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HEW TO THE LINE

LARGEST ACCREDITED NEGRO NEWSPAPER WEST OF CHICAGO AND NORTH OF KANSAS CITY

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Omaha, Nebr., Saturday, Feb. 11, 1939

City
Edition

The Weather
Weather outlook for the
Period February 6 to 11.
Upper Miss. and lower
Missouri valleys and Nor-
thern and Central Great
Plains, rather frequent
precipitation; tempera-
tures about normal southern,
gen'l below normal north-
ern portions.

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Number 44

"STOP CROWDING THEM INTO SLUMS" -- Al Smith

AL SMITH, FORMER DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE, PLEADS FOR CHANCE FOR NEGRO

NEW YORK, Feb. 9 (ANP)—Alfred E. Smith, he of "Brown Derby" fame and Democratic candidate for president in 1928, made a strong plea for better educational facilities for Negroes and called upon the nation at large to help solve the racial problem at a Lincoln university luncheon given Wednesday at the Empire State club by J. Frederick Talcott, a member of the university board of trustees.

Mr. Smith, also a former governor of New York, pointed out that "the number of Negroes has trebled since freedom came to the race" and added "there has been talk about the Negro problem ever since then."

"But in the first place," he said, "part of what we call the Negro problem is a white problem. The white part of the population has not always done what it could to help the Negro on his long upward climb. Today we are trying to make our institutions serve them better and give them more opportunities. Opportunity is all they ask. They can and are solving their own problems and working out their own destiny. But they need some help."

After pointing out that the colored race is one tenth of the population "only three quarters of a century out of slavery, and only a few hundred years out of savagery," he declared:

"It strikes me that the remarkable thing is not that we have a Negro problem, but that the Negro is so little of a problem and has come so far in so short a time. We can help them work out their economic and educational future if we provide more adequate educational opportunities for them."

"We should stop crowding them into slums, both country slums and city slums. The Negro problem would be much more quickly solved, too, if better health and medical service were available to the race, and that is one of the things we must give attention to along with education, housing, jobs and better working conditions in the future."

"There isn't any bigger job ahead of us in this country than to help give the opportunity to this race that they are entitled to as citizens of the nation. To give them their opportunity will not only help them, but it will help the entire nation. It will make this a better and more harmonious country. This problem of race relations will take care of itself largely when the colored race is given educational advantages, health and medical care, better living conditions and more of the good jobs and not all of the poor ones."

Another of the speakers was the Rev. Dr. Walter H. Brooks, pastor of the 19th Street Baptist church, of Washington for 56 years, a former slave who is a member of the class of 1872. Dr. George Johnson, dean of Lincoln, spoke in the absence of the president, Dr. Walter Livingston Wright, who was ill. He referred to the increase in enrollment during the past 20 years and listed as needed facilities a library, dining hall, additional space for science study and new dormitories.

Dr. Johnson introduced several prominent alumni including both Dr. Brooks and Dr. Solomon Porter Hood of Atlantic Highlands, N. J., former minister to Liberia and a graduate of the class of 1873.

L. K. Williams, Guest Speaker

L. K. WILLIAMS GUEST SPEAKER AT FELLOWSHIP MEET IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans, Feb. 9 (By Leon Lewis for ANP)—Addressing several Baptist Fellowship meetings in New Orleans, Dr. L. K. Williams, Chicago clergyman and president of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., emphasized the "rejuvenation of the general church program to develop race leadership, endowed with a broader scope of initiative." He stated that "the church must contend for the solution of race problems" and that "its activity must not be narrowed into only getting people ready for heaven," but must include "a stimulative program to better living conditions here on earth."

The astute church heralded the church as the "only organization through political, economic and civil rights may be gotten." He explained that strict political and civic organizations had been stumped in their attempts to absolutely relegate the Negro from the throes of injustice and discrimination.

"The church," he said, "has the leadership in which the public has spiritual confidence and which holds the respect of the capitalist, the professional and the laborer. Why can't it utilize this power to bring about the economic reincarnation of a social readjustment, absolute political participation for the Negroes in all America as it has used to instill the principles of Christianity?"

"To be right with God," he continued "and unable to make a living is a travesty upon sound development; to accept the teachings of Christianity and be denied the freedom of democracy and social development is against the grain of the church program; and to develop leadership for soul stimulation without applying it to material uplift is a job less than half done."

Dr. Williams, who has graced pulpits and rostrums from coast to coast and from Gulf to Great Lakes told in brief detail what the Baptist has done to make a place for themselves in the history and progress of America. He appeared under joint auspices of committees from the First district, Ideal and West-side Baptist associations.

