a balanced account of what the polio scourge really means. The human element involved must not be overlooked.

We maintained last week that the past three years have seen more than 100,000 fellow Americans stricken with polio. We did not mention the 80,000 volunteer workers who are regular, active members of the National Foundation's 2,822 chapters serving every county in the United States and its territories. Nor did we mention the more than 500,000 additional volunteers who carry out the annual March of Dimes.

It is interesting to know, I think, that this vast organization is staffed by only 418 paid employees of whom 189 work in the national office and 129 in the field. Here in Nebraska, we have two paid state level personnel with an office secretary for each.

When we realize that Nebraska has had 1,856 polio patients in the past three years, we can better understand the tremendous work being done by the volunteers in Nebraska's 93 county chapters.

Of inestimable value to hospital staffs and, of course, to our patients has been the work of the Polio Emergency Volunteers. These volunteers for the most

part are housewives who have taken at least 20 hours of training in caring for polio patients. They perform a myriad of non-technical services for patients, thus relieving professional personnel for the more demanding aspects of patient care which only they can perform. In Douglas and Lancaster counties, more than 175 such volunteers have devoted literally thousands of hours to help in the care of patients in polio treatment centers in Omaha and Lincoln.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is, in fact, a volunteer organization. It is conducted on every essential level by unpaid workers. The foundation's national president, Basil O'Connor, himself, serves year after year without financial remuneration. Without these volunteers there would be no National Foundation. Care of the patient might be a hit-and-miss proposition, resulting in an inhuman percentage of life-long cripples which characterized the pre-Foundation days. There would be no co-ordinated research program. The nationwide educational program would not exist.

Each local county chapter of the National Foundation (and there is one serving each county in the nation) is administered by an executive committee of at least five persons elected at the annual meeting by members of the chapter. Anyone sufficiently interested to take an active part in the work of the Foundation may hold membership in his local county chapter. The officers include: chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer and at least one member-at-large. Assisting each local chapter is a Medical Advisory Committee.

(Next week Dr. Gustavson discusses the unique features of poliomyelitis.)

Medical Association to Work Closely With Armed Forces

The president of the Nebraska State Medical association announced Tuesday that the association has completed plans for close cooperation with the armed forces in securing adequate medical personnel for all branches of the military.

Dr. Charles Sheets, Cozad, stated that the medical profession in Nebraska "is anxious to aid the military in every way possible to meet the medical manpower needs of a rapidly-expanding service organization."

In order to help meet medical personnel requirements, Dr. Sheets has recently appointed a committee of doctors to obtain information and make recommendations to the military as to the availability of Nebraska physicians for active service duty.

The medical association president stated that the committee will have two main responsibilities:

1. Help provide Nebraska's physician quota.

2. Prevent the induction of doctors who are critically needed in their home communities.

Dr. Sheets explained that the names of all Nebraska doctors will be submitted to the committee by the military before they are inducted into the service. The committee, he continued, will investigate the status of each doctor and then make a recommendation to the military as to whether or not he should be called. Final decision in each case rests with the armed forces.

"This system will help speed the induction of doctors when they are needed," the Cozad doctor said. "It will also prevent many doctors from being called into the service who are more critically needed at home.

"As physicians it is our mission to care for the sick and injured, whether they are in civilian or military life. During the present emergency, Nebraska doctors will make every effort to carry this double load."

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