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NEGRO NEWSPAPER PRESS REPRESENTATIVES AND PUBLISHERS HOLD CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO



Twenty-eight publishers and executives representing 21 weekly papers from New York to Nebraska met in Chicago for three days last week and organized the Negro Newspaper Publishers association. This picture, taken during the conference, represents what is probably the largest group of Negro publishers ever to gather at one time. First row, left to right, Miss Fannie McConnell, conference stenographer; William L. Sherrill,

assistant editor, Michigan Chronicle; Rev. J. C. Robinson, editor A. M. E. Church Review; Jacob R. Tipper, publisher Chicago World; Mrs. Marian Downer, manager, Chicago office Pittsburgh Courier; Anthony Overton, publisher, Chicago Bee; Cecil E. Newman, publisher, Minneapolis Spokesman; Frank Stanley, editor, Louisville Defender; Russell Cowans, Detroit Tribune. Second row: Charles Estelle business manager, Pittsburgh Ex-

aminer; D. Arnett Murphy, vice-president, Afro-American; John H. Sengstacke, general manager Chicago Defender; Otto F. Rohadfox, sports editor, Syracuse Progressive Herald; G. James Fleming, editorial consultant, Philadelphia Tribune; Lewis O. Swingler, manager, Memphis World; James B. Morris, publisher, Iowa Bystander; Mrs. Frank La Staff, home economist; J. A. G. LaValle, Washington, D. C. Third Row: Thomas W.

Young, business manager, Journal and Guide; A. N. Fields, Chicago office, Pittsburgh Courier; C. A. Franklin, publisher Kansas City Call; Joseph B. Brown Jr., publisher, Postal Alliance; Louis E. Martin, editor, Michigan Chronicle; C. C. DeJoie Jr., managing editor, Louisiana Weekly; Augustus G. Shields, advertising manager, Memphis World and C. C. Galloway, publisher, Omaha Guide.—Gushington, D. C.

Sengstacke Heads New Negro Newspaper Ass'n.; The Guide A Member

CHICAGO, Ill.—Twenty-eight publishers and executives representing 21 papers from New York to Nebraska organized the Negro Newspaper Publishers Assoc. and elected John H. Sengstacke, general manager of the Chicago Defender, its first president in a three-day conference which closed here Saturday, March 2.

Chief topic of discussion was national advertising machinery for making an exhaustive survey of the Negro market was set in motion. Later this data will be dramatized and presented to the large advertisers and their agencies.

D. Arnett Murphy, advertising manager of the Afro-American, Baltimore, Md., and C. A. Franklin, publisher of the Kansas City Call, conducted panel discussions on this subject.

Elon G. Borton, president of the Chicago Federated Advertising club, addressed the meeting Friday. He discussed the means by which Negro papers could more effectively penetrate the national advertising field.

Panel on editorial policy were conducted by Mr. Sengstacke and Thomas W. Young, business manager of the Journal and Guide, Norfolk, Va.

A publishers' information committee was designated to compile facts on issues affecting the general welfare of the race, and to disseminate that information to the member papers.

The group also adopted a resolution favoring the formation of a non-profit news-gathering organization controlled by the publishers. The Saturday meeting, devoted to "building our business," was presided over by G. James Fleming, representing the Philadelphia Tribune.

In the permanent organization plan adopted, membership will be restricted to "independent, secular newspapers sold to the general reading public." Representatives admitted to sessions must be corporate officers or business managers of the member newspapers.

Other officers elected are Thomas W. Young, Norfolk Journal and

Guide, secretary-treasurer; D. Arnett Murphy, Baltimore Afro-American, eastern vice president; Jacob R. Tipper, publisher of the Chicago World, midwestern vice president; Frank L. Stanley, editor of the Louisville Defender, southern vice-president, and C. A. Franklin, publisher of the Kansas City Call, western vice president.

Chicago again was chosen as the next meeting place. The date, to be designated by the president, will be between February 1 and 15, 1941.

