

NAACP. To Hold Mass Meeting, Elks Hall, Friday Eve., October 27th

RACE, NOT MUTINY IS ISSUE IN TRIAL OF 50 NEGRO SEAMEN

Did Not Commit Collective Insubordination says Marshall

Yerba Benna Island, Calif.—After listening to three days' testimony of the 50 Negro seamen charged with mutiny for refusal to load ammunition at the Mare Island depot, August 9, Special NAACP Counsel, Thurgood Marshall declared, "These men are being tried for mutiny solely because of their race or color."

Following an urgent telephone call from Joseph James, president of the local NAACP Branch, asking that National Office assistance be given the defendants immediately, Mr. Marshall flew to San Francisco, where he has been reviewing testimony and interviewing the men. In his report of proceedings thus far he charged:

"The last of the defendants was on the stand today and the defense might close its case tomorrow. The Port Chicago explosion was on July 17th and many of the accused were in Port Chicago at that time. Many of them were hurt. On August 9th they were transferred to another island and told to fall in for work, meaning loading ammunition. They did not. Their officers including the Admiral talked to them. Then their officer asked them the following:—'All of you who are willing to obey all lawful orders stand fast. All who are not fall out and give your names to the officers'. Some stood fast and others fell out. Those who fell out were arrested. There were 257 altogether but it ends up that only 50 are charged with mutiny."

"The men take the position that the above statement by the officer was not considered by them to be an order and what they meant by their actions was that they did not want to load ammunition. They did not mean to disobey an order."

"A typical example of their testimony is that of Seaman Bordenave, who is 17. He had enlisted when he was 16, was released when they discovered his age and re-enlisted as soon as he was 17. He had only been handling ammunition a week and was a 'hatch tender' which meant that he was the one who directed the operator of the winch as to how to lower the ammunition into the hole. No wonder they were all afraid to load ammunition. Every man testified that since the Port Chicago affair they were 'afraid to load ammunition'. Three of the accused men handled winches, one had ten months experience, two had two months experience... all experience with ammunition."

"Lieutenant James F. Coakley, former assistant prosecutor of Alameda County, California, under the present Governor Warren is the Judge Advocate. He asks each of the accused who is from above the Mason and Dixon line 'where are you from?' He never asks any of the good southern boys the question. Today he asked one of the accused where he was from and the man said, 'Chicago'. He asked him where he took boot training, the boys replied, 'Great Lakes', whereupon Coakley said, 'Didn't they teach you to address officers as Sir? Why can't you say, Sir to me?'"

There is no sufficient evidence of mutiny or conspiracy. There is no evidence of refusal to obey a direct order.

These men are being tried for MUTINY solely because of their race or color. The meaning of MUTINY, under which these men are being tried is—"collective insubordination with intent to disobey a lawful command. In order to find defendants guilty of mutiny it is necessary for prosecution to prove there was collective insubordination which consists of a persistent and concerted refusal or omission to obey orders, or to do duty. None of these men appears to have conspired collectively to disobey or perform duty with insubordinate intent."

Your NAACP Card is on the way

Date August 3, 1944 No. B 69018

Omaha, Neb. Branch
Mrs. John A. Williams, 2418 Maple St.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People acknowledges with appreciation receipt of \$ 268.50 for 537 memberships

HEADQUARTERS, 69 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK

Mary W. O'Connell
Treasurer

PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH US... The above photostatic copy represents the receipt of monies for the number of members who paid for memberships in the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

ancement of Colored People. The delinquent members not receiving their cards was largely due to a shortage of clerical help, also a prompt reporting of workers. This has been the experience of all the local branches, in almost every state.

We do request patience and may we assure you that you have been given full credit. Your card should reach you very soon. Thank you. J. E. Blackmore, President.

Clark, Rotnem Cause Protest

Both Referred to Negro as 'Nigger' (from Continental Features)

NEW YORK (CF)—A storm of protest is gathering here over the way the Civil Liberties Unit of the Department of Justice at Washington is handling the cold-blooded murder of a 66-year old Negro minister at Jerusalem, Miss last March 28 by four white men who wanted to chase him off his 225 acres of rich farm and timber land. The attitude of Victor Rotnem, head of the Civil Liberties Unit of the Department of Justice, is being catagorized on all sides after the Newspaper PM revealed that Rotnem, in discussing the case with a PM reporter, had made the remark: "These niggers tell you one thing in an investigation and something else on the witness stand."

