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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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This week's Editorial Review

THE CASE OF MR. AND MRS. ELDRIDGE

Elsewhere in the Omaha Guide will be found a story of police brutality, rarely equaled in the history of the Omaha Police Department, describing the beating given Mrs. and Mr. Eldridge Wednesday of last week in the police station.

Several months ago The Omaha Guide sounded a warning when officers entered the home of Herman Lewis and brutally assaulted him. We said then that this act should not go unpunished; that the responsibility for it rested then and rests now squarely in the lap of the City Commissioners of Omaha, and that their act of dismissing Herman Lewis from the Fire Department because police officers after beating him charged him with "Resisting Arrest" and "Interfering with Police Officers," was a monstrous wrong. Moreover, if the council approved such brutality, other officers would feel they had the right to enter the homes of Negroes and assault them at will. All that would be necessary to escape punishment after the assault would be to charge the victim with various offenses and have a pliant judge find the victim guilty.

We held no brief for Herman Lewis then; we held none now. But we insisted then and we insist now that POLICE BRUTALITY MUST NOT GO UNPUNISHED.

But "rabbits" wearing pants will not get you anywhere. And someone must take action. We have given you the facts in the Eldridge case; we gave them to you in the Lewis case and suggested what should be done. Fortunately, Lewis is fighting his case out in the courts. We hope Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge will do likewise. More about this later.

GENERAL DOUGLAS MAC ARTHUR IN AUSTRALIA

General Douglas MacArthur is now in Australia in command of Allied forces there. His broadcast over the radio several days ago indicated he realized the gravity of the situation and the urgent need for men and military equipment.

We are glad General MacArthur is out of the Philippines which will be most difficult to hold when the Japanese make an all out offensive there.

One of the first acts which General MacArthur performed was to have two Negro regiments sent to fight under him in the Philippines. We wonder, if the same troops would be welcome in Australia, "The White Man's Country", or would the Australians rather perish than to be saved by black soldiers from America?

In 1903, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois said in "The Souls of Black Folks": "The problem of the Twentieth Century, dear reader is the problem of the COLOR LINE."

The present conflict in the Far East confirms the prophecy of the learned Doctor. And the problem will not be solved by arrogance and littleness, and meanness by white men toward dark men. It can only be solved by men of all races, treating their fellowmen as they would be treated.

We hope General MacArthur will be successful in repelling the Japanese, even from the "White man's Australia", that they too, may have the chance to right the wrongs they have done to dark

1,500 Citizens attend NAACP Mass Meeting

Nat'l Negro Health Week Program, April 5 to 12

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON NEGRO HEALTH TO PRESENT NATIONAL NEGRO HEALTH WEEK PROGRAM APRIL 5 TO APRIL 12

Dr. Craig Morris, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee on Negro Health, reports that National Negro Health Week in Omaha this year is to be made a big occasion. Mrs. Evelyn Murray of the Visiting Nurses Assn. has been selected as Chairman, and Dr. S. L. Pearlman of the United States Public Health to work with her as Co-Chairman. The program has been outlined as follows:

SUNDAY, APRIL 5—Mobilization Day in the Church Rev. F. C. Williams, Pastor of the Zion Baptist Church in charge of the program.

MONDAY, APRIL 6—Home Health Day—Mrs. G. Anita Blackburn, Exec. Sec'y of the Northside YWCA in charge of the program in social agencies and clubs.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7—Community Sanitation Day—Dr. W. W. Solomon in charge of program for food handlers.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8—Special Campaign Day—R. R. Brown, Exec. Sec'y of the Urban League in charge of visitations to the County and University of Nebraska Hospitals.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9—Adults Health Day—Dr. Herbert Wiggins in charge of program for health examinations and clinics.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10—School Health and Safety Day—Mrs. Alyce Wilson, Director of the Woodson Center, in charge of program for schools and children's club groups.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11—General Clean Up—Mr. S. E. Gilbert, Editor of the Omaha Star in charge of program, collecting salvage material, trash and cleaning up the neighborhood.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12—Annual Meeting—proposed for Zion Baptist Church at 4:00 p. m. out of town speaker to be engaged. Election of officers and reports to be held on this day.

Note that on Tuesday, April 7, special blood testing and Tuberculosis testing clinics to be held at Woodson Center and the Urban League between 7:00 and 9:00 pm. The local radio stations will be asked to carry health programs during that week. KBON will present news items at 7:30 pm. each Friday up to April 10, concerning this week's observations.

CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS NEGRO'S PART IN WAR

Lincoln, Nebraska—Negro participation in war and defense activities, and in preparing to meet post war problems, will be discussed at a state conference to be held next Saturday, March 28, in the senate chamber at the state capitol. The following topics will be discussed.

Civilian defense program, Dr. Clarence Singleton, Omaha, presiding; the part of the Negro Press, Burt F. Newton, Lincoln presiding; the Negro Youth's Viewpoint, Miss Pamona Banks, University of Nebraska student, presiding; employment problems of the Negro worker, the Rev. Charles G. Blooah, Hastings, presiding; Women's Place in the War, Mrs. Mary Gamble, Norfolk, presiding; Post war problems, Thomas Mahammit, Omaha presiding.

An evening banquet will be fol-

"ARE WE ALWAYS AS ALERT TO PRACTICE IT HERE AT HOME AS WE ARE TO PROCLAIM IT ABROAD"—Wendell L. Wilkie



WENDELL L. WILKIE

WHO WAS HE? —ASKS COLUMNISTS

The following are the opening remarks of Wendell L. Wilkie as Chairman of the Inaugural Dinner of Freedom House, which was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Commodore Hotel, Thursday evening, March 19th, 1942.

This meeting is the inaugural dinner of Freedom House, a house as its name indicates, symbolizes freedom, its membership dedicated to the advancement of the cause of freedom throughout the world.

Obviously among the purposes of the founders of Freedom House is the encouragement of our armed forces who constitute the battle line on which we fight for freedom throughout the world. Another purpose is to stimulate the people of America to support the cause of freedom everywhere. I wonder sometimes, however, whether we are not a little pharisaical or perhaps even presumptuous in our high minded statements about freedom. Are we always as alert to practice it here at home as we are to proclaim it abroad? Do we accord freedom to all of our citizens?

On December 20th a belated press dispatch describing the personal heroism of men and officers during the Pearl Harbor attack, occurred this sentence: "A negro mess attendant who never before had fired a gun, manned a machine gun on the bridge until his ammunition was exhausted." A gun negro mess attendant. Who was he? For weeks newspapermen and columnists asked that question of the Navy Department.

Letters began to come in from all over the country. Commentators began to speak of the "unnamed Negro messman".

Finally the office of the Secretary by presentation of a summary of the conference discussions by the Rev. John Adams Sr.

NATIONAL NAACP REPRESENTATIVE TO COME HERE IN ELDRIDGE CASE

The National Office of the NAACP is sending a representative to make an investigation of the Eldridge case. He is Mr. Edward Morrow from the NAACP National office 69th Fifth Avenue, New York City, N. Y. He will arrive in Omaha Friday April 3, and will address the Second Mass Meeting at St. John's A.M.E. Church 22nd and Willis Ave., Friday April 3—8:30 p. m. Everybody welcome. A. B. McCaw, President.

Eldridge, I said to Officer Goodrich, "Let's take her in the car and take her to the station and get her taken care of right away." She flatly refused saying that she would not go with the dirty sons of..... that we had no right to take her out of her own house, so I said "O yes you will"; I told Officer Goodrich to take hold of her arm and I took hold of the other and forced her out of the house and across the street to where Officer Goodrich had his cruiser car, and all the way over she was cursing us, calling us sons of..... dam mother.... and refused to get in the car, wanting to go into her own house and get some papers. Knowing her disposition from being at this place on other calls I refused to let her go into the house, and then told Officer Goodrich to go and call the wagon, that we could not take her in the cruiser car. Officer Goodrich went into a house across the street to call the wagon, Mrs. Eldridge and I stood on the sidewalk, I was holding her by the left arm, and she was calling me all the dirty sons of..... she could think of; she finally quieted down and said "Officer, if you will let loose of me, I won't run, I will stand right here." I let loose, taking her word, and about a half a minute or so later she says "You dirty son of a....." and ran; she ran across the street north and along the west side of her home, 2530 Maple, around the back yard and around the garage, back to the front of the house, and me after her; she ran into the front door which was opened. I caught Mrs. Eldridge in the front room door entering into the kitchen. I said to her "What's the matter, have you gone crazy?" She said "You dirty son of a..... you can't take me out of here. I am in my own home." At this time a man appeared from what seemed to be the kitchen in his underwear, staggering and wanting to know what the trouble was. I said, "there isn't much trouble, but this woman is going to jail". He grabbed hold of my arms and said "Let go of her that is my wife, and no son of a..... could take her out of the house." I said to him "What is the matter with you, you had better keep your nose out of this, or you will go to jail too". He then said "You dirty mother son of a..... lot me get my pistol and I'll kill you and all the rest of them over there, meaning the house next door, where