Others attending the sessions were Russell J. Cowans, Detroit Tribune; Joseph B. Brown Jr., publisher of the Postal Alliance; Cecil E. Newman, publisher of the Minneapolis Spokesman; James B. Morris, publisher of the (Des Moines) Iowa Bystander; C. C. Galloway, publisher of The Omaha (Nebr.) Guide, Ivory Cobb, publisher and Charles Estelle, business manager of the Pittsburgh Examiner.

Also Otto F. Rohadfox, sports editor of the Syracuse (N. Y.) Progressive Herald; Rev. J. G. Robinson, editor of the A. M. E. Church Review, Philadelphia; C. C. DeJoie, Jr., managing editor of the Louisiana Weekly, New Orleans; Lewis O. Swingler, manager and Augustus G. Shields, advertising manager of the Memphis World; Anthony Overton, publisher of the Chicago Bee; Burton W. Lewis, publisher of the Metropolitan Post, Chicago.

Also Louis E. Martin, editor Samuel G. Phillips, advertising manager, and William L. Sherrill, assistant editor of the Michigan Chronicle, Detroit; Mrs. Marion Downer, manager of the Chicago office, Pittsburgh Courier, and Dowdal H. Davis, advertising manager of the Kansas City Call.

Publishers Conference Pays Respect To Memory of Robert S. Abbott

CHICAGO, March 6, (ANP) — Representatives of many of the nation's leading Negro papers, gathered here in a national conference called Thursday by John H. Sengstacke, vice president and gen-

eral manager of the Chicago Defender, took time out from opening sessions to pay tribute to the memory of Robert S. Abbott, editor of the Defender who died a few hours before the conference began.

Dewey Makes Founders-Day Speech

LINCOLN, Nebr.—Thomas E. Dewey declared in a speech here Wednesday night, that "after seven years of harrowing the country the New Deal has not yet scratched the surface of the farm problem" and added that under the present Administration "politicure has triumphed over agriculture."

At the same time he set forth an eight-point plan which he declared to be "part of any proper agricultural program, but only a part."

Mr. Dewey, outstanding candidate for the Republican nomination for President, spoke before a Founders' Day for Nebraska mass meeting in the coliseum of the University of Nebraska. The speech was broadcast over a National Broadcasting Company network.

The eight-point plan outlined by Mr. Dewey follows, in brief:

1. "Establish a fair parity between agricultural prices and industrial prices." This, he said, "is essential to the well-being of the nation," and can be achieved in two ways—"by raising agricultural prices," and "by reducing industrial prices." He added that "the practical ideal is a combination of both."
2. "Provide government crop loans at reasonable levels." Mr. Dewey said: "Agriculture, like industry, is entitled to adequate credit. It is absolutely necessary to insure the orderly marketing of crops—Crop loans should be part of the broad program to restore balance prices between agriculture and industry."
3. "Adopt a direct program of soil conservation." He said: "Under the present Administration soil conservation has been used as a devious method of exercising crop control. The next

Administration must see to it that conservation ceases to be a subterfuge for control. But it is not enough to check the waste of land by erosion. The fertility of the soil must be maintained and improved, with the assistance of government funds."

4. "Convert sub-marginal land to more economic uses."
5. "Extend the farm cooperative movement." Mr. Dewey said: "Much can be done by government to spread and further this work and to protect cooperatives from those who undermine them."
6. "Continue and extend the program for marketing agreements." Citing the experience in New York State where such agreements are "bringing a better price for dairy products," Mr. Dewey added: "Government can do much to advance the effectiveness of this

Noted Editor Robert S. ABBOTT DIES

FUNERAL MONDAY IN CHICAGO

Chicago, March 6 (AP)—Robert Sengstacke Abbott, who built the Chicago Defender into the first big newspaper owned by Negroes, is dead.

In ill health for several years, and in recent months confined to his mansion on South Parkway, the noted editor passed away in his sleep at eight o'clock Thursday morning. He was 69 years old.

Funeral services were to be held Monday at the Metropolitan Community Church, with many notables of both races in attendance. Rev. Archibald Carey, assisted by Revs. Evans and Bennett, were to officiate with burial in the Lincoln cemetery.

It was on Nov. 24, 1870, that Mr. Abbott was born at St. Simon's island, near Savannah, Ga. The son of slave parents, he was given schooling at Savannah and in Clifton college and Hampton institute, finishing the printing trade at the latter institution and singing with the glee club.

