# "Mutiny" Charge Not Supported By Evidence Says Naccp

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# THE OMAHA GUIDE

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*"Largest Accredited Negro Newspaper West of Chicago and North of KC.*

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## MURDERER OF THOMAS DOUGLAS STILL AT LARGE

**TWELVE MEN AND A COURT OF JUSTICE SAID SO.....**

### *Omaha Guide Offers $200 Reward for the Murderers Apprehension*

Leroy Smith is a free man today. The late, Mr Thomas Douglas' death is still a mystery to this community. The County Attorney's office and the defense were well represented in Leroy Smith's trial. The evidence submitted by the County Attorney's office in the trial was properly assimilated and well defined by the representatives of that office. We just do not know anything they could have done in the way of presentation of the evidence they had to the court and the jury. The defense council put up a good battle and won for their client his freedom.

**$200 REWARD**

The Omaha Guide Publishing Company offers $200 Cash Reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderer or murderers of Thomas Douglas, who was killed at 1816 North 24th street, February 11, 1944. Any information that anyone has in this community or anywhere in the United States that will assis in bringing about the arrest and conviction of the murder of Thomas Douglas, will receive the above reward.

**IS YOUR LIFE AND MY LIFE SAFE?**

Is anyone's life safe in a community with a murderer or murderers running loose after committing a crime of cold-blooded murder upon a man who lived a clean, Cristian life in our community: Who was Thomas Douglas? In our opinion Thomas Douglas was one of Omaha's No. 1 citizens. We had known him for 30 years. and we in the newspaper business do have occasion to go in and out of all kinds of places of business and observe the good and bad in all walks of life. Thomas Douglas was a hard working, honest, Christian citizen. He would not harm a hair on a cat, and in the 30 years I had known him and in the many conversations I have had with him, I have never heard him express an ill word about any individual in the whole of my acquaintance with him. He was a self-made man and a hard worker. He taught himself the jewelry business and in my opinion, he was as good as any jewelry smith as I have ever met. He has done work on clocks and watches for me for 30 years, and I have never had to return one for poor workmanship When the jewelry repair work was dull, he was found looking for and doing odd jobs to make an honest living. I never saw Mr. Douglas anywhere in mr entire acquaintance with him except around in the block where his place of business was located, in a restaurant getting his meals or at the Morning Star Baptist Church, where he was a deacon for sometime. He was liked and respected by everyone who knew him. I claim he was one of Omaha's outstanding, Christian gentlemen.

The man or men who murdered him should be apprehended. This is why The Omaha Guide Publishing Company, 2420 Grant street, today is offering a $200 Cash Reward for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the man or men who killed Thomas Doublas. Say what you will or may, but one one's life in the community is safe where such vicious crimes are committed and the one who committed it walking the streets as a free man. Not even you, Mr. Reader are safe.

Thomas Douglas was brutally murdered by a crack-brained assailant. On the witness stand the County physician said that either of the blows that Mr. Douglas received on his head would have resulted in death. It was also brought out in the trial that the lick he received on the head, crushed his skull in three different places, sufficiently for brain matter to ooze from the wounds. The licks Thomas Douglas received and which caused his death were fully unexpected. Evidence showed that he was sitting on his stool at a work-bench, working on a watch, and when he was turned over by the detective and his hand was opened, a watch was clasped in his hand and the face of the watch was found on the workbench where he was working. The stool he was sitting upon was turned over near where his body fell. Now,, what does this indicate to anyone with common sense, It indicates that the man who murdered Thomas Douglas was someone he knew and someone he least exepcted was going to strike him It was someone he thought he knew well enough to hold a conversation with while he was doing his work, and someone whom he did not think intended to harm him.

I am sure that the Omaha Negro citizens of this community want to see a hard criminal of this type put behind the bars for life where he belongs. Do you know that there is someone in this community who knows who killed Thomas Douglas? If you do and read the above item, we hope your conscience and justice will prevail upon you to let us have the information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of the criminal.

It was revealed on the witness stand that Thomas Douglas had in his possession a few days before he was killed, the sum of $750, ond it wos also testified to that the denominotioi of the bills was remembered by one who counted said money, to be two $100 bills and others of smaller denomination.

