

More Rigid Patrol of Lighting System To Prevent Waste

Because now is the time to eliminate waste and utilize our materials and efforts to the utmost toward winning the war, the Nebraska Power Company is instituting an even more rigid patrol of its street lighting system to stop beaking of lamps by boys, Roy Page, vice president and general manager, announced Saturday.

"Despite anything we have done boys armed with airguns, slingshots and rocks have been breaking an average of twenty overhead lamps and three glass enclosed lighting fixtures every night," Mr. Page said. "That would mean a total of more than 8,000 street lamps put out of commission in a year by boys who do it thoughtlessly, just for fun. Their replacement would cost the company \$10,000.

"Every 400-candlepower lamp in an overhead street light costs

\$1 to replace and each broken or closing globe represents a loss of more than \$3, and it's so useless, unnecessary and wasteful," he said. "The breakage of 8,000 of these lamps in a year represents more than three-fourths of all the street lights in Omaha. That's a black-out we should be spared."

In addition to the waste it causes, breaking of street lights also increases traffic hazards for both auto and pedestrians, Mr. Page said.

"Although the broken lamps are replaced as quickly as possible, the lack of lighting in the meantime might easily be to blame for an accident in which someone is injured or ever killed," he said. "I'm sure that if the boys who use street lamps as targets realized the possible serious consequences, as good citizens they would refrain from throwing or shooting at street lights."

SOUTHERNERS ENDORSE VOLUNTEER NEGRO-WHITE ARMY DIVISION

New York...Gerald White, young white New Yorker inducted last Thursday into the United States Marine Corps, has requested that he be put into the proposed volunteer division of the Army which would include men of any race, color, creed or nationality, the NAACP announced this week.

In addition, it was learned that Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina and newly appointed to the War Labor Board, and Mark Ethridge, editor of the Louisville, Ky., Courier-Journal and chairman of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice, have enthusiastically endorsed the idea.

Gerald White's request went Wednesday, January 14, to President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox. The request is short and to the point. It was made after White noted stories about the proposed volunteer division in the daily papers.

He said, "Tomorrow, January 15, I am to be inducted into the USMC, which, I learned after I had enlisted, restricts its membership to members of the white race. This does not satisfy me as being a bright, shining example of the democracy for which we are allegedly fighting.

"Therefore, in the event such a volunteer body is created, I should like to be transferred to that body, May I further say that I, and others like me, would be more enthusiastic toward the war effort, if there were no discrimination on account of race, creed or color."

Frank P. Graham stated that a volunteer division of the Army open to all men without regard for race, creed or color would be "in keeping with our best traditions of freedom. It would also be a direct answer to the propaganda against America carried on by the Japanese and Nazi propaganda bureaus. The fact that the decision to enter such a division is left to free and volunteer choice would meet the objections of some who have grown up in the midst of historic segregations."

Mr. Ethridge said: "I think your idea about a special volunteer division is swell."

Another Southerner who gave his wholehearted support to the idea is Howard Kester, general secretary of the Fellowship of Southern-Christians, with headquarters in Black Mountain, North Carolina, the NAACP said.

Mr. Kester states, As a white Southerner, I am positive that you are correct in saying that such a move would be warmly received

Methodist Bishops Make Pilgrimage to Wesley Oak



Sea Island, Ga.—The three Bishops of the Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church recently joined in a service of prayer and praise held by the Methodist Council of Bishops in honor of their founder, the Rev. John Wesley, under this ancient, moss-hung oak where he once preached. Hymns sung were those composed by the Rev. Charles Wesley, the author of "Jesus Lover of My Soul" and 6,000 other sacred songs. He shared with his brother John in the ministry to the Colony of Georgia in 1738 under General Oglethorpe. The churchmen are (l. to r.) Bishop Lorenzo H. King of Atlanta, Bishop Alexander P. Shaw of Baltimore, Bishop Robert E. Jones of Columbus, Ohio.

by many Southerners. Furthermore, it is my judgement that such a move would greatly strengthen the position of the democratic forces among the colored peoples of the entire world, who, if my reading of current news is correct entertain grave doubts and misgivings about our sincerity to square our conduct with our professions precisely at the point of racial tolerance and good will.

SOUTHERN CONGRESSMEN FORCE NEGRO'S FRIENDS FROM KEY FEDERAL POSTS:

(Continued from page 1)

Interracial commission in Atlanta, and was first adviser on Negro affairs in the department of the interior. Robert C. Weaver got his start in government service under Foreman and eventually succeeded him.

When Foreman was appointed director of PWA's power division, he took with him his competent Negro secretary who was in charge of his office personnel. Southern politicians and industrialists who, in order to see him, had to come by this secretary resented his employing her in such a position. Political capital was made of this when Foreman returned to Georgia to assist in the campaign against Walter F. George during presidential purge of 1938.

Foreman was forced out of his defense housing position directly on the Negro issue. Detroit whiter, chiefly Polish, objected to the development of a housing project for Negro occupancy on a vacant lot site. The project was planned for such occupancy and was named Sojourner Truth in honor of the slave-born abolitionist. Despite the protest, backed up by powerful congressional influence, Foreman refused to acquiesce in a change of proposed occupancy. The story is freely circulated in Washington that members of the powerful house committee on public buildings and grounds of which Rep. Fritz Lanham of Texas is chairman, refused to approve the new appropriation for defense housing as long as Foreman was in charge. Foreman resigned.

