



THE OMAHA GUIDE

JUSTICE & EQUALITY

ALL THE NEWS WHILE IT IS NEWS

HOW TO THE LINE

LARGEST ACCREDITED NEGRO NEWSPAPER WEST OF CHICAGO AND NORTH OF KANSAS CITY — MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS

Entered as Second-Class Matter at The Post Office, Omaha, Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, February 21, 1942 OUR 14th YEAR—No. 49 City Edition, 5c Copy Under Act of March 8, 1874—Business Phone: WE. 1517

STOP LYNCHING PROBE OR FACE RACE RIOT IS SIKESTON, MO. THREAT

NAACP. Investigators Find No prevent further investigation and Whites Who Saw Lynching Will Testify Town 'Closed to Outsiders'

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 18 (ANP)—White citizens in Sikeston, Mo., will not testify against each other in any prosecution for guilt in the lynching of Cleo Wright there January 25, and they use the threat of a race riot to

ELKS CIVIL LIBERTIES DEPT INVESTIGATES LYNCHING

ROBSON R. REYNOLDS GRAND DIRECTOR MAKES TRIP, INCOGNITO, TO SCENE—

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 18 (ANP)—Hobson R. Reynolds, grand director of civil liberties IBPOEW, conducted his own investigation last week into the lynching at Sikeston, Mo., Jan. 25. Reynolds whose appearance in no way reflects his racial identity, quietly entered the sleepy little southern town located in Missouri's "booth" cotton section, secured quarters and as quietly proceeded to gather evidence and facts from the townspeople.

When asked how long he remained in Sikeston, Reynolds stated, "I was there long enough to discover what I wanted to know... that the real cause behind Cleo Wright's lynching was the determination of a prejudiced minority to intimidate and scare our people so that their efforts at securing their civil liberties and economic freedom guaranteed by the constitution and laws of the land would be discouraged, and in order to forever frighten them out of their natural yearnings to stand forth fearlessly as American citizens."

As to his racial identity being discovered by the whites, Reynolds rejoined, "Nobody asked me what I was, and I certainly didn't go around with any sign on my back. They will find out soon enough, and most likely to their own embarrassment surprise and consternation."

Mr. Reynolds conferred officially with the civil liberties department of Greater St. Louis Lodge No. 1012 whose four co-directors, Atty. David M. Grant, George L. Vaughn, John A. Davis, and Sidney R. Redmond, are outstanding members of the Missouri bar. Atty. Grant, Vaughn and Redmond, hold official positions on the staffs of the circuit attorney, attorney general and city counselor, respectively. At this conference, also attended by A. Oliver Thornton, exalted ruler, and Dr. L. B. Howell, medical director, the question of presenting the facts uncovered at Sikeston to the department of justice at Washington was discussed.

While in St. Louis, Mr. Reynolds also joined in conferences with officials of the NAACP and along with Dr. G. B. Key, grand district deputy, pledged the cooperation of Elksdom throughout greater St. Louis in supporting a silent parade to be held in that city Feb. 22 in protest of the Sikeston lynching.

Several members of FSA were sent to make the inspection, some three or four being white, Mr. Robinson representing the colored personnel.

Declaring conditions to be of the usual type generally given Negroes, Mr. Robinson made a comprehensive survey of housing, transportation, recreation, religious features and covered them well in his analysis.

He pointed out where Negroes could stay and how they would fare in their new homes, those who expect to accompany the bureau in its shift, but offered little in the way of encouragement or improvement over conditions in Washington where the bureau is now located.

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ROBESON HITS K.C. Segregation

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 17 Paul Robeson, Negro baritone, interrupted a concert here to tell the audience he was curtailing his program under protest because of racial segregation in the municipal auditorium.

"I have made it a life long habit to refuse to sing in southern states or anywhere that audiences are segregated."

"I accepted this engagement under guarantee that there would be no segregation. Since many local leaders of my own race have urged me to fill this engagement, I shall finish the concert, but I am doing so under protest."

Robeson's protest was based on the fact most Negroes in attendance sat together in one section of the auditorium.

Eugene Zachman, manager of the auditorium, denied there was any racial segregation in the usual sense. They also denied any contractual obligation prohibiting segregation. They said seats were available for Negroes in the boxes, loges, the main floor and balconies at all prices.