Do you know tiat it is rumoed on 24th street today, that some man won some part of one of those $100 bills in a gambling place in the city of Omaha?

Now, Mr. Omaha Citizen, be fair to yourself and your family and help put the man who committed this cold-blooded murder behind bars where he belongs.

## Huge Attendance At U.S.O. Opening

**THOUSANDS INSPECT NEW CLUB**

Approximately 5,000 people attended and participated in the formal opening of the new USO Club over the weekend. Activities began with a formal dance in the spacious and beautiful ball room. Hundreds of servicemen and citizens of Omaha thrilled to the splendid music of the fine Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot band and the beautiful surroundings. The affair surpassed anything that Omaha has seen in a long time. Service men and women and beautiful hostesses attired in splendid gowns, made a picture pleasing to observe.

Highlights of the affair was rendition of the number "Embraceable You" by the choir and band. As the musicians rendered this number a hush fell over the auditorium and "G.I. Joe" embraced the young lady closest to him. It was a moment which will long be remembered.

All day Sunday, March 4, friends of the club thronged in and out in inspection and praise. Everyone was greatly impressed by the beauty of the building and the thoroughness with which it was equipped. Many remarked that it surpasses any USO. Club they have seen.

At 3:00 there was a concert by the joint choir and band of the Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot. The large audience was held spellbound for one hour by the renditions of these splendid musicians.

Formal dedicatory services began at 4:00 with Mayor Dan B. Butler extending greetings. Many distinguished citizens and representatives of the armed forces were represented on the program and on the platform. Major General Danielson, Commanding General, 7th Service Command represented the Army on the program. His speech complimented the services rendered by the club and the USO in general. Lt. P. J. McDonnell, Commanding officer Naval Barracks of Hastings, represented the Navy. William Frazier, tState chairman, USO, Milton Abrahams, Chairman, USO Council and John Hopf, Associate Regional Executive YMCA-USO represented the USO on the program. Raymond Brown, Executive Secretary Urban League, expressed the appreciation of the community. Program was concluded by a ceremony trnsferring the keys of the building from the government to the USO by Dan Farrell, Federal Works Agency, to Joseph P. Mosely, USO. Director.

Ralph Adams, chairman of the Management Committee acted as master of ceremonies. Father Sanchez, pastor of the St. Pihilips Episcopal Church and Father Joseph Moylan, pastor of St. Benedict's Church gave the invocation and benediction.

Expressions of appreciation from the community were numerous. Organizations and individuals filled the club with floral offerings. Messages of congratulations came from all over the state.

Despite inclement weather many service men from bases scattered all over the stat were present. Their interests and appreciation were demonstrated by their continued use of the building.

The staff, management committee and volunteers are appreciative of the many expressions of good will and take this opportunity to express their sincere thanks to all who aided in making the entire affair a success.

**CLASSES TO BEGIN AT NORTHSIDE YWCA.**

Beginning Monday, March 4, registration began for classes in grammar, history and spelling and will be held at the Northside Branch, YWCA. from 9:00 am. to 10 pm. Anyone wishing to take any of these classes may come in and register. Classes will begin on Thursday, March 15th from 7 to 9 p.m and will be held each Thursday evening at this hour for three months. The fees are 50c per week. Mrs. Thelma Hancock, Instructor.

## "Only One Negro USO. in Omaha" says Mosely

**USO DIRECTOR ADDRESSES MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE**

Mr. Mosely, the director of the only Negro USO. in the city, was elected a new member of the Ministerial Alliance. Mr. Mosely spoke to the Alliance on the proposed South Omaha USO. He stated that it was a great error on the part of the reporter as we have one and only one Negro USO. in the city. The new USO. on 24th and Grant streets, will open on the 4th of March. It will meet the community's expectations as an ideal recreational center for the boys and girls in the armed forces. There will also be a council room for the ministers. The Alliance has accepted the religious rspeonsibility of the USO.

**SMITH COLLEGE CONCERNED ABOUT POST-WAR NEGRO EXPECTATIONS**

Northampton, Mass.—**What Negro Youth Expects in the Post War World,** is one of the many topics Smith College students are interested in and to which Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP Youth Secretary addressed herself in three sociology lectures here February 27 and 28.

