

SOCIAL NOTES

ENTERTAINS AT PHEASANT LUNCHEON

Mrs. Hiram R. Greenfield was hostess, honoring Mrs. Velma Rose Davis, former Omahan now residing in Chicago...

The hostess served Pheasant menu at the luncheon given at her home Friday January 22nd at 2 o'clock. A most delightful affair was enjoyed by all.

CHURCH AFFAIR

The Women Work of Church of the Living God CWFF will hold their next meeting on January 29th at the home of the Secretary Mrs. Jennie Lewis 2212 Burdette St.

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come out and bring your Bible. The subject will be Charity and its meaning. Mrs. W. Long, Pres. Mrs. Jennie Lewis, Secy

S. JOHN AME. CHURCH

Rev. E. F. Ridley, Pastor. Ruby B. Reese, Reporter. The Union Service will be held at the Pilgrim Baptist Church on Sunday, January 31st.

St. John extends sympathy to Mrs. Louise Strawther and family on the death of her sister, Mrs. Ella Harper; to Mrs. M. Fowler on the death of her mother, Mrs. Margaret Gordon; to Mrs. Mayme Fitter and Mrs. Mattie Johnson on the death of their daughter and niece, Mrs. Margaret Rita Curry.

The Methodettes will hold a tea at the parsonage, 2416 Binney St., Sunday, February 7th from 3 p. m. to 7 p. m.

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

CWFF, 1906 North 24th St., Rev. S. K. Nichols, Pastor. Rose Oliver, Reporter. Sunday school 9:45. Morning Service 11:30. Y.P.U. 6:00. Evening Service 7:30. Wed. night Service 7:30. Women's Work Fri. night 8:00. Sunday we had grand service. We had a lovely Sunday school with a grand attendance of 23 pupils, which was remarkable for such cold weather.

The morning service were carried out grand.

Our pastor preached an inspiring sermon. His subject was "Who So Keepeth his Mouth and Tongue, Keepeth his soul from Trouble." Dear ones that was indeed a remarkable sermon and there were so many things you could learn from the subject and sermon.

Sunday night we had a grand time in the Lord. Our pastor delivered the sermon. The subject for Sunday morning January 31, 1943 will be "The Lord Shall Fight for you and you shall hold your peace." Sunday night "Lost Love". Everyone is invited to attend our services.

NOTICE - We are expecting a great Evangelist from out of the city. So watch this paper for the date of his arrival.



TRUE TO A FIGHTING TRADITION!

PIGEONHOLE FOR NEGRO EQUALITY

(continued from page 1)

is not an isolated administrative blunder committed by McNutt. I know that McNutt has privately told other officials he was acting in the direction of the White House, and was ready to "take the rap" for his chief. It is obviously unlikely, moreover, that the Manpower Commission would have made so controversial a decision without consulting anyone except members of the Indiana Alumni Association.

The consequences of his action will be vast—perhaps more serious than some Administration officials want to believe. McNutt's intervention in the railroad case threatens to overshadow the authentic progress made under the Roosevelt Administration toward giving the Negro—and other minorities—a better break at the employment offices. It will give the Axis radio plenty to say about our democratic pretensions. It directly affects the war production, where full employment of Negroes is desperately needed. And it is a cruel slap in the faces of Negro, American, cause has been so severely tried whose devotion to the democratic

The full impact of McNutt's ac-

tion can be seen only in terms of the FEPC's background and the circumstances under which it has operated. On June 25, 1941, President Roosevelt issued his celebrated Executive Order 8802 declaring it to be the official United States policy "to encourage full participation in the national defense program by all citizens of the United States, regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin." The order directed that all contracts between the government and private firms should embody an anti-discrimination pledge. The Fair Employment Practices Committee was set up to act as an enforcement agency. The committee included representatives of the public—Mark Ethridge, a Southern publisher, was its first chairman—of the A. F. of L. and the CIO, of Negroes, and of industry.

To American Negroes Executive Order 8802 was a sort of minor emancipation Proclamation. It was more than a pious thought; the order established concrete machinery as well as a firm moral foundation for carrying on the struggle against discrimination. To an equal degree of course, the order aroused the hostility and hysteria of the white supremacy fanatics in Congress and elsewhere. They have never been willing to concede that when a Negro asks equal employment rights he is not "propositioning"

the boss's sister; the FEPC inevitably became the target of attack in all the best jilly-white circles. But it went to work with impressive sobriety and a clear awareness of the potentialities of the situation. In retrospect one might say that the FEPC's chief defects were the product of timidity.

After holding public hearings the committee published findings of discrimination in many areas and issued "cease and desist" directives. Last April 12, for example, it exposed discriminatory practices in ten key manufacturing plants in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. It hit both employers and unions. There is no way to estimate conclusively the effectiveness of these reports and directives. Functioning with a meager staff and limited funds, the committee could not undertake to police as well as to probe. If defiance of its orders was extensive, no showdown ever took place. Reports indicate that, whatever its limitations, the FEPC's exposures were sufficient in many important cases to alter long-established hiring policies. Its activities helped to create a climate of opinion in which employers felt a growing guilt about their traditional prejudices—in so far as they affected war work. This was the essential beginning from which greatly improved practices might de-

velop. After Pearl Harbor speculation arose immediately as to whether the Administration would continue its frontal attack on discrimination or yield to pleas for "unity"—on Jim Crow terms. The FEPC was continued. Government officials from President Roosevelt down uttered repeated pleas to employers to break down racial barriers on the assembly lines. As the scope of the war effort became apparent, it was equally clear that the need for maintaining the anti-discrimination drive had grown rather than diminished.

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After the FEPC faced mounting resistance. Representative Rankin and other noted Negro-baiters took the floor of the house to decry its activities. Throughout the first year of its life the committee operated on a budget of \$80,000. Then last July, the President announced that the FEPC, which had been an independent agency directly responsible to him, was being merged with the War Manpower Commission. This step aroused wide-spread fear that the agency was slated for slow death; it was pointed out that its funds would be subjected to Congressional approval, that its acts would be submerged in the larger policies of the Manpower Commission. After months of negotiation, however, McNutt granted what appeared to be virtually autonomous status to the FEPC. He also promised to help obtain an increase in its budget. I have no reason to believe that McNutt was not earnest in these commitments. But other things were taking shape.

For one thing, the State Department, it is reliably reported, took exception to hearings which the committee was planning with regard to discrimination against Mexican laborers in Texas. The hearings did not occur. A high navy official suggested to the FEPC that hearings scheduled for the Detroit area would hamper navy "morale-building" plans. (I understand that this protest has been withdrawn since the current row broke out.) The Railroad Brotherhoods joined the railway man's in be-

hind the scenes pressure to stop the FEPC investigation. Governor Dixon of Alabama defied FEPC mandates in that state and virtually succeeded from the Democratic Party. Most important, however, were the Congressional elections, the ensuing gloom in Administration circles, and increased White House dependency upon the whims of the Southern Democrats. McNutt is expected to go before Congress soon to ask for more money for the United States Employment Service and fewer restrictions on its personnel. Questions will inevitably be asked about the FEPC.

The developments cited were encouraging to those within the Administration who wanted to suspend Private Willie Malone, Co. B, 780 all efforts against discrimination and who regarded Mrs. Roosevelt as an incorrigible idealist. At the same time, however, the FEPC was staying in business and appeared on the verge of obtaining an increase in appropriation. It had hired Henry Epstein, former Solicitor General of New York, to conduct the long-advertised railroad hearings. Epstein and his staff had collected their evidence. And in a larger sense the FEPC, despite its inadequacies, was becoming a court of appeals and a hope for Negroes who found employment gates slammed in their faces. It needed more men and more money, but its mere existence was a symbol of the President's plans for a new deal for the Negro. The problem still remained enormous; a recent survey in relatively enlightened New York City showed that Negroes, who form 6.1 per cent of the population, formed 26 per cent of the unemployed.

Now even the symbol of progress and hope is slipping away. Can we afford to "buy off" the Southern Democrats at the expense of the Negroes and other minorities? The only enlisted man that can boast of training over 300 dogs at the famous King's Ranch. Some of these dogs have been seen in action in several of the recent motion pictures turned out by the various studios of Hollywood, California.

Private Billy Kyles, pianist, formerly with the John Kirby's big little band, is with the 368th Infantry band. Already he has arranged some of the old classics, giving them a typical jump and rhythm that all the personnel, including officers, enlisted men and WAAAC's surely enjoy. Subjects appear in above picture from left to right as chronological; treated in story.

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Can we afford it in the face of the man-power demands of the production program and the crucial challenges of psychological warfare? To put it bluntly, the hopes of Negroes have been raised, and their disillusionment now be far more disastrous than if the President had never shown a willingness to wage this battle. There are delicate balances which must be achieved in pushing the campaign against discrimination; the FEPC was fully sensitive to them. But now, swiftly, the President must act to silence the doubts and despair which will envelop the Negro population. The FEPC must be kept alive. Its right to function freely must be reasserted. There is not much time to retrieve the ground already lost.

QUACK CLUB The Quack Club held its regular meeting Friday evening Jan. 15, with the President presiding. We had as our guest speaker Miss Elsie K. Mountain, Executive Secretary of the Paseo Branch of the YWCA, of Kansas City, Mo. Miss Mountain was introduced by Mrs. Walter Ervin, and gave a very interesting and inspiring talk which was enjoyed by all. Rev. Blackmore, pastor of the Hillside Presbyterian Church led us in our Worship Service, then we adjourned until next week. Anna May Kennedy, Pres. Olivia Johnson, Reporter.

PTA. The PTA. entertained the graduates of Howard Kennedy school Tuesday with a tea and program. The principle speaker was Mr. R. R. Brown. Those graduating were as follows: Donald Eugene Allen, Farnk Anderson, Gerald Roland Baugh, Pauline Beverly Berry, Arnold Biddex, Kathryn Nina Cole, Delores Frances Esparza, Ruth Othello Faulkner, Jacqueline Lavina Goodlett, Jean Louise Jones, Samuel Lee, Barbara Jean Long, Wiltha Lee Miles, Aletta Harriet Norman, Frances Washington, Clara Mae Watson, Virginia Louise West, Velma Williams.

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