Washington, Feb. 20 (ANP)—Back from a three day trip to Cincinnati where he went to inspect the housing, recreation and general living conditions for Negroes, about to be transferred to that city with Farm Security, Jerome Robinson, assistant to Constance E. H. Daniels, submitted his report on Tuesday.

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WHITE PRESTIGE SUFFERS WALTER WHITE TELLS U. OF CALIFORNIA

Berkeley, Calif.—White prestige is being lessened in the world each day until the Japanese are defeated, Walter White, NAACP secretary told the convocation of students and faculty members of the University of California at the observance of Lincoln's birthday here.

"The dark forces of greed, based on skin color, continue to work their evil way in the world," Mr. White said. "Part of Japan's theory as to the United States is due to our condescending and sometimes contemptuous attitude toward the Japanese because their skins are yellow and not white."

"After Pearl Harbor Negroes were ready to give their lives for their country. They were told in a curt reply by the Navy that there could be no change in regulations which might have raised them from a position of menials."

Mr. White also led a discussion group at the International House at the University of California here February 15, an don February 17, addressed the convocation of the University of California at Los Angeles in that city. He will continue his tour of the Pacific Coast visiting NAACP branches and other groups.

Continuing, Rev. Carey declared, "I then added that this was not a matter affecting a few people but that 12,000,000 Negroes all over America were being shut out of new communities and condemned to live in restricted areas and squalid neighborhoods because real estate experts contend that we don't keep clean that which we have. We ought to keep the south side clean because Negroes all over America will be affected by how we run it."

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APPEAL IN OKLAHOMA MURDER CASE TO BE HEARD MARCH FOURTH

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 20 (ANP)—Trial on the appeal of W. D. Lyons from his conviction by the trial court at Hugo, January 31, 1941, will be held in the Criminal Court of Appeals of this state here, March 4.

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP, and the first Negro lawyer ever to appear in the Hugo, Okla., court, will handle Lyons' case along with Stanley D. Belden.

It is expected to be brought out that Lyons, accused of the murder of three whites, was seized and prosecuted for political reasons and that his alleged "confession" was obtained by torture.

Lyons has been in jail for a year for a crime of which he claims to be innocent. Before his trial he was beaten and tortured with charred bones which he was told were those of the dead people, dragged in and out of the county jail and grilled unmercifully. Although he was accused of having brutally murdered a family of three, the trial court jury recommended mercy for him, and public sentiment among the Negro and white population of the area is that Lyons is innocent.

Wichita, Kansas, February 20 (ANP)—Saturday evening Lou Swartz, nationally known Zeta artist, in solo dramas and monologues was presented by the Wichita City Association of Colored Women at Roosevelt Intermediate School auditorium and captivated her mixed audience with her clever and intelligible presentations.

WE ARE FIGHTING FOR LIBERTY DEGENCY AND MANHOOD SAYS M'LEISH

AT NATL. URBAN LEAGUE 31st ANNUAL MEETING DINNER IN NEW YORK

New York, February 19 (ANP)—"Americans have overcome the confused thinking and the disruptive influences that divided this nation during the six years before Pearl Harbor, and while still battling war, today believe wholeheartedly in the war and will most certainly win it," said Archibald MacLeish, director of the Office of Facts and Figures, here Wednesday night. The occasion was the 31st annual meeting and dinner of the National Urban League held at the Aldine club following the annual business meeting of the league and round table discussion session held at Tussell Sage foundation.

Speaking to 400 government officials, army officers and private citizens assembled as members and guests of the Urban League, Mr. Leish declared, "You can't tell me... and I don't think you can tell many people in this country—that the American people are in any doubt as to what they are fighting for. And least of all can you make us believe that American Negroes are in doubt."

"American Negroes realize, as we all realize, that the American dream is still, in many parts, a dream. They realize that there are imperfections in American democracy and that the efforts to perfect it have been slow and difficult. Indeed, American Negroes realize both the imperfection and the difficulties with an especial sensitivity for they have suffered much from both. But it is for this very reason that American Negroes have a particular understanding of the cause for which this war is fought. They understand, as no other group in this country, perhaps, can understand, the inward meaning of this struggle... the meaning carried so truly and so simply and so unforgettable by the President's message on the state of the union."

"The American people understand, and understand very well, that it is liberty and decency and manhood we are fighting for and that we will most certainly, most unquestionably, win all three."

Among other speakers at the dinner were Miss Pauline Redmond, associate director, division of youth activities, Office of Civilian Defense; Roy Wilkins, editor of the Crisis; Lester B. Granger, executive secretary, National Urban League; William H. Baldwin, L. Hollingsworth Wood, Commissioner Lawrence M. Orton of New York City Planning Commission; Elmer Anderson Carter, member Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, New York State Department of Labor; Shelby Harrison, director Russell Sage foundation; Lt. Col. Edward O. Gourdin, 372nd Infantry; Noah Walters, manager Laundry Workers' Joint board and Dr. Sadie T. M. Alexander.

OVER 3,000 JAM SAVOY FOR NAACP BIRTHDAY BALL

New York—More than 3,000 persons jammed the Harlem's famed Savoy Ballroom Wednesday night, February 11, when the NAACP Birthday Ball with the bands of Lucky Millinder and the Savoy Sultans playing for one of the largest crowds ever to attend.

"We advise that wherever new subdivisions are opened up that restrictive covenants barring Negroes be incorporated immediately. This is not done because of race prejudice as claimed, but because it is the considered judgement of real estate experts that when Negroes move into a community,

REV. CAREY CLARIFIES STATEMENT ON GAMBLING

Chicago, February 20 (ANP)—The Rev. A. Archibald J. Carey, Jr., pastor of Woodlawn A.M.E. Church, attorney and son of the late Bishop Carey, who spoke at a mass meeting in Metropolitan Community church here last Sunday afternoon in which he made a stinging attack upon gambling, the policy racket and vice, pointed out that the daily newspapers has misquoted him in saying that "It is not because of race prejudice that we are not wanted in some neighborhoods—but because when Negroes move in, gambling and prostitution follow."

"The statement attributed to me," said Carey, "to the effect that it is not because of race prejudice that we are not wanted in some neighborhoods, but because when Negroes move in, gambling and prostitution follow," was not made by me, but it was a construction placed upon what I said in quoting from the report of a white real estate firm. I stated at that time I was quoting from the report of a New York real estate syndicate which said to its clients and lawyers in that report:

"We advise that wherever new subdivisions are opened up that restrictive covenants barring Negroes be incorporated immediately. This is not done because of race prejudice as claimed, but because it is the considered judgement of real estate experts that when Negroes move into a community,

POPULATION BY RACE FOR THE UNITED STATES 1940-1930

RACE	1940	1930	Increase 1930 to 1940	Amount	Percent
All Classes	131,669,275	122,775,046	8,894,229	7.2	
White	118,214,870	110,286,740	7,928,130	7.2	
Native	106,795,732	96,303,335	10,492,397	10.9	
Foreign Born	11,419,138	13,983,405	-2,564,267	-18.3	
Negro	12,865,518	11,891,143	974,375	8.2	
Other Races	588,887	597,163	-8,276	-1.4	
Indian	333,969	332,397	1,572	0.5	
Chinese	77,504	74,954	2,550	3.4	
Japanese	126,947	138,834	-11,887	-8.6	
Filipino	45,565	45,208	357	0.8	
Hindu	2,405	3,139	-725	-23.2	
Korean	1,711	1,860	-149	-8.0	
All Other	788	760	28	3.7	

DETROIT HOUSING FIGHT FLARES UP AGAIN; NOBODY TO USE HOMES NOW; 32 VISIT WASHINGTON

Washington, February 18 (ANP)—Thirty-two irate Detroiters stormed on Washington early Wednesday morning, dissatisfied with the sudden turn taken in what had been considered the final disposition of the Sojourner Truth Defense homes after bitter verbal battles had marked a previous visit of a delegation to Washington resulting in what at that time seemed an apparent victory for the Negroes.

Officials in Washington learned that dissension in the Detroit council led to the latest flare up, when a councilman had the matter reopened after the mayor, the Detroit Housing commission, the defense housing coordinator and the administrator of the PWA had agreed to a decision to permit Negroes to live in the houses.

The nine man council was split in a tie vote, four to four, when this councilman, who comes up for reelection this year, brought the council a proposal which it is alleged he had wrangled from the Ford management to the effect that Ford was giving grants to the city a site he previously purchased for a tank proving ground. This site is on the side of the railroad tracks end far less desirable than any other site obtainable.