Not content with mere discussion of the problems presented students expressed desire to formulate specific action in subsequent meetings with the interracial groups headed by Miss Joy Pickard; at a dinner meeting at Lawrence House; and at luncheon held in Chapin House.

While on the campus Mrs. Hurley was the guest of Professor and Mrs S. Ralph Harlow. The instructor is a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors.

## THE LIVING SOUTH

(BY HAROLD PREECE)
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### The Negro in Latin America

**Mr. Welles Finds the Colored Peoples**

Back in 1916, the United States marines were occupying Haiti to collect a debt for Wall street—a debt that had been forced upon the little Negro republic in the first place. One of the apologists for that disgraceful rape of a sister republic was the career diplomat, Sumner Welles.

MR. HAROLD PREECE

The Mr. Welles of that particular age in human history argued that the occupation of Haiti was justified because Haitians were Negroes and therefore "incapable" of governing themselves.

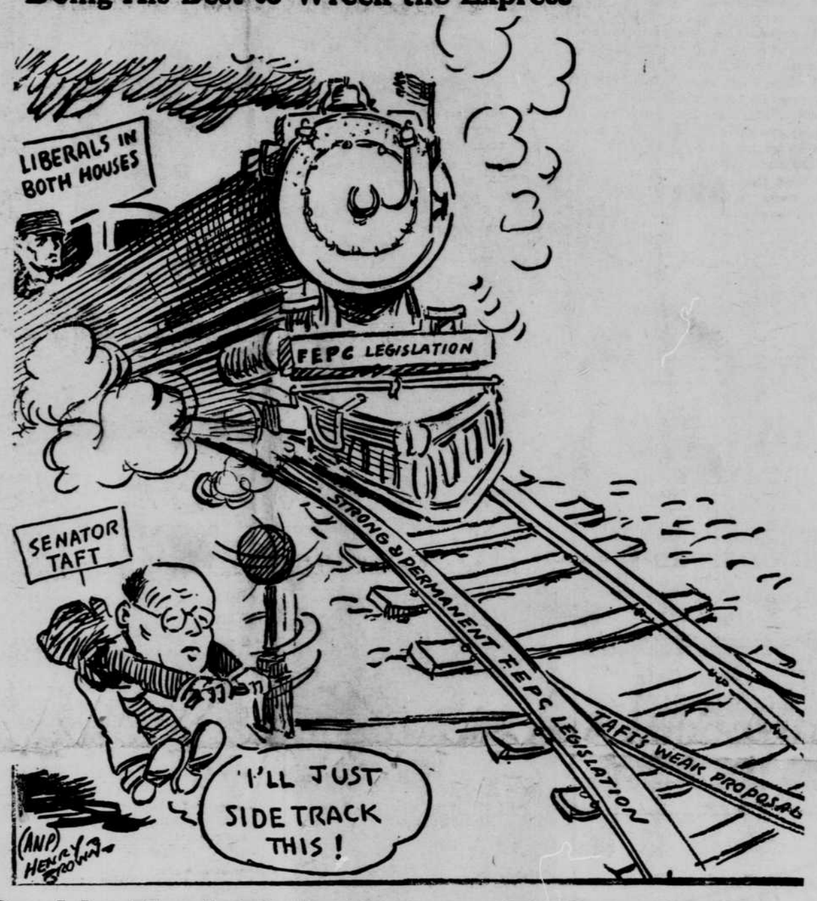
The Mr. Welles of this new age occupies the same body as the Mr. Welles of that pirate era when the Stars and Stripes was planted as the symbol of "white supremacy" on the shores of Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. But the body seems to have become endowed with a new soul, revealed in a new book, "An Intelligent America's Guide to the Peace recently published by Dryden Press of New York and prepared under the general editorship of Mr. Welles

Now, I've been saying for a long timein this column that the racism afflicting many white people is a disease but not an incurable disease like arthritis or glioma. Mr. Welles proves it. For in this age, the forces of life are stronger than the forces of death. The forces of life are manifest in this book which tells in warm, human language of the peoples and the social systems of 80-odd different countries including these countries of the Western Hemisphere which we have come to call the Americas.