JONES AND MCGRAY TO HEAD CHICAGO CONGRESS

Chicago, Feb. 9 (ANP)—The Chicago division of the National Negro congress announced last week that Dewey R. Jones, resident worker at Hull House, has been elected president that George F. McCray, director of a local labor research study, had been elected secretary for 1939. Those newly elected officers succeed Dr. Charles W. Burton, who headed the local division since 1936, and Henry Johnson, whose heavy duties as assistant national director of one of the largest affiliates of the CIO made it impossible for him to continue as executive secretary.

LUNCH NOW AT NOON WITH LUCILE

Lucile Hamilton just returned from Chicago. She is serving meals with her mother, Mrs. Collins at 2623 1/2 Erskine St. The date is Thursday noon and Saturday noon Phone Web. 0360.

MURPHY DINNER PALACE CLOSES

Mrs. Dana Murphy who has been operating the Murphy Dinner Palace on West Center street for the past 15 years, has finally given up the business and is moving North in the near future.

Mrs. Murphy with the assistance of her mother, Mrs. Dotson has made a heroic effort to maintain and run a first class place, which was not only a credit to herself, but also to the whole group, which she represents.

Too much credit cannot be given Mrs. Murphy for the gallant fight she has made against great odds.

HIGH COURT TO GET OKLA. CASE

Washington, D. C. Feb. 6—Whether or not the registrar in Wagoner County, Oklahoma has the right to bar Negro citizens from registering to vote, under a state statute now in force, will be determined by the U. S. Supreme Court here the week of February 6.

The case of I. W. Lane, a citizen of Wagoner County, who was refused permission to register in Oklahoma in 1934 has been fought by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People through the federal courts and is now ready for disposition by the high court, attorneys for the association said this week.

The case marks the second time that the Association has carried the question of denial of voting privileges from Oklahoma to the high court. The court declared Oklahoma's grandfather clause, adopted by the state in 1901, unconstitutional in a decision handed down in 1915.

Attorneys representing Lane for the NAACP include: Charles A. Chandler, of Muskogee, Okla.; and James C. Nabrit, professor of law at the Howard university law school in Washington D. C.

Urban League Hears Race Discussed by Jew, Gentile and Negro

Columbus, Feb. 9 (ANP)—Over 200 persons heard a gentile, a Jew and a Negro attack the subject, "Race and the Present World Crisis," Thursday evening in the Griswold YWCA, at the 21st annual observance of the Columbus Urban League and its federated agencies, over which Dr. W. D. Inglis, president, presided.

Nimrod B. Allen, executive secretary, introduced the meeting and said "inter-racial and social justices, the mainstay of democracy, is the responsibility of all of us, and the league offers a practical experiment where those who are interested in human justice may find expression."

Dr. Robert L. Tucker, pastor of Indianola ME Church, discussed the subject from the point of view of the Gentile. He said, "Subversive agitation feeds upon human needs." Commenting the Columbus Urban League upon its service to democracy in the community, Dr. Tucker pointed out that "the Ur-

USA; NO DEMOCRACY FOR NEGRO SAYS WRITER

New York, Feb. 5—America falls short of being a democracy so far as Negro rights are concerned, asserts Lewis Gannett, well known book critic of the New York Herald-Tribune in an article in the Survey Graphic for February.

The February issue of the Survey Graphic is devoted entirely to "The Challenge to Democracy" under the title of "Calling America." The special guest editor for the issue is Raymond Gram Swing.

In his article showing up the short comings of American democracy toward the Negro, Mr. Gannett points out the discrimination in schools, jobs, sports, housing, legal rights and basic citizenship rights. He calls for equal opportunity for individual Americans everywhere and expresses the hope that America's new awakening the denial of democracy abroad will result in fulfilling the promises of our own democracy at home. He concludes:

"We still have a habit of forgetting about Negroes when talking about democracy in America. And while we are resenting the plight of the Jews in Germany, we may well think hard about Negroes in America."

ban league attempts to reduce the needs of a minority group that it might develop to a assume its responsibilities in the community."

Dr. Lee J. Levinger, research director for the B'nai B'rith developed his comment on the subject by reviewing current fallacies as illustrated in a recent publication "Lunacy Becomes Us," which deals with Nazi racial theories. He contrasted the constructive practices of a democracy with those used by "ism" groups who used racial difference as a basis for fomenting hatred against minority groups.