SGT GRAHAM MAKES STATEMENT POLICE HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL STATION Omaha, Nebr., March 20, 1942

Mr. Paul Haze, Inspector of Police, Omaha, Nebraska,

Dear Sir:

As per your orders I am submitting the following report:

At 2:32 P. M. March 18th, 1942 I received a call over the radio to 2522 Maple street.... a fight. I proceeded as quickly as possible to this address. When I arrived, and got out of the car I was met by a man giving his name as Irving Johnson, stating that he lived at this address, that he was having trouble with his landlady. There was blood on the sidewalk, and on Johnson's hands; I asked him how that happened and he told me that the landlady had stuck her arm through the glass in the front door. I said to Johnson, "let's go in and we will see what is the trouble". When I got inside I saw Officer Goodrich scuffling with a woman on the davenport, the house all mussed up, covered with blood. I asked Officer Goodrich what was the trouble and he said there had been a fight and the lady had stuck her arm through the glass in the front door. When I saw the blood and the condition of the woman's arm, knowing she was drunk and needed medical attention, and whom I later learned was Mrs. L.

ELDRIDGE HEARING HOLDS CROWDED COURT ROOM FOR SIX HOURS

WOMAN BRUTALLY BEATEN AND KICKED BY POLICE OFFICER

It is alleged, in a sworn statement by Mrs. William Eldridge, 2530 Maple Street, to police Inspector Paul Haze, that she became involved in a brawl with a tenant, was brutally kicked and beaten by Sgt. Jack Graham. The story goes as follows: Mrs. Eldridge and a Mrs. Johnson a tenant of Mrs. Eldridge had been engaged in a fight over some matters pertaining to the rent, and gas bill. On arrival of the police Mrs. Eldridge, who had received a cut on the arm attempted to enter her (own) front door when Sgt. Graham blocked the entrance. She then tried to enter the back door only to find it locked, she ran to the front door, being chased by Sgt. Graham. She managed to beat him in the house. Sgt. Graham then caught her arm and wrenched it until she was almost to the floor. She was released only after she bit him on the arm, and he in turn struck her a fierce blow in the eye, knocking her unconscious. At this time her husband came from the bathroom and tried to plead with the officer to let him explain. The patrol wagon was called and they (Mrs. Mrs. Eldridge were herded in. As police station Mr. Eldridge was struck on the head. Mrs. Eldridge protested and asked why he was being struck in such a manner, and at that time she was struck and knocked to the floor. Sgt. Graham then picked up both feet of Mrs. Eldridge and held them together in mid-air, with her clothes over her head and the lower

Nathaniel Hunter Civic, Fraternal Leader Dies

Mr. Nathaniel Hunter, 2012 N. 28th St., one of Omaha's most beloved citizens, died a few days ago. Mr. Hunter was very active in religious, fraternal and civic organizations. He was Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge, member of the Elks Lodge, member of the Past Exalted Ruler Circle of the Elks Lodge and a member of Zion Baptist Church from where the funeral was held on Monday afternoon at 2 p. m., under the auspices of the Masonic and Elks Lodges.

He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, a niece, and other relatives ad a host of friends.

Mr. Hunter who was a faithful and well thought of employee of the U. S. National Bank was employed there for 27 years.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Gentlemen: By order of Richard W. Jepsen Commissioner of Police, Sergeant John H. Graham will be suspended from active duty as a police officer of the City of Omaha, pending the result of the investigation and disposition of the case of Mrs. L. Eldridge.

By order of,
ROBT. F. MUNCH,
Acting Chief of Police

GETS APPOINTMENT AS MAIL CLERK

Mr. Johnnie Owen was appointed as mail clerk at a salary of \$2200 per year by Mr. Harley G. Moorhead Postmaster. Mr. Owen went to work Friday March 27th. Good luck Johnnie—you have our best wishes to keep on going up.

prosecuting Jack Graham. Arthur B. McCaw, president of the NAACP says the Association is not interested in the charges against Mrs. Eldridge, but against the brutal treatment. Mrs. Eldridge has private attorneys to represent her. Senator John Adams, chairman of the Legal Redress Committee of the NAACP is leading the fight, ably assisted by the entire committee, consisting of Attorney J. Dillard Crawford, S. Edward Gilbert, and Rev. F. S. Williams.

There were 1,500 people who attended the Mass meeting at Zion Baptist Church, all of whom solemnly pledged their support to the NAACP \$150.00 was raised to see that justice is done in this case

MRS. ELDRIDGE MAKES STATEMENT

STATEMENT GIVEN TO INSPECTOR PAUL HAZE

Omaha Police Department, Mar. 20, 1942 at 11:15 am. in the presence of the following: John Adams State Senator, 409 Karbach Block AT. 6766, Chairman Legal Redress Committee of the Local Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Arthur B. McCaw, President of the NAACP, 1430 North 22nd, WE. 0156; Rev. F. C. Williams, Pastor Zion Baptist Church 2407 North 22nd St., WE. 3728, President Interdenominational Ministers Alliance; S. Edward Gilbert, Editor, Omaha Star, 2216 North 24th, WE. 4041, President Omaha Negro Chamber of Commerce; C. C. Galoway, Editor, Omaha Guide 2418 Grant, WE. 1517.

Questions propounded by Inspector Paul Haze, John Adams and Arthur B. McCaw. Transcription started at 12:30 pm. March 20, 1942, by Det. Sgt. A. E. Clinchard. Also present: Wm. Eldridge, husband of Ruby Eldridge.

Q. Your name is what please?
A. Ruby Eldridge.

Q. Where do you live?
A. I live at 2530 Maple.

Q. How old are you?
A. I am thirty.

Q. Are you married?
A. Yes sir.

Q. What is your husband's name?
A. William Eldridge.

Q. What does he do?
A. He works for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Q. How long has he worked for them?
A. Thirty four years.

Q. Now Mrs. Eldridge, I am going to ask you some questions about an incident that happened Wednesday March 18, 1942. You had some trouble at your home?
A. Yes I did.

Q. What time of day was that?
A. Around three o'clock in the afternoon.

Q. You just tell us what happened?
A. The people concerned in this that is the cause of the officers to be out there in the first place, are some tenants that I have in the apartment house at 2522 Maple their name is Johnson. Now two weeks ago, more than two weeks ago, I told Mrs. Johnson that after the 15th of March that I would not furnish them with gas for the same amount of rent they were paying then because the current expenses of running it were more than the income from the house and I told them they would have to decide on whether they wanted to pay more rent or to furnish their own gas for the same amount of money. I didn't hear anything from them until after the 15th of March. Then they wanted to give

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(continued on page 6)

NAACP Will Demand Dismissal of Sgt. Graham For Alleged Beating of Mrs. Ruby Eldridge

RESOLUTION

Whereas Mrs. Ruby Eldridge of 2530 Maple St. has made complaint to the Executive Board of the Omaha Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to the effect that she was brutally beaten and abused by Sgt. Graham, a police officer of the Omaha Police Department, on or about the 18th day of March, 1942, the details of which are described and set out in a signed statement given by her and turned over to the Association,

and

Whereas the legal redress committee has made an investigation of the said affair and has filed a complaint with acting chief Munch of the police department, and

Whereas the Executive Board of the Association recommends that Sgt. Jack Graham be dismissed from the police department and be presented for the brutal assault upon the said Mrs. Eldridge.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by this Mass Meeting of Negro citizens assembled on the 23rd day of March at Zion Baptist Church, that the Omaha Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People proceed in the prosecution of the complaint against Sgt. Jack Graham and demand his unconditional dismissal from the Omaha Police Department and proceed with a prosecution of the said Jack Graham for the alleged brutal assault.

Adopted this 23rd day of March 1942.

Union Pacific Doctor Finds Many Bruises on Mrs. Eldridge's Body

Mr. Arthur B. McCaw 1430 No. 22nd St. Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. McCaw:

On March 19th, 1942 I examined Mrs. William Eldridge of 2530 Maple Street at which time she

was suffering from a lacerated right wrist, a sprained left thumb and hand, contusion of the left eye left leg, left side of the chest, right buttock, right side of the abdomen and left thigh. She stated that she had also been knocked unconscious. She exhibited no evidence of post concussion state.

If there is any further information I can give you I will be happy to do so.

Sincerely yours,
Edward Thompson, MD.
ET-VD CC: Capt. Hayes
Wm. N. Jamieson, Atty.

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