No popular book on Latin America has recorded the great paper played by the Negro in the building of Latin America more sincerely than has this book of Mr. Welles and his associated writers. For Mr. Welles, having experienced his own cure, believes that the isdease of race prejudice can be wiped out if we but understand the peoples of other countries. He feels that this understanding is essential for any permanent peace, and certainly we must agree with him as the world's statesmen prepare to gather in San Francisco on April 25th to draw up plans for a permanent peace, which

(Continued on page 3)

### Doing His Best to Wreck the Express




## Rankin-Hook Fight Menace To F. E. P. C. And Common Man Says N. A. A. C. P.

Washington, DC.— Following fisticuffs last week in which Congressman Frank Hook of Michigan was struck in the face for his espousal of FEPC, the NAACP warned branches in a letter from the Washington Bureau, that "the welfare and security of the Negro and the Common man in post-war America is being seriously menaced by the reactionary group in Congress led by Rankin, Bilbo, Taft and Co."

Not only were branches directed to prepare now for the defeat of every member of the House and Senate following the Rankin-Bilbo-Taft line, but to let respective Representatives and Senators know that such an affront as occurred on the House floor is under severe scrutiny. "This cowardly attack," wrote Leslie Perry, NAACP assistant "clearly indicates the length to which these reactionaries will go to intimidate Congressmen working for the passage of progessive legislation. Rankin made this attack only because he knew that he had the support of a large bloc of Republicans and Democrats of which he is the titular head.

"While there have been no fisticuffs in the Senate," the letter continued "Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio is working overtime to confuse the issues there. In the hope of divorcing any lukewarm supporter of the FEPC bill in the Senate, Taft has introduced a phoney FEPC bill of his own which would reduce the FEPC to a mere study commission without powers of enforcement. Taft now is reported to be preparing a trick Federal Aid to Education bill."

## Protest N. H. A. Transfer Of $60,000 School To Whites!

Washington, DC.—In a letter protesting the National Housing Agency's plan to deprive Negro children use of the $60,000 FWA school originally planned for them in connection with the 200 unit housing project transferred to whites in New Boston, Texas, the NAACP told Major General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, Federal Works Agency.—

"It is our information that the original justification for the erection of this school resulted from a survey conducted in the area by FWA showing a continuing emergency need for increased and improved school facilities for colored children snce ne schoiol was destroyed by fire in 1943, and the remaining school structures are woefully inadequate. Your survey showed no such comparative need for whites.

"It is our further understanding that selection of New Boston as site for public war housing was wictated in part by the fact that the school in question could serve the need of new war workers taking up residence there, while, at the same time, meeting th long standing emergency school need for the section. Our experience shows, that local groups all too often use the need of Negroes to justify the construction of public works and when the same is approved and erected proceed forthwith to convert such projects to the use of whites. In this connection, we are informed that although the Superintendent of Public Schools for New Boston had recommended the construction of this school for Negro children, yet as a member of the local housing authority, he actively urged that the housing project be changed to white occupancy and that the school be changed with it.

"As te possession and control of this school property is vested in your Agency, we strongly urge that the New Boston school be retained for Negro pupils irrespective of any change which may occur in the racial occupancy of the adjacent housing project."

## Home Nursing Course Offered at Y. W. C. A.

A Class in Home Nursing is being oraginzed at the Northside YW-CA. and we are urging all women to take this course. We are certain that as more and more casualties are returned from the theatres of war, need will arise for mothers, sisters, wives and friends of our boys, to help them regain their health and recover from their wounds. Do not wait until they are back to take this course. Enroll NOW! The Home Nursing Department of the American Red Cross is in charge of the course and instruction is Free. Classes will begin Wednesday, April 4th, at 2 pm. and continue for six weeks.

## Omahan, J. C. Carey Buys Oklahoma Farm

Mr. J. C. Carey, Past Commander of the American Legion and associated with other business enterprizes of Omaha and owner of the Jewell Building which is the new ome of the new USO., just returned from a business trip to Oklahoma. While in Oklahoma he purchased a 70-acre farm, four miles from Okmulgee, Okla., on highway 75. Mr. Carey stated that his property is surrounded by oil wells, and he believes his property has capped oil wells on it now.