Lizabeth Wilson, white, the PM reporter, also wrote in her story on the action of justice in the murder of the Rev. Isaac Simmons, that Tom Clark, Assistant Attorney General under Francis Biddle, and head of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice had told her when asked about the case, "I always turn these Southern cases over to Rotnem 'cause people say I'm prejudiced and don't prosecute them'... Miss Wilson said that when Clark took her in to Rotnem's office and introduced her he said "here's a little girl from PM who wants to talk to you about that Nigger who was killed down in Mississippi."

The four white men released in bail in the murder and believed by PM as good as cleared of the charges—are Harper Dawson and the three Ryder Brothers. Eldridge Simmons, 48, son of the slain minister, witnessed his father's death, according to his sworn statement before the Amite County Grand Jury at Jackson, Miss. He told how he was forced to accompany the killers who beat him severely. He said he witnessed one of the white men blast away at his father's back with a shotgun. Eldridge Simmons' story involved six men in the killing, but Sheriff Wiley Smith arrested only four. The Simmons property is located in a Negro community, about seven miles south of Liberty, Miss., and county seat of Amite County. All but 25 acres of the land was sold to the State of Mississippi for delinquent



Victor Rotnem, Head of Civil Liberties Division, U. S. Attorney General's Office

"These Niggers will tell you one thing and you find out something else from the 'law'."



Tom Clark, Assistant U. S. Attorney General

"Here's a little girl from PM who wants to talk to you about that Nigger lynched in Miss."

taxes in 1931. The Rev. Simmons, early this year, thinking the sale was illegal, hired a lawyer to clear his title to the land. Nobe Ryder, one of the men accused of the murder, had, in the meantime, bought part of the property and tried to sell mineral and oil rights, but didn't push through the attempt because of some doubt as to the title to the property. Eldridge Simmons fled to New Orleans for safety after the murder of his father. Small and crippled, he told the story of his father's murder in that city. He described how on Sunday morning, March 26, he was at his nephew's home a short distance from his own, when Willie Huff, a

To Hold Natl. Electrical CIO. Union Office...



New York—First Negro ever elected to a national office of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, third largest CIO union, is Philip Jones of Saint Louis, elected at the recently concluded international convention of the union, held here.

Mr. Jones, chief steward at the U. S. Cartridge Company in St. Louis, is one of the leading members of UE local 825. He was one of three elected trustees chosen at the convention. Mr. Jones is one of some 3,000 Negroes working at the St. Louis plant. Before the UE-CIO organization of the shop, according to Mr. Jones, there were only 300 Negroes employed there.

A native of Natches, Miss., the new union official is a strong believer in education as a means of bettering the welfare of the people.

tenant on the land, told him that some white men in a gray car were looking for him. He was ordered by the men to show them where the property line ran. Nobe Ryder, one of the white men, beat and kicked Eldridge Simmons after he told him that his father, the preacher, was the owner.

The men, with Eldridge Simmons a prisoner in the car, drove to Isaac Simmons' house where they kidnaped him, drove to a pine thicket and fired two barrels of buckshot into his back.

The Department of Justice at Washington whose Criminal Division is headed by Tom Clark a native of Texas, and by Victor Rotnem, head of the Civil Liberties Unit, has been "investigating" the case for two months, but still hasn't discovered whether the department has jurisdic-

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Gov. Griswold Urges Importance of Nebr. State Problems

Dewey Flays Roosevelt

On Voting and Social Security Proscription (from Republican Natl. Committee, by Arthur B. McCaw)

Charleston, West Virginia—Governor Thomas E. Dewey came to this southern state and beard the lion of colorphobia in his den and to expose the hypocrisy of his opponent on that issue. He was given one of the greatest ovations of the campaign before and after addressing an overflow throng at the Municipal Auditorium, where he was wildly applauded when he spoke in part as follows: "Beyond victory, what kind of a country will our American men and women come home to? This election will decide that question. We have a fateful decision to make but that decision must be made, not on vague and irresponsible discussion, but on the facts. On Thursday night of a few weeks ago my opponent repeated his charge that 'there are politicians and other who quite openly worked to restrict the use of the ballot in this election.'"

