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HEW 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, March 7, 1942 OUR 14th YEAR—No. 51 City Edition, 5c Copy

Pearl S. Buck Writes Letter TO COLORED AMERICANS

AGAR WARNS U.S. MUST BE STRONG OR DIE

Alton, Ill., March 1.—“Life has put a pistol at our heads and said ‘You’ve got to be better or you’ve got to be dead.’”

Thus Herbert Agar, editor of the Louisville Courier Journal summed up the position of the United States when speaking at Monticello college here. Agar believes we have to be “better” very shortly or that China will be lost to us because of widespread Japanese propaganda which tells of our treatment of the Negro.

Until we can fight against our own sins of racial hate and stop being divided on picaresque issues we can do little about the world revolt going on. Its causes must be understood and removed if we would preserve civilization, he declared.

Addressing the closing session of a conference of 25 midwestern colleges on mobilization of college woman power, he explained the most important subject before Americans today is “knowledge of what this war is about.”

“The significance of our striving must be brought to a great proportion of the American people—and quickly,” he said.

CORONERS JURY FINDS MURRAY AGED IN SELF DEFENSE IN CAFE BRAWL MAN FATALLY STABBED IN FIGHT

Mr. Frank Trammel, age 28, packing house worker was stabbed in the head Sunday noon in St. Omaha, with an ice pick in the hands of Wm. Murray and died shortly afterwards in a local hospital. An argument took place in a restaurant at 2516 Q Street after Trammel had been served a piece of pie he did not like and according to witnesses, he attacked Murray.

A coroner's jury meeting Tuesday March 3, 1942, found Murray acted in self defense and he was freed by the police.

Mr. Trammel who lived at 3016 R St., had lived in Omaha for two years. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Odessa Trammel and two small children of Omaha, father Mr. Frank Trammel and other relatives of Texarkana, Texas. The body is at The Thomas Funeral Mortuary.

PROMINENT BUSINESS MAN SUED FOR DIVORCE FEARS HUSBAND'S GUN HOBBY; ASKS DIVORCE

Because her husband, Marcus (Mac), 42 a barber, has a hobby of collecting guns, his wife, Mrs. Constance McGee, fears him and wants him restrained from coming to their home at 2207 Burdette streets, her divorce petition filed in district court declared Friday. She charged cruelty.

SIX NEW NEGRO MILITARY POLICE BATTALIONS AUTHORIZED BY ARMY

Formation of six Negro Military Police Battalions for service in the Zone of the Interior has been authorized the War Department announced. The Battalions will guard factories, warehouses, bridges, power houses and similar installations.

Each Battalion will include about 500 enlisted men. Members of the Battalions must be at least five feet nine inches tall, must weigh at least 165 pounds and are required to have a high intelligence quotient.

One of the Battalions, the 732nd is already in process of formation. It will serve in the Sixth Corps Area with headquarters in Chicago.

Special to the Omaha Guide from Pearl S. Buck:—

I venture to write this letter directly to you, the colored citizens of our country. Some of you may know how frankly and constantly I have spoken to white people about their obligations to you. Now I should like to speak to you of the responsibility resting at this moment upon the colored American for the survival of human freedom. For the colored American stands today as a symbol, not merely for his own race in one country, but for the hundreds of millions of other men and women, colored and white, who are waiting for freedom and for the life which democracy promises.

Who are these hundreds of millions? They are the people of India who on their own soil wait for the opportunity to work out their own national life in their own way. They are the peoples of all colonies in Asia and Africa, some more fortunate, some less fortunate in their dependence upon governments. They are people who are under no foreign rule but who are ruled without freedom by certain classes and groups of their own race and kind. They are all those people, wherever they are, who long for a society which gives them opportunities not lessened because of blood and birth.

I know that there are those among you who in natural bitterness think, if they do not say, that it might be as well if Japan should win this war so that the white man would be forced out of the lands of the colored people. But this is to misunderstand the fundamental meaning of this war. It is true that white people say they believe in freedom and still do not go on to make everybody free, and yet the real issue in this war is a single one... it is a war between the democracies who admit the principle that men and women should think and speak and work in freedom and the Axis rulers who deny freedom even as a principle.

If the democratic peoples win, there will be a chance to work out true democracy. If the democratic peoples lose, there will be no further chance for a long time even to try anything like freedom. Japan's whole culture, ancient and modern, is based on stern subjugation of the individual. And there is no reason for anyone to expect freedom from the German rulers. This war, therefore, belongs to the colored American as much as to the white American and they stand or fall together with the rest of humanity. Never before has there meant so much and so little... so much because it is upon this point of equality that the democratic

POPULAR SOCIETY GIRL WEDS

Miss Leeta Lewis, daughter of Mrs. Harry B. Lewis, was wed to Mr. Fredrick Eubanks of Springfield, Ill., son of Dr. John Eubanks of East St. Louis, Missouri on Saturday February 28, at 8 p. m. The wedding took place at the home of the bride and just the immediate family were present.

The newlyweds left Sunday for Springfield, enroute to Chicago, where they will spend a short honeymoon. They will reside in Springfield where Mr. Eubanks has a position as clerk in the Office of Public Instruction for the State of Illinois.

The 730th Battalion is to be formed by May 1, and the 731st by July 1, both for duty in the Second Corps Area with headquarters in New York City.

The 733rd and the 734th Battalions have been assigned to the Ninth Corps Area on the Pacific coast. The former will be organized July 1, and the latter May 1.

The 755th Battalion has been assigned to the Seventh Corps Area headquarters in Omaha. This Battalion is to be in service by June 1.

PICKENS NOT FIRED

TO EXPLAIN NEWSPAPER COLUMN TO NAACP BOARD

New York... Dean William Pickens, veteran staff member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, now on leave with the U. S. Treasury department, has not been fired from his position with the NAACP as has been reported by some newspapers.

Dean Pickens wrote a column entitled "Pursuit Squadron", dated from Tuskegee, Ala., and car-

ried in the New York Amsterdam Star News for January 31. In the column as printed in the Star News, were some assertions about racial segregation generally, and particularly about racial segregation in the Army, which caused the board of directors at its regular meeting February 9, to vote that Mr. Pickens in this article had taken "a position directly opposite to that maintained by the Association." The official language of the motion, as voted

follows: "That Mr. Pickens be notified that his stand on the matter of segregation in the United States Army is so contrary to the repeated stand taken by the NAACP and officially taken by the Association Board of Directors that the Board feels he cannot be reappointed to the executive staff; that Mr. Pickens be informed of his rights under the resolution passed by the Board at this meeting." According to the resolution on

tenure of office for executive staff members adopted by the board at the February meeting, any executive, when notified of a possible dismissal for cause, shall be given an opportunity for a hearing and appeal to the board of directors.

Upon receipt of the official notice of the board's action at its meeting February 9, Mr. Pickens offered to appear at either the March 9 or April 13 meeting of the board and it was agreed that he should appear April 13.



NEGRO TANK FIGHTERS AT INSPECTION

Here is a group of "tankers" from

Company C, 758th Tank Battalion, GHQ light, ready for inspection of their tanks and weapons at

Camp Claiborne, La. The sturdy young men in this tank unit have undergone rigorous training and

are prepared for active service.

peoples have failed most disastrously to practice full democracy, and so little because if the Axis win, color would not save or damn anyone. The freedom of colored and white together would then be lost.

Faulty as our democracy is, the United States must be the leader in this war for the right of peoples to be free... there is no other leader to whom we can look. We have as our great ally the old democracy of China. But China is not equipped except as we can equip her for a military war. The main burden rests upon our own country. It is inevitable, too, that after this war the United States must be the leader in the peace. China will be deeply concerned in that peace, but there are concerned also the peoples of India and Malaysia, the Philippines and all the conquered peoples in Europe and Africa. The United States must be prepared in mind and spirit to lead all these toward freedom.

We are not prepared now. The division between colored and white in our own country is dangerous, not only for ourselves but for that new world after the war to which we all look with hope. You have a peculiar responsibility to that world, a responsibility to think in terms of the whole human race, to think of freedom in the largest possible sense, and to consider likely means by which freedom may be established as a common human principle.

As for the white people of our country, you know them very well. There is one group among them who have no race prejudices. All over this country I know these are men and women who have an honest determination to work for real freedom and equality. They are aware of how much and how wrongly the colored American suffers from racial and economic discrimination. These you must uphold by every means in your power, for should democracy not be victorious, they will have to give their lives because they spoke and worked for your freedom, too. If the enemy is the victor, you will return to slavery, but they will be killed.

The mass of the white Americans belongs to a second group. These willingly or unwillingly ac-

knowledge prejudice, but they are beginning to believe in varying degrees that their prejudice is wrong. They are beginning to see or at least to suspect that discrimination on the unjust ground of color works evil not only to those who bear the burden of discrimination, but to those who harbor it, just as in the old days, which permitted slavery, not only the slaves were harmed but the slave owners too. Slavery is a double edged knife in any society where it exists and race discrimination is the aftermath of slavery.

The third white group in our country is smaller than the second but not so small as the first. It is made up of those white people in whom race prejudice is deeply ingrained because tradition still holds them bound, or because their lack of intelligence and economic opportunity demand a class yet lower than their own so that they can feel superior to somebody. These white people are the enemies of freedom. Should the Axis win, these would be its friends. They would rule this country under the guidance of Hitler and the Japanese.

If the American white people belonged mostly to the first group there would be no need for this letter. The work would be done. Those conditions under which you are now living, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, would already have disappeared. If the American people belonged mostly to the third group this letter would not be printed at all. We would now be fighting on the side of the Axis and against the democracies and we would be planning a complete subjugation of all the colored peoples in the world.

But the American white people belong mostly to the middle group those who have inherited or been trained in prejudice, but who because they have also inherited and been trained in the American ideals of human freedom and equality now find a serious conflict within themselves. For the most part they honestly want to do right, but they are afraid, because they see that this right will make great changes in our national life. It is true of all human beings that they dread that which they do not know, and it is especially true

when what the white people have known has been a tradition which has given them an advantage.

But still just at this moment our chance of freedom for all people is in these troubled, undecided, yet on the whole honest white Americans most of whom hate their inability to make practical their belief in freedom for all.

You see how great a thing I am asking. I am asking you to help this uncertain white American to understand you as a human being, trust you as his equal so that he may be convinced that if you are given freedom equal to his, you will not think of revenge and liberty only for yourselves, but still of ordered freedom and equity for humanity.

I do not excuse in any way those injustices and those cruelties which you have borne. There is no excuse for them. You must neither forget nor forgive them, but rather remember them, so that this remembrance, like the bread and wine, may fill you with fresh courage and new resolve. But when you remember the suffering, which you have not deserved, do not

(Continued on page 3)

THE CIO AND THE NEGRO

WATCH THIS COLUMN EACH WEEK FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NEGRO AND THE CIO; DIRECT FROM H. Q., WASHINGTON, D. C. —

THE CIO'S STAND

The objects of the organization are: "To bring about the effective organization of the working men and women of America regardless of race, color or nationality, and to unite them for common action in labor unions for their mutual aid and protection."

—From the Constitution of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

WHEREAS, The history of organized labor in the United States is replete with instances in which reactionary employing interests have sought to divide the workers by playing on the prejudices and

special interests of whites against Negroes, or the reverse; and

One of the great contributions which the CIO has made to the strength of organized labor in the United States has been to break down the barriers which have existed in the past between Negro and white workers in labor organizations; now, therefore, be it

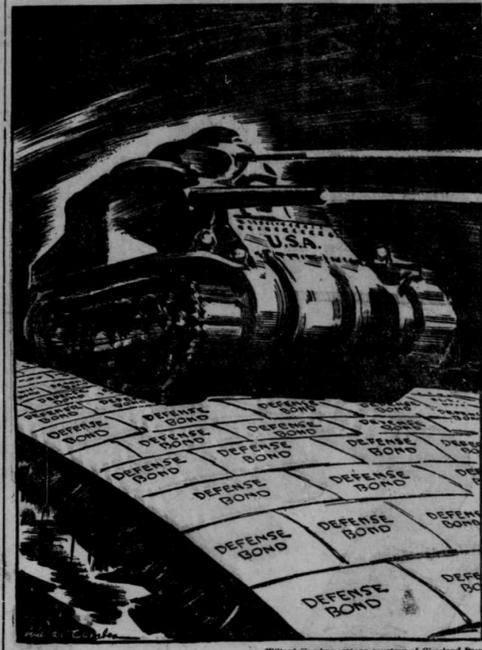
RESOLVED, That the CIO reaffirms the position which it has consistently maintained from beginning in opposition to any and all forms of discrimination between one worker and another based upon considerations of race, creed, color or nationality, and pledges itself to work with vigor toward the elimination of outworn prejudices of this kind wherever they may be found in American life; and

That the CIO condemns the policies of many employers of discriminating in their hiring and other employment conditions against Negroes, which constitutes a direct attack against our nation's policy to build democracy in our fight against Hitlerism.

Resolution of the fourth convention of the CIO held in Detroit, Michigan, November 1941.

(To be continued next week)

PAVE THE WAY



NEGROES GREATEST OPPORTUNITY AT HAND SAYS CME, SEC'Y

SAYS "PRESENT GRAVE CRISIS PRESENTS NEGROES THEIR SUPREME HOUR AND GREATEST NATIONAL OPPORTUNITY"

Henderson, Texas, March 3 (A. N. P.)—"The present grave world crisis presents Negroes their supreme hour and their greatest national opportunity," said the Rev. C. E. Chapman, general secretary of public relations of the CME Church, here Friday night, before a large audience at the annual program and banquet sponsored by the Henderson Negro Chamber of Commerce.

"Light is breaking through to the white world. The white world particularly the so called Nordic or Anglo Saxon world, is now learning a belated, yet dear and costly lesson from what is taking place in this war torn, confused and treacherous world. The white man of America is learning that the American Negro is, after all, the white man's best and most dependable friend," he said.

He cited "jitteriness among American white people" as proof of the emerging change in the white world as regards the Negro. "The white people of this country and of England do not now know what white people to trust. We've reached a point where every white man is afraid of the other white man. But one thing is sure: White people know from actual experience American Negro. The speaker warned Negroes "to seize the golden opportunity at hand" and further urged that "all Negroes would place themselves and everything they possess at the disposal of the federal government in this grave crisis, and make sure that we have every reason to insist upon what we are entitled to when the battle is over."

Beulah Brown of Kansas City, Marcia Greene of Chicago, Ill., and Sydney Wilson of Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y., and family attended the funeral.



LEADERS IN USO. WORK FOR YMCA. A group of the outstanding leaders aiding the YMCA, as executives of the USO centers for Colored servicemen it conducts. Names of those pictured and location of their service clubs, are (left to right): Seated: A. G. Fallings, Mashpee, Mass.; J. A. Davis, Columbus, Ga.; J. H. Ford, Manhattan, Kansas.; W. H. Childs, Battle Creek, Mich.; A. N. Hardy, Field Supervisor, New York; R. T. Lockett, Camp Dix, N. J.; N. S. Jackson, Norfolk, Va.; C. S. Davis, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Standing: E. B. Weatherless, Alexandria, Va.; J. H. Harris, Mineral Wells, Texas; J. H. McGrew, Richmond, Va.; E. A. Dawson, Mashpee, Mass.; N. R. Cochran, Petersburg, Va.; C. N. Johnson, Mashpee, Mass.; Gordon Kitchen, Brownwood, Texas, and E. E. Farley, Columbus, Ga.