Dr. Charles H. Wesley, dean of the graduate school of Howard university, prefaced his statement: "America has almost set the example of treating groups according to race and European countries have further developed the pattern."

He pointed to three groups of thought as most conducive to misunderstanding of colored peoples as being: popular belief that Africa is a country of savagery, ignorance of the contribution of colored men to the world, and acceptance of inferiority theories regarding dark races.

MUST HAVE \$1,000 TO ENTER U. S. NEGROES WELCOME TO LIBERIA UNDER SELECTIVE IMMIGRATION POLICY

Monrovia, Liberia, Feb. 9 (ANP)—Inquiry as to the government's attitude toward denigration of Negroes to Liberia from America this week revealed that colored Americans having \$1,000 and more in cash (over and above their passage money) and physically and psychologically fit for rigorous, pioneering life, will be welcomed to the republic of Liberia.

It was learned that \$1,000 would be the smallest amount an emigrant should possess in order to establish himself and become integrated into Liberian life. Government officials are insisting on the selective immigration policy because all types of persons—whether from America or any other nation—cannot be absorbed. Liberia is largely an undeveloped country, it was explained and men most desired as immigrant are farmers, those trained in agriculture, or technicians and those who are proficient in forestry work.

There is only a limited demand at present for technicians, sci-

Conference Held On Anti-Lynch Bill

Washington, Feb. 6—Although America's foreign relations held the spotlight here this week, three conferences with key senators and representatives were held on proposed federal anti-lynching legislation by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

sands and tradesmen, but a fairly lucrative field is offered for immigrants qualified to assist in developing the vast forests of the country. It was explained that the government would grant to qualified immigrants, assist them in getting settled and becoming adjusted to their new surroundings. The settler, however, must "finance" himself until such times as his labors become profitable.

New Record Set In Speedy Trial of Negro Slayer; Given Life Term

Memphis, Feb. 9 (By James C. Dickerson for ANP)—A new record was set Wednesday in Judge Harsh's criminal court when Charley Atkins, 27, was tried, convicted and sentenced for the murder of Sept. 3 of L. A. (Jack) Gerard, white all in one day.

Atkins was sentenced by the all-white jury to life imprisonment. This is a summary of Wednesday's hasty schedule in which selecting of the jury took 20 minutes; the first 12 men who sat in the box were chosen; presenting of the state's case, three hours; presentation of the defendant's case, two hours; arguments of attorneys and charge to the jury, two hours; deliberation of the jury, one hour and 30 minutes.

The verdict was delivered to Judge T. W. Harsh at 8:30 Wednesday night. Immediately after it was read, Grover McCormick, public defender, representing Atkins entered a motion for a new trial which will be heard next Thursday. Atkins was charged with killing Gerard in his driveway of the latter's home after an argument. Testifying in his own behalf, Atkins repudiated his police confession and denied he had been in the vicinity of the Girard home on the night of the murder.

CIO Seeks Restraining Order Against AFL Men

New Orleans, Feb. 9 (ANP)—Charging that officers and members of the AFL union were interfering with their stevedoring duties by picketing wharves at which steamships of the Swayne and Hoyt Ltd., company docks the CIO affiliated a petition in the civil district court seeking to enjoin AFL from molesting or interfering with members of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen union.

The petition alleged that Paul Horton, president of the colored ILA, Leon Trajague, president of the white ILA, Manny Moore, Santos Garcia and William Donnels has been molesting and threatening CIO longshoremen seeking to unload boats. It charged that the AFL union men so intimidated seamen on the steamship Point Brava docked at the Congress St. wharf, that the seamen refused to turn on steam which would enable operation of machinery in the unloading of that vessel.

Judge Hugh C. Cage of the civil district court, signed an order requesting the accused persons to appear and show reason why they should not be enjoined. Definite action awaits the hearing on the injunction petition.

The Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper bill in the Senate and the Gavan bill in the House, along with several similar measures, were the subject of the conferences. Both the House and Senate bills are in the hands of judiciary committees and it is expected that hearings will be ordered by the committees shortly.

TEXAS GOV. GRANTS CONDEMNED MAN 30 DAY REPRIEVE Wants Him To Suffer More

Austin, Tex., Feb. 9 (ANP)—Gov. W. Lee O'Daniel, recently inaugurated as chief executive of the state on "the golden rule" platform last Thursday, as one of his first official acts, reversed his philosophy and postponed execution of a condemned colored murderer so he would "suffer the more."

According to the governor's conception of justice, the convicted man—Winzell Williams—committed an unpardonable error in killing a white man, his employer. Although opposed to capital punishment, Gov. O'Daniel reportedly said that in Williams' case he did not believe that "any punishment could be too severe."