The councilman, said to be a graduate of Notre Dame and depending upon the Polish vote to return him to the council made his offer which threw a monkey wrench into the whole works. The mayor, put on well known spot, debated what to do then with the Sojourner Truth homes since to all intents an duposes the new site was for the use of Negroes.

Feeling ran high in Detroit when the 32 delegates decided to come direct to Washington to determine what is to be done and whether a local politician, anxious for reelection, should dominate the scene or whether the federal government as represented by Baird Snyder and Charles Palmer would have the final say as to who was to occupy the nearly ready defense houses.

Wednesday at 4:30, the delegation held a conference in the auditorium of the old Interior building attended by Baird Snyder, III, Charles Palmer, defense housing coordinator; Leon S. Keyserling, acting United States Housing administrator, and Col. Starr of the

Continued on page 3

ROGERS RECEIVES LIFE SENTENCE IN RITCHIE CASE ON APPEAL

Friday the thirteenth brought good news to John Rogers, 24, Omaha, sentenced to death on a murder charge, when the state supreme court at Lincoln directed his sentence be changed to life imprisonment.

Rogers pleaded guilty to killing Wallace Ritchie, Negro chauffeur for Ford Hovey, former king of AkSarBen, August 5, 1940, in a quarrel over use of Ritchie's auto, Rogers contended he shot Ritchie after the latter struck him.

Justice E. F. Carter, writing the supreme court opinion, said, "We have come to the conclusion the interests of society do not demand the death penalty be inflicted. It seems to us a life sentence is adequate punishment when all the circumstances are considered."

In the appeal Rogers' attorneys contended the death sentence resulted from "prejudice and passion" of the jury.

Wins Major Bowes First Prize



On her way to bigger things is Dolly Bell, basso contralto, recent first prize winner on Major Bowes Amateur program over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dolly, whose home was Flint, Michigan, before she accepted a position in New York, had no idea that her solo "Deep River" would lead to first prize, a cash award of \$150, and an engagement with one of Major Bowes' Units.

Dolly is one of the first winners in the new Amateur program competition, which also awards a second prize of \$100.

(ANP)

HIGHER COURT UPHOLDS MARIE MANTELL TERM

The state supreme court at Lincoln upheld the three year reformatory sentence given Marie Mantell, Omaha, on a charge of "shooting with intent to wound" her "sweetheart" when she found him with another woman.

The boy friend, Herbert Tool, 27, of 2112 Grant Street, was struck in the chest, but the other shots directed at two women seated with him in a tavern June 21, 1940, went wild.

RAN TAXI WITHOUT LICENSES, FINED \$25

Charged with operating a taxi without a license, Horace Crawford, 2525 Decatur Street, was fined \$25 and costs today by Judge Perry Wheeler. Officers testified Crawford made three trips to town in the morning, filling his car with paying passengers each trip.

SIX NEGRO CLERKS HIRED BY TELEPHONE COMPANY

TO BE TRAIN IN DUTIES FOR ONE MONTH—

New York, Feb. 18 (ANP)—Six Negro clerical employees were added to the staff of the New York Telephone company here last Monday, following completion of three years of negotiations with the company by the New York Urban League, through Charles Collier, Jr., industrial secretary. Those selected were Donald G. Danmond, Miss Doris Foster, Miss Adelaide P. DeFrantz, Miss Yvonne G. Mason, Miss Emlaena Jones and Miss Amelia A. Cooper.

The selectees are to undergo training until the middle of March at which time they will take over the company's branch office located at 126th St., and Lenox ave. Here they will take care of all business in the Harlem area, such as recording telephone orders, sending out and collecting bills and checking on change of addresses of subscribers. White employees in the Harlem branch are to be transferred to branches in white districts, said George R. Dunsbaugh, manager.

Aiding the Urban League in securing the employment of these six colored workers were Councilman Stanley Isaacs, former chairman of the board of the league; Councilman Adam C. Powell, Jr., many individuals and organizations.

In addition to placing the six in clerical positions, the league has also been instrumental in securing

MOB WAS "JUST FOLKS"

The make-up of the mob was described as being "just folks... not like our last lynching... done by the upper classes." Southeast Missouri's last lynching was in Mississippi county, December 18, 1924, when a mob stormed the jail and took out a Negro accused of raping a white girl.