"Now I do not know who Mr. Roosevelt means because he seems to lack the courage to name names and say what he means. So let's look at the facts. He sadly complained that not enough people vote. But he pointed with pride to the fact that in 1940, 62 1/2 percent of the eligible voters of this nation went to the polls. "And let me point out, my opponent is relying for his main support upon solid block of votes in states where millions of American citizens are deprived of their right to vote by the poll tax and by intimidation. Not once in 12 years has my opponent lifted a finger to correct this, and his platform is cynically silent on the subject."

"We are pledged to an expanding social security for the people of this country. Twenty million Americans have been forgotten by this Administration in the nine long years of the old age pension laws have been on the books. "We are pledged that our government shall not again use its powers to set race against race, creed against creed, or class against class. We are pledged to a government which has equal respect for the rights of agriculture, labor and business, and for every race, creed and color. "I say there is a better way. I have outlined much of that way in detail. Ten million returning heroes will demand that better way under the freedom they have fought to win. Under divine guidance they will have here a land of security with freedom and opportunity for all."

tion, PM reported. Rotnem claimed PM said, that "we've had some difficulty because one of the men we wanted to talk to was away."

"The Negro press, has called this a lynching, and it's not," he said. "It's cold-blooded murder. I think it's very important for the public to know the difference between lynching and murder."

and labor organizations are numbered among the thirty co-sponsors lending support to the significant mass meeting. Telegrams and communications revealing nation-wide interest in the creation of a permanent FEPC are being received daily by the DC. NAACP. Mrs. Bertha Lomack is chairman of the Special Arrangements Committee.

Designation of October 22nd as "FEPC Sunday" with special discussion of postwar jobs for Negroes was voted this week by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Baptist and Methodist Minister's Conferences respectively. Churches throughout the city have pledged their cooperation in putting over the drive for funds and legislation for a Permanent FEPC.

Other members on the Committee of arrangements are: Earl Amedee, Mrs. Muriel Alexander, Miss Portia Bullock, Spurgeon Burke, Mrs. Constance Daniel, Dutton Ferguson, Miss Ida Fob, Emmer Lancaster, A. L. Lindsay, Mrs. Olya Margolin, Miss C. J. Mays, George Rycraw, Paul Sefton, Mrs. Gertrude B. Stone and Reverend Samuel A. Young.

DC. Mass Meeting For Permanent F. E. P. C.

ATTRACTS NATL. RESPONSE Washington, DC.—Permanent status for the Fair Employment Practice Committee is the theme of a mass meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, October 22nd at Metropolitan AME Church, 1518 "M" Street, N.W. Speakers will include Walter White, Executive Secretary of the NAACP, and Philip Randolph, President, International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Leading civic, fraternal, religious,

With the general election a little more than two weeks away, Governor Dwight Griswold urged Nebraskans to study the qualifications of state legislative candidates and give the unicameral "an intelligent and capable" membership to attack the "tremendously important problems of the next two years."

The Governor made his plea for careful voting in a radio interview broadcast on a statewide basis. "I hope," he said, "our people remember that under the one-house legislative system, we have the entire law-making power concentrated in the hands of 43 state senators and the governor."

Of his own candidacy, Governor Griswold added, "I have been before the people of Nebraska several times as a candidate and I have now served as their governor for four years. My guess is that by this time the voters know whether or not I have made good and if they want me to continue in office they will vote that way. I know I've made some mistakes, but certainly I have tried to do the best I can."

Governor Griswold listed education as one of the prime subjects involving problems for Nebraska during the next two years. Financial problems of many school districts, he explained have been made more difficult by the wartime teacher shortage and by the reflection in Nebraska of the general upward trend in education cost. Since most school districts are opposed to increasing local school taxes, the governor said, "there is a growing demand for increased financial help either from the state or federal government."

"To be right honest," Governor Griswold said, "I have not made up my own mind on this problem because I don't yet have all the information I need but it is a problem Nebraskans should be thinking about. "I don't want to have our local schools run from Washington, or from Lincoln, I want the real control left right at home," he continued. "The important thing, however, is that we see to it that the school boys and girls, in the outlying communities, have a decent chance at education, just as the boys and girls from the more populated centers have."

Predicting a general enrollment increase in colleges and universities, the governor said new buildings will be needed at the University of Nebraska and the Norcal schools when wartime restrictions are lifted. He proposed that the new State Historical Society Building, for which the legislature is already providing funds, be erected on the University of Nebraska campus. Governor Griswold reported that the state general fund now has a \$3,500,000 surplus of which \$2,500,000 could be used by the legislature to start a state institutional-hospital as well as school-building program with out a building tax levy.

While victory at the polls for either the proposed highway gas tax or the prohibition amendments would necessitate adjustments in financing of the state assistance program, the governor said he does not believe there is danger of the assistance program being discontinued. Old age assistance payments average \$26.29 per recipient in September this year compared with \$16.61 for the same month four years ago.

Thousands would vote in the South if they could;—thousands could vote in the North if they would.

MR. READER! What are You going to do on or before October 27?

Well, you just cannot vote if you do not Register! People are funny that way.

(by H. W. Smith) The Omaha Branch of the Naacp, of which the Rev. J. E. Blackmore, is President, will hold a mass meeting at the Elks Hall, 2420 Lake St., on Friday, October 27. Come on out and bring a friend.

American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Win Traveling Gavel Membership award

(by Mrs. Pearl Thomas) Oct. 18, 1944—Thirteen ladies from Unit Number 30, American Legion, attended the Eighth District Convention of the American Legion, October 12 at Papillion, Nebr.

It was a beautiful October day and the ride by bus through the countryside was enjoyed by all who attended. In the morning, Memorial Services were held. They were very beautiful and impressive.

At 12 o'clock, noon, a delicious dinner was served. Red, white and blue colors, with fall garden flowers, and ripe, red field corn, graduated in size, decorated the tables, all of which made a very beautiful setting. Mrs. Margaret was our charming and gracious hostess.

There were many new and inspiring thoughts for service sent our way by the distinguished Presidents and guests. Auxiliary Unit of Post No. 30, American Legion, received the gavel this year, for the largest percentage of membership gain since the last District confab.

"IF I MARRY AGAIN, IT'LL BE DR. SCHLEY BROWN" DECLARES MARVA LOUIS

New York City (PPNS) Marva Louis, the lovely wife of Sgt. Marva Louis world's heavyweight champion, put an end to rumors this week that she intends to divorce Joe, when she stated that possibilities for a reconciliation with her estranged husband still exists, but if divorce proceedings were to take place, she would seek custody of their daughter, Jacqueline. However, Marva further stated, "If Joe and I are divorced, it is likely that I will marry Dr. Schley Brown of Washington, DC, whom I met and am quite fond of."

St. John to Hold Monthly All-Request Song Program

Sunday Eve., October 22nd The monthly All-Request program of favorite songs, spirituals and anthems will be rendered by St. John's Senior Choir Sunday night, October 22, at 8:00 pm, in the Church. Mrs. Pearl Gibson, the directress, promises a lovely program assisted by the orchestra. The music-loving public has a warm invitation to come and enjoy the rendition of this very able choir. The Pastor, Rev. E. F. Ridley, will preach Sunday morning from the subject, "THE CHRISTIAN MOTIVE FOR LIVING."

Ryland E. Melford New State Health Staff Member

Ryland E. Melford, of Omaha has been appointed State Director, Negro Health Education, Division of Venereal Control for Nebraska with offices in Omaha. The first Negro to hold such a position with the State Department of Health, Mr. Melford is also the only Negro holding that position in the Seventh Service Command. The new director of Negro Health Education, who is a professional chemist, enters the field of Public Health Service after having had special training in Venereal Control. Mr. Melford, resides at 2916 North 28th Street, and is married to the former Geraldine Smith, prominent young matron of our city. They have one son, Ryland E. Melford, Jr., Mr. Melford is a member of the American Social Hygiene Association and attends St. Philip's Episcopal Church.



Ryland E. Melford

To The Unconcerned VOTER, ---

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Wendell Willkie's Passing Great Blow to American Liberalism, World Peace-Randolph

New York, October 16 —At the International Headquarters of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. Philip Randolph, International President stated that he considered the passing of Wendell Willkie as a definite blow to American liberalism and world peace.

The influence of Mr. Willkie observed Mr. Randolph on the liberal-

ization of the policies of both the Republican and Democratic parties on domestic, racial and international questions was constructive and also becoming increasingly more effective.

By virtue of his frank, honest, and broad outlook on the problems of color, war and social reform, Mr. Willkie's stature and public life has become increasingly commanding and

challenging. He is no one of the best white friends the Negro people have ever had in this country.