**Tulsa is the Negro Capital of the World**

The above statement is true because fully 95 percent of all business of the 35,000 Negroes in Tulsa area go through the hands of Negro business men, says J. C. Carey who has just returned from recuperating in the southland. This high percentage olds good with the farmers as well as the city dwellers. Their clinging together has developed the new high in Negro economics life. The area in which they live is policed by 15 fine police Sergeants and police officers. They have 10 first class hotels with private baths, running hot and cold water, telephone in each room with bell service. They also have their own finance companies, financing siding and insulation of store buildings and homes The shoe and dry goods business has its representation too. Their high chools is on the accredited lists and have a football team equal to the best. Even the pawn shops and small loan businesses is well in hand.

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## NAACP Files Brief for Seamen with Navy Dept. Board

**1½ Min.' Deliberation Court Gives "Only (with time-out for lunch) to Each Boy's Case Charges Assoc.**

Give-out Publicity to Discredit Negro Seamen.....

WASHINGTON, DC.,—An exhaustive brief in behalf of the 50 Negro seamen convicted of "mutiny" in California last year was filed here March 2 by the legal department of the NAACP.

The brief submitted to Admiral T. L. Gatch, Judge Advocate General of the United States Navy, asserts that the trial did not establish the guilt of the accused to the crime of mutiny, that mass trials are unfair and generally condemned by legal authorities, that the trial took 80 minutes, including the lunch hour, to study the record and arrive at a decision, even though this record occupied 1,435 single-spaced typewritten pages on legal size paper, and that the verdict should be set aside as there could not be any reason for a mass trial "other than a deliberate attempt to discredit Negro seamen."

The brief points out that when the trial was started on September 14 1944, the Navy Department released publicity pointing out that this is the first mutiny trial of this war and the first large mutiny trial in the history of the Navy. This publicity carried with it the pictures of the men for the purpose of showing that they were Negroes.

The brief points out also that mass trials are roundly condemned by most authorities. This is especially true in this case, for example, included among the fifty men, all tried for the same crime, was one man, Berlin Kelly, who was on sick call during the time; another, Ollie Green, had his arm in a sling during the alleged disobedience of orders; another, Julius Dixson, a 104 lb. boy was instructed by Navy doctors to be used as mess cook only and not for the purpose of loading ammunition. However, all of the men were tried together in the mass trial.

In commenting on the type of justice received by the men, the brief declared: "Although the trial of this case involved fifty men, included the testimony of all fifty of the men, plus the testimony of the prosecution and defense, and although the record of the actual trial of the case includes 1,435 pages, single-spaced and on legal size paper, the court arrived at its findings of guilty between 11:55 a.m. and 1:15 pm. We assume that during this eighty minute period the court also had time for lunch. Even if we assume that the entire 80 minutes were spent in deliberation on this case, each individual accused received about a minute and a half of deliberation. This callous disregard of even perfunctory justice is amazing."

After analyzing all the evidence produced on behalf of the prosecution, the brief concluded that there was no legal evidence whatsoever to sustain the charge of mutiny and that the evidence in regard to the refusal of oby eand order was in dispute and in grave doubt. The brief pointed out many instances of obvious prejudicial conduct based on race or color by Lieutenant Commander Coakley, the prosecutor, in his efforts to emphasize the question of race during the trial.

In requesting that the conviction of these men be set aside, the brief pointed out that there could not possibly be any reason for such a mass trial for the charge of mutiny other than a deliberate attempt to discredit Negro seamen. The NAACP, at the time of filing the brief, requested an opportunity to make oral argument at a subsequent date re-emphasizing its request for n iampartial investigation by the Secretary of Navy of the conditions leading up to and following the mutiny.

## Carver Savings & Loan Purhases Property for Permanent New Home

It is officially announced that the Carver Savings and Loan Association has closed the deal for their permanent home by purchasing the two store rooms at 2414- and 2416 Lake street now occupied by the Bell Cafe and Devereaux Hardware store. As soon as suitable remodeling can be done, the opening of the first Building and Loan as owned and operated by Colored Citizens of Omaha, will be ready to serve the public. Watch for the Grand opening date.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**