Fear of Negroes, the need to "keep the Negro in his place" and the feudal nature of southeast Missouri, where a very few people own all the land and the rest are vassals, are behind the story of the brutal lynching, the Tompkins reported.

"Along with this feeling runs a genuine fear of the Negro's physical violence. 'Negroes are naturally vicious,' they said, 'with less control over their emotions.' It follows that 'violence is necessary to keep them subservient.' It also follows that killing a Negro is not a crime like killing a white man, because the Negro is closer to brute than to an independent human individual with human rights. There is a carry-over feeling in Sikeston today that goes back to the old-time southern idea that 'every white man had to have several colored girls, and kill one nigger, before he became a man indeed.'"

The investigators said: "We were given the definite impression that the lynchers would not be ostracized by the community; on the other hand those who might testify against the lynchers would be ostracized. Even the most liberal man to whom we spoke said that had he witnessed the crime (which he had not) he would 'not be inclined to testify.'"

Negroes themselves are afraid to identify any of the mob even though they saw the entire proceedings and know those responsible.

One man in the Sunset Addition on being questioned by the Tompkins was terrified and said he would not talk "to white folks." "We did not ask him to talk," the investigators stated, "because it is clear that he does not have police protection in Sikeston."

NEGROES "TOO COCKY"

"One person suggested that the tension between poor white and Negro labor might have some bearing on the lynching. The poor whites object to equality with the Negro even more than the wealthy ones. Racial feelings are more bitter among the poor, because 'if they can't feel superior to the Negro, what would they feel superior about?'" Many of this class of workers were in the lynching crowd."

The report also revealed that the lynching of Cleo Wright was not an isolated incident, but that tension had been growing over a period of time. Feeling had been growing that Negroes were getting "too cocky."

"There is increasing feeling against labor unions organizing Negroes," the investigators said. Negro labor is less subservient than white labor at present and employers do not expect this. With the threat of a labor shortage looming close, employers resent any encouragement to labor to become too courageous and demanding. Negroes have been the beasts of burden in southeast Missouri since it is important to the economic set up that they remain in this status, they are not encouraged to develop. The white people of southeast Missouri do not like independent Negroes. There was a growing feeling that they should be put back in the place where they belong."

In commenting on their report Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins observed: "The Sikeston incident points to certain breakdowns in our legal system: Under our present laws, lynching, which is defined as murder, goes unpunished, because the crime is judged in local courts by those who themselves believe in lynching. Young Prosecuting Attorney Blanton will hardly sacrifice both his career and personal friends by prosecuting those friends who elected him to office. Even the most liberal of the planners said he would 'not be inclined to testify.' A local grand jury cannot be expected to indict, when it may have on it some of those who were in the lynch mob. Not until prosecution and judgement are taken out of the local courts will there be any chance of exacting justice."

SEGREGATION PROMPTS AWW'S OFFICIAL TO RESIGN

New York... Because the American Women's Voluntary Service maintained a segregated unit for Negro women here, and ignored plans for the establishment of geographical divisions, one of its most active members, Mrs. John Hope, former administrative assistant in the division of program and extension, has resigned.

The AWWs, many of whose members are social registerites, lists on its national sponsoring committee Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune and Mrs. James Weldon Johnson, but Mrs. Hope says in her letter of resignation sent to Mrs. Alice T. MacLean, president, dated February 10: "Imagine my dismay when they report they have at no time been called to attend a Sponsors Meeting. I was even more distressed to hear from you that there had been no meeting of the national sponsoring committee."

Mrs. Hope states that a geographical unit plan was submitted by her to insure a cross section representation and active participation in the AWWs by all groups, but that the plan was rejected "without adequate study."

"Instead," her letter sets forth, "a segregated unit has been set up to serve the section, loosely called Harlem, but in reality, the 12th and 16th Fire Battalion area."

"Most of the 425 sewing machine operators at Satin's are colored," Miss Redmond declared. "We are trying to make them realize that the stronger Negroes become in the union the more we can break down discrimination in various shops."

Meanwhile Mary Redmond, flury organizer for the Garment Workers Union, AFL, continued to hold lively organizing meetings at Forum hall to organize workers of H. A. Satin and Co., one of the largest unorganized garment shops in the city.