Time and time again, Straus, by public declaration and deeds, has indicated his adherence to sound racial policies. Long before the President's executive order against discrimination was issued, Straus had instituted such policies both within the USHA and in the construction of USHA aided projects. In addition to the staff employed in the office of racial relations, first under Robert C. Weaver and now under Frank S. Horne, the USHA has employed Negro lawyers, engineers, architects, stenographic and clerical workers, as well as those in custodial and unskilled positions. Negro building trades workers employed in the construction of USHA aided projects have earned more than \$15,000,000.

Because of these policies, Straus has been continually under fire by anti-Negro congressmen who have threatened to withhold funds from the USHA. His racial policies have been publicly denounced on the floor of the house. In the spring of 1940, Weaver, then special assistant to the administrator, made a sound and analytical address in which he pointed out the success of mixed projects sponsored by the USHA. This speech was so well regarded within the authority that it was requested for publication in "Public Housing", the agency's official organ. At that time, a bill to make available \$800,000,000 to the USHA for slum clearance and low rent housing was before the house, having already been passed by the senate. A southern congressman, opposed to public housing and especially to mixed projects, obtained a copy of the published speech and circulated it among his colleagues. This while by no means the real cause, was used as a smoke screen behind which the bill was killed. The USHA has received no additional funds for slum clearance since.

Recently when Negro building trades workers sued the USHA, the St. Louis Housing authority and building contractors for discrimination in employment on a project in St. Louis, Straus went all the way with his non-discrimination policy by submitting a surprise affidavit affirming that discrimination had been practiced and joining with the Negro plaintiffs in asking the court to issue a decree, directing the St. Louis Housing authority to enforce the non-discrimination provisions in its contract with the builders.

In another instance, he had agreed to cut off funds to a local housing authority which had failed to gain compliance in the employment of skilled Negro workers in the development of projects in that city. Only after powerful interests in congress threatened to wreck the entire public housing program did he yield. However, he did withhold approval of any future projects in that city.

A wealthy New York Jew, Straus was also a victim of the veiled anti-Semitism of prejudiced congressmen. His resignation was demanded as the price for allowing the USHA to participate further in the defense housing program despite the admittedly good record the Agency has made.

That the President recognizes the value of these administrators and disapproves the congressional pressure is indicated by his appointment of Carmody to a post on the Maritime commission. It is understood in Washington that posts will also be found for Foreman and Straus.

OPEN ALL AIR FIELDS TO TRAIN COLORED FLYERS, NAACP ASKS

New York—The opening to qualified Negroes of facilities for training for the U. S. air corps on the same basis as other Americans was asked of Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson by the NAACP last week.

The request came after the announcement by the War Department of the complete organization of the Army Air corps to meet the need for full scale air combat operations.

The NAACP pointed out that the segregated training units for Negroes at Tuskegee Institute provides for training only 85 Negro flyers a year and that this is inadequate. The NAACP said the only answer is to open immediately all air fields and

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If we were aboard a naval fleet Our enemies would mourn and weep, For they well know from long ago The hard fighting American Negro Who came upon the scene And dealt the final blow. In Nineteen Hundred and Eighteen.

If we were aboard a naval fleet On the Atlantic and Pacific ocean Our brave and daring naval feats Would make Hitler and Mussolini Suddenly take a notion To stay on their side of the ocean. And tell Japan to do the best she can For its against their policy to meet Defeat—gained by a Negro Naval fleet.

If we were aboard a naval fleet And had our way on the ocean deep We would do a Frank Buck act Just to see them grit and gnash their teeth And gloat o'er their defeat If we were aboard a naval fleet.

Give us a fleet and ammunition The open sea and our enemy. And the job is as good as done. When we get through we're telling you There won't be a soul on land or sea Put Negroes aboard the fleet Of the U. S. Navy. —MYRTLE M. GOODLOW.

training centers to colored Americans.

NAVY DENIES REFUSING NEGRO BLOOD DONORS PUTS RED CROSS ON SPOT

New York...The American Red Cross is on the spot. The U. S. Navy through Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, Surgeon General has just denied that the Navy never gave instructions to the Red Cross to refuse to take the blood of Negro donors the NAACP has announced.

"So far as the Navy is concerned, I wish to tell you that it has never requested the American Red Cross not to take blood from Negro donors," Rear Admiral McIntire told the NAACP. His letter in reply to the Association's inquiry of the Secretaries of the War and Navy about the refusals were dated January 15.

McIntire stated that of 3,500 blood donors received at the Blood Donor Center in Washington, D. C., that have been collected. The first was received on Jan. 21, 1941, the latest on December 21, 1941, he said.

The NAACP immediately wrote Norman H. Davis, president of the American Red Cross, informing him of the Navy's denial of the Red Cross official excuse for its refusal of Negroes and asking him

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New York City...On receipt of information that the American Red Cross has set up blood donor stations in the office of the New York City Department of Welfare the NAACP requested Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Welfare Commissioner William Hodson not to be party to the discrimination practiced by the Red Cross in refusing the blood of Negro donors.

There are many Negro workers in the Department of Welfare and the NAACP maintains that the establishment of a discriminatory blood donor station in offices where whites and Negroes work together is embarrassing and humiliating.

If the Red Cross wishes to persist in its policy of refusing Negro donors, then it ought to do so in its own centers, off the premises of any city departments," the NAACP told Commissioner Hodson.

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REFUSES KATHERINE DUNHAM PLAYERS

San Francisco, Jan. 23 (ANP)—San Francisco, long regarded as one of the most liberal cities in the country regarding its treatment of colored people, has under gone a change if the experiences of Paul Robeson some months ago and Katherine Dunham last week are a criteria. A hotel refused Robeson in its dining room when he entered with a party mixed racially. When Miss Dunham and her dancers were appearing locally last week three hotels refused them accommodations. These were the Kit Carson, the Knickerbocker and the Somerton. Each reported "no rooms available for colored patrons."

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