"It seems to me," explained he, "that few forms of punishment could be more harsh than to see certain death staring you in the face day and night for 30 days. The death penalty will be inflicted March 5, unless the board (Board of Pardons and Paroles) extends clemency. I therefore grant a 30 day reprieve in order that Winzell Williams may suffer this dreadful punishment 30 days before he is relieved by death in the electric chair."

"Also, I am frank to admit that I believe in the Bible literally and do not intend to be a party directly or indirectly to killing a person. But the matter, according to law, is out of my hands and beyond my power at the end of his 30-day reprieve." Under Texas law, a governor may grant one 30 day reprieve has no power to pardon or to commute a sentence that authority vesting in the Board of Pardons.

Gov. O'Daniel, a former flour salesman and later head of the Hill Billy Flour Co. of Texas, won wide attention by his "Pass the Biscuits Pappy," slogan. Entering the Texas Primary (equivalent to election) a scant month before election day, O'Daniel campaigned throughout the state with his hill billy band—which included his musical daughter and two sons—popularized a song, "Beautiful Texas," whose words and music he wrote. Against a field of 11 candidates, Flower M a manufacturer-Crooner O'Daniel skrimshined successfully, won the Primary by a majority of 30,000 more votes than the total votes of all his opponents.

Afro-Insurance Company Home Office Valued At \$100,000

LEWIS IS HIGHEST PAID NEGRO EXECUTIVE IN THE COUNTRY

Jacksonville, Fla. Feb. 9 (ANP)—With the addition last week of the new annex valued at \$60,000, the entire home office structures of the Afro-American Life Insurance company are now worth \$100,000. They are located in the center of Jacksonville. A. L. Lewis, board chairman, is also the highest paid Negro executive in America.

Directors of this million dollar company after paying for the new annex, declared a 10 per cent dividend to all stockholders. For 11

BISHOP GRANT AME; PRELATE HURT IN AUTO CRASH; DIES

Jacksonville, Fla. Feb. 9 (ANP)—The Rt. Rev. R. A. Grant, nationally known churchman, presiding bishop of the AME Church in Florida and chancellor of Edward Waters college, passed away Tuesday in Brewster hospital, this city, as the result of injuries sustained last Saturday in an auto accident.

The mishap occurred while Bishop Grant was enroute to Jacksonville from Lakeland, Fla., scene of the Orlando conference of his church over which he presided. While traveling at a high speed his super-charged car left the road and struck a telephone pole. Rushed to Brewster hospital at first examination his injuries were not regarded as serious, but pneumonia developed and his strength gradually waned.

The Orlando conference at Lakeland was the last of the annual conferences of his district. The distinguished prelate was fatally hurt while returning to Jacksonville to attend the annual meeting of the Afro-American Life Insurance company, of which he was a director. Bishop Grant was a native Floridian.

The AME church throughout the state was plunged in gloom at news of his tragic death for he had been rendering a remarkable service in revitalizing the churches of his Episcopal district and in extending its educational program. The bishop's widow, Mrs. Maude E. Grant, survives.

straight years they have paid similar dividends, which is a record surpassing that of any other colored insurance company. The success of the Afro, says the directors, lies in the cultivation of the territory in which it is located rather than spreading to other areas.

The weekly premium income of the company from Atlanta alone averages \$19,498 and it has the largest income of any colored company for an individual state. L. Lewis guiding genius of the organization, owns more than 99 per cent of the stock and draws an annual salary of \$10,000 plus dividends. His dividend check this year amounted to \$9,900, giving him an income from the company of \$18,900.

WHITES DISTURB TALLADEGA PEACE

Talladega, Ala. Feb. 9 (ANP)—Rival relation in this peaceful little Alabama area were Talladega college is located have been strained in recent weeks, but school and city officials are hoping for an early return to normalcy.

The current unrest began some months ago when a white man endeavored to rob the comptroller's office. The school's night watchman caught him after shooting the intruder in the leg. White people about the town, a small village near the school, were a bit indignant about the shooting, even though the police department backed the watchman. There was some talking about blowing up one of the buildings. A little later the barn belonging to the college'd burn down rather mysteriously, causing some thousands of dollars worth of damage. There was no evidence pointing to the origin of the fire.

Then two weeks ago, there was a bit of disturbance at the local theatre, which has a section for the colored patrons. Because of the tension, girls were not allowed to attend this particular show because it was a midnight performance. A little fracas arose between the colored

(continued on p. 5)