Negro Veterans Reques Policy Making Positions in Veterans' Bureau

The following letter went out this week from the office of B. H. Muldrew, 2325 Park Ave., Kansas City 1 Mo., national Commander of the Council of Negro Veterans Inc., to Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Washing 25 D. C.

Brigadier General Frank T. Hines. Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Washington, 25 D. C.,

Dear Sir:

Since our conference several months ago, on the subject of recognizing this organization in presentation of veterans claims before the Bureau, the G. I. Bill of Rights has become a law. The administration of this law like that of all other laws effecting veterans, will be left in the hands of boards, committees and offinials appointed by you. In order that every veteran may feel that he has equal opportunity in securing the many benefits provided for him and that Negro veterans may not be forced, as in the past, in many instances, to apply to boards committees and officials unsympathetic to their cause, this organization is requesting that Negro veterans be appointed to policy making positions in the Veterans Bureau, in its national and various state set-up.

In view of your broad understanding of the problems that have in the past confronted Negro Veterans in certain sections, your sympathetic attitude and your expressed desire that all veterans be cared for alike, we feel that you could conscientiously make the appointments without fear or favor. Trusting that you will take under consideration recommendations made by this organization, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,
B. H. Muldrew.
National Commander.

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BE SURE TO VOTE TUESDAY

(Political Advertisement)

PATROL LED BY PITTSBURGH OFFICER KILLS THREE NAZIS IN ITALY

With the Fifth Army, Italy—Without suffering a casualty, a 10 man patrol from the 92nd "Buffalo" Infantry, led by Lieutenant Benjamin W. Hohmann of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, recently killed three Germans on the Fifth Army front in nortrern Italy.

Holding key positions in the group were Corporal Leon D. Straus borger of Craig, Colorado; Privates First Class Leo Johnson, Route 1, Beresford, South Dakota, and Rudy O. Melquist of Gibbon, Minnesota.

Their mission was to seek out a detachment of 15 or more Jerries reported occupying positions in a shell-poked village. After making a throrough search of the hamlet and finding nothing, the Yanks moved fartrer into enemy territory and investigated four empty bunkers which showed signs of recent occupancy. Again they found nothing.

Their persistence was rewarded, however, when Johnson spotted a fifