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

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## Southernaires



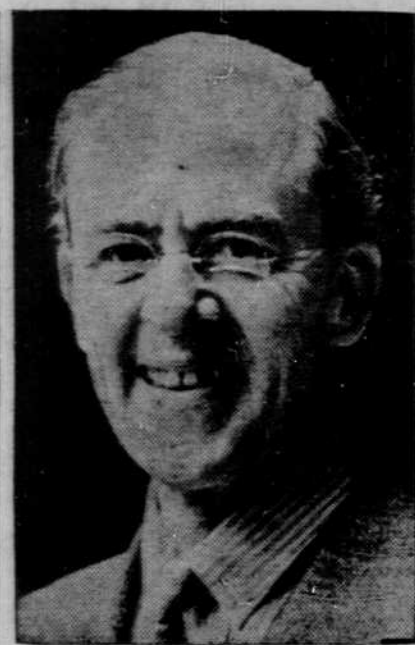
CITY AUDITORIUM MARCH 27—8:15 P. M.

## EDITORIALS of the week THE BRITISH IN INDIA

About 1600 A. D. Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to the East India Company. Its purpose was to extend British trade and, as his story shows, to make of India a British colony. By gradual steps from "peaceful penetration" thru trade and commerce, India became not only a British possession but the richest one under the Crown.

During the years of British occupancy of India and governmental Administration, there have been several rebellions against British exploitation. Queen Victoria, two hundred fifty years after the East India Company entered India, issued a proclamation in which it was declared to be the purpose of the British Government to admit freely Indian natives into the government service. In the same decree, Victoria proclaimed herself to be "Empress of India" without consultation with or the consent of the Indian people.

For two and a half centuries before the Victorian Decree, British agents had been carefully encouraging division among the People of India. They subtly arrayed Hindu against Moslem and Moslem against Hindu and other lesser elements of the population against each other and against the Hindu and Moslem elements of the population. The British anticipated that one day the cry would arise for Freedom of India, and then they would answer, we would like to grant it, but "there is no unity among the Indian People". Thus they are answering today as the People of India demand a FREE INDIA.



SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS

The British Government in the last few weeks has appointed Sir Stafford Cripps as a special Commissioner to India to work out a plan for Indian Freedom. The British press, and the British Prime Minister, however, points out that the effort to achieve unity of India faces the problem of Hindu and Moslem enmity; the enmity which the British have cultivated for the 340 years since the chartering of the East India Company.

Meanwhile, Japan knocks at the gates of India.

Our sympathies go out to Sir Stafford Cripps, an able and sincere man, who must undo in a brief period, the mischief done by Britain for more than three hundred years.

It is the old formula, "divide and conquer", which the British are now using. But they cannot escape the responsibility for conditions in the India of today. They have been influential in India for more than three centuries; they have been dominant there for two hundred years. During that time the British have taken from India hundreds of billions of Dollars in wealth. But the per capita wealth of the People of India is the least to be found anywhere in a civilized land; here we find the highest percentage of illiteracy and a larger number of human beings in the throes of degradation than can be found anywhere else on earth.

The present population of India is 390,000,000. Three-fourths of them are Hindus, 77,000,000 are Mohammedans.

For many years great Indian leaders have agitated for Indian freedom. Under the leadership of Mohandas Gandhi and Nehru, Nationalism has become well nigh irresistible. During World War One the cry for Dominion Status for India was strong and the British Government half heartedly promised it. But after the war was over the British leaders claimed that "Indian Nations cannot get together and until they do, Britain cannot grant Dominion Status, or Independence."

India may not be free, but if she is not, the day of British exploitation is over.

The British have had their chance, the best of any Colonial power of history and they have failed in the Orient; they are failing in Africa, because they are being blinded by "A Color Complex"; "That all non-white races are inferior, and therefore, must always be the 'mudslip' of the races of mankind."

The lesson which the British are learning in India may well be learned by white men the world over, including the Western hemisphere in particular.

The darker races may also learn a lesson from the tragic failure of Britain in India. And if, in the changing order, the darker races shall be foremost once again, let us make very sure, that in such a society, the strong shall no more oppress and exploit the weak. May the dark men rather teach that strength is given to the strong that they may help the weak and helpless. If they pursue such a course, and white men, in the cycle of time, shall in the distant days, again be clothed with power, civilization will not suffer, because the lessons mankind shall have learned will be those of human service. Britain lost such a chance in India.

## ATTENTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS NAACP

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been one of the most serviceable organizations to appear in the field of human rights since the New England Abolition Society. It has performed very helpful service through legal means to hold such ground as the Negro has and to make additional gains. In spite of all that has been done, lynchings still occur; mobs still have their own sweet way in cities North and South and the United States Congress refuses to pass an anti-mob law.

Progress has been made. We have learned to organize a fight for civil liberty; the fine art of propaganda; how to utilize the legal means at hand for our defense and protection, and we have learned that THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, will

sustain the cause of Civil Liberty when it is properly brought before it.

These successes have been possible only because, in the early years of the Association, the leadership was able and sincerely devoted to the cause which it espoused. They set the example of moral, intellectual and financial integrity. And the people through out the Nation supported them. And thus the NAACP became respected and feared all over America.

Its work in the various communities has been carried on by unpaid workers who believe in its cause. Upon such workers you must depend through the coming years, for they are giving the kind of service which MONEY CANNOT BUY. Therefore, more and

(Continued on page 13)

## Prominent Southerners Support Anti-Poll Tax Bill

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A plea for the protection of the federal constitution, so that "democracy may not become a touchstone for hypocrites," was made before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Thursday, March 12th, by a group of Southerners testifying in support of a bill by Senator Pepper, Democrat of Florida which would outlaw payment of state poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting for federal office holders.

Silliman Evans, editor of the Nashville Tennessean, charged that "the poll tax permits minority rule" and "cheating" of honest voters in eight Southern States and that in actual operation it produces self-selected suffrage. He testified that poll taxes had enabled Ed Crump of Memphis "to build up a political machine that has no peer in the country," and that this machine "controls one or about 80,000 of Tennessee's 400,000 voters." He said that a man "can't expect to defeat a Crump-supported candidate who goes into a race with about 20 percent of the votes in his pocket."

The assistant editor of the Tennessean, Jennings Perry, stated that "the republican form of government has been destroyed in all the poll tax states." "Tennessee right now has 100,000 more men registered for military service—and in it—all of poll tax age) than she has voters," Mr. Perry said, adding that in Tennessee about 400,000 of the 1,800,000 citizens actually elect state and national officials.

Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, Southern Pacific Relations Counsel of the CIO, testified that the poll tax represented a deliberate denial of representation to the poor, a denial "creating wrongs and injustices of many types." She stated that the tax was an injustice to wage earners and destroyed their civil rights, because they do not elect local sheriffs as well as state and national officials. "Elected representatives forget the people who do not share in their elections," she said.

Appearing on behalf of the Southern Electoral Reform League, the outstanding Southern organization fighting the poll tax, and its affiliate, the Virginia Electoral Reform League, Moss Plunkett and David George, both of Virginia, gave factual evidence of the way in which political machines perpetuate themselves through the purchase of "blocks of poll tax receipts, and told of the organized Southern movement for the abolishing of the poll tax represented by the Reform League.

Mr. Plunkett told the subcommittee that an official report of a subcommittee of the Virginia legislature, appointed to make a study of election reforms, made a report strongly favoring abolition of the poll tax, which had been suppressed by the body that had instructed it to make its study.

Testifying concerning the purchase of poll tax receipts by organizations or groups, Mr. George claimed that authoritative public statements have been made by public officials in Virginia that the practice of such "block" payment of poll taxes is common in the state. He testified that an official audit of the treasuries of 100 counties of Virginia had shown shortages in a majority. This is due, he explained, to the practice of the treasurer marking as paid blocks of poll tax receipts purchased before payment was actually made and then failing to collect.

Frank McCallister of Atlanta, Georgia, Southern secretary of the Workers Defense League, included two main points in his testimony. He stated that Southern states now requiring the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting are violating the terms of their readmission to the union after the war, since that act of Congress readmitting them provided "that their constitutions never be so amended

## LINCOLN URBAN LEAGUE TO HOLD STATE WIDE MEETING

The Lincoln Urban League announces a Statewide Conference on Interracial Social Action and Negro Participation in War and Post War.

The program will be held at the new Urban League Community Center 2030 T St. Prominent men and women throughout the state will participate.

The program is as follows: **ONE DAY NEBR. CONFAB SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1942**

**AGENDA**

9:00-9:30—Millard T. Woods, Lincoln, presiding Executive Secretary, Lincoln Urban League.

Prayer, Rev. L. S. Goolsby, President Lincoln Ministerial Alliance.

Greetings, Dr. Arthur L. Weatherly, President Emeritus Lincoln Urban League.

**THE REASONS FOR THE CONFERENCE**

By Trago T. McWilliams Industrial Secretary, Lincoln Urban League.

9:30-10:15 (a) **WOMEN'S PLACE IN THIS WAR**

Mrs. Mary Jones Gamble, graduate University of Nebraska, Norfolk, Nebraska, Presiding.

Discussants: Mrs. Blackburn, General Secretary Northside Branch, YWCA, Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. Vyola W. Miller, Lincoln Case worker, Lancaster County Relief Bureau, Mrs. Katherine Moore, Lincoln Civic and Church worker.

10:15-11:15 (b) **THE PART OF THE**

or changed as to deprive any citizen or class of citizens of the United States of the right to vote who are entitled to vote by the constitution herein recognized." That constitution, he said, contained a provision that "all citizens of the state are hereby declared to possess equal civil and political rights and public privileges."

His second point was that the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting "is an institution which is discriminatory and was meant to be so by those who enacted such legislation." In support of this point he quoted a speech made by Carter Glass, Senator from Virginia, at the constitutional convention of Virginia which adopted the Virginia Constitution of 1902. Glass declared then: "The chief purpose of this convention is to amend the suffrage clause of the existing constitution. It does not require much prescience to foretell that the alterations which we shall make will not apply to 'all persons and classes without distinction.' We were sent here to make distinctions. We expect to make distinctions. We will make distinctions."

Also testifying in support of the Pepper bill were Mrs. Sherwood Anderson of Marion, Va., representing the National YWCA, and Mrs. Kate Bradford Stockton, of Allardt, Tenn., who said she represented the "dirt farmers" of the Tennessee hills. A statement sent by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, the organization representing Southern sharecroppers and farm tenants, was received and placed in the record.

Dr. Will Alexander, former administrator of the Farm Security Administration, and Dr. Frank Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, presented written statements to the subcommittee.

Phillip Murray, president of the AFL; representatives of the railway brotherhoods; Benjamin Marsh, of Peoples Lobby; and Albert Hamilton, of the Socialist Party, were expected to testify before the end of the four day hearing.

## ROOSEVELT POST TO GIVE FREE LUNCHEON TO BOMBER PLANT EMPLOYEES SUNDAY

All employees at the Bomber plant are invited to a Free Luncheon at the American Legion Post No. 30 Hall, 24th and Burlington Sts., Sunday March 22, at 1 P. M. Good food and plenty of Free Beer.

## GREATER SHARE IN WAR PROGRAM URGED FOR NEGRO CITIZENS

Lester B. Grainger, executive secretary of the National Urban League of New York City, was a Lincoln visitor Monday. Mr. Grainger vice president of the American Association of Social Work, a former Dartmouth athlete and veteran of World War I in which he was an artillery officer, spoke to a group of University students at the Urban League in the afternoon. He addressed the members of the Urban League board in an evening session held

at the YMCA.

His topic was "The Current Program of the National Urban League". Mr. Grainger in an inspiring talk told of the National Urban League's program in the present day crisis. He stated that the Negro should insist upon full participation in defense activities and the military effort.

Special guests were Louis W. Horne, executive secretary of the Lincoln Community Chest, and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond R. Brown of Omaha. Mr. Brown, executive secretary of the Omaha Urban League introduced Mr. Grainger. Millard T. Woods executive secretary of the Lincoln Urban League, presided.

**WALLER EXECUTION STAYED TO MAY 19 BY GOV. DARDEN**

Governor Colgate W. Darden Jr. of Virginia has granted a stay of execution to Odell Waller, 24 year old sharecropper of Gretna, Virginia, who had been sentenced to die March 20th for the shooting of his planter landlord in a dispute over crop shares. The stay was to May 19th.

The stay was granted by Gov. Darden on March 11th, after he had received the printer's proofs of attorney John F. Finerty's petition to the Supreme Court of the United States for a writ of certiorari. The governor was warmly thanked for his action by the Workers Defense League, national labor defense agency with headquarters at 112 East 19th Street, New York City, which is handling the sharecropper's appeal for a new trial.

**GRADUATE NEGRO PILOTS**

The first class of Negro pilot in the history of the U. S. Army Air Corps was graduated at the Advanced Flying School, Tuskegee, Ala., March 7, when "wings"

## GRADUATE NEGRO PILOTS



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and commissions as second lieutenants in the Air Corps were presented by Major General George E. Stratemeyer, commanding the Southeast Air Corps Training Center.

Among the members of the class

shown here listening to one of their instructors, Lieut. R. M. Long left are: G.S. Roberts, of London, W. Va.; Capt. B. O. Davis of Washington; C. H. DeBow of Indianapolis, Ind.; Mac Ross of Dayton, Ohio, and L. R. Curtis of New

Rochelle, N. Y. It is expected that they will be assigned to the 99th Pursuit Squadron. Other Negro aviation cadets now in training are expected to be commissioned in the near future.