Coming to Chicago in 1895 at the age of 25, he attended the Kent college of law and received his LL.B. After practicing for a few years in Gary, Ind., he abandoned the profession and secured employment as a printer with the ambition of founding a newspaper to fight segregation. His first venture was a daily, but it did not last long.

On May 5, 1905, there appeared the first issue of the Defender. For several years, during the struggle to survive, it was published in the living room of an apartment on State street. From the start, Abbott carried on a bitter fight against southern Negro-phobes and sought to encourage the race as a whole.

Surrounding himself with able men, he saw the Defender grow phenomenally in 10 years. Then came World War 1 and entry by the United States into the conflict. Abbott fought uncompromisingly for the rights of Negro soldiers and the colored southerner who came north to work in industry. His circulation grew by leaps and bounds.

In 1921, when the Negroes who went to France to fight for democracy had returned and were fighting, with Abbott's help, against discrimination at home, the Defender had grown to such proportions that it became necessary to move to its present quarters on Indiana avenue. Its circulation, according to publisher's figures, was 205,000.

It is said that at its peak money came in so swiftly from circulation representatives that the clerks tossed money orders into paper boxes, counting them only when the day's last mail deliveries had been made.

Be that as it may, Abbott became a millionaire. At that time he paid himself a salary of \$2,500 weekly. This was in contrast with stories of the editor's early days of struggle, when he wore patched clothes, went without food, and begged the assistance of friends.

Twice he had to oust key workers from the newspaper after he became convinced they were robbing the business. The first major shakeup was in 1924 and the last was in 1934. Minor shakeups occurred frequently.

In the past 14 years, the rise of other strong papers in key locations cut into the Defender's circulation and revenue. In 1931 he launched the ill-fated Abbott's Monthly which, together with other losses sustained by business generally during the depression, ate in

to his reserve. During the past few years the Defender has been fighting to regain much of the ground lost in the past decade and a half.

Always interested in the advancement of his race, Abbott was active in fields other than newspaper. He made trips to Europe and South America to bind together Negroes and natives of these foreign lands. Here in the United States, he was awarded honorary degrees by Morris Brown college and Wilberforce University.

Had he desired, he could have received many political posts but he always declined. During World War 1 he served as a speaker on various Liberty Loan drives, was an advisor to the Southside draft board, and served on Gov. Lowden's Race Commission after the 1919 race riots. He was also a life member of the Art institute and Historical society and received the highest honor of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity for distinguished service to his race.

Mr. Abbott first married Helen Thornton of Athens, Ga., in 1918. They were divorced in 1933. Later he married the widow of Col. Franklin Dennison who survives him. Other survivors are his nephew, John H. Sengstacke, vice president and general manager of the Defender; two sisters in Savannah, Miss Rebecca Sengstacke and Mrs. Eliza McKay, and two other nephews and four nieces in Chicago.

DR. CARVER ASKS SOUTHERN AID FOR SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Appeal Follows Donation of Life Savings to Carry on Work—"I'm Only a Trail Blazer for Those Who Come After Me," He Says.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., March 6, (ANP) Last Sunday, while discussing his recently announced donation of his life savings of \$33,000 for development of the George Washington Carver Foundation here at Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Carver said he hoped the South would lead in contributions to the proposed \$2,000,000 foundation, as its aim is "to serve all the people."

Dr. Carver, who for more than 20 years has been teaching and conducting his experiments at Tuskegee, parachuted the lowly peanut into a \$60,000,000 industry and has discovered over 300 practical uses for the peanut, among them being his now famed treatment for infantile paralysis.

"I'm only a trail blazer for those who come after me," declared the 76 year old scientist who, several years ago, turned down the \$60,000 a year offer of Henry Ford to transfer his talents to the Ford scientific laboratories at Dearborn.

The Carver foundation, when completed, explained the scientist, will include nine laboratories, three for chemistry and one each devoted to soils, bacteriology, botany, plant breeding, the physics. The clinic for treatment of infantile paralysis established at Tuskegee Institute by the national foundation will also be included in the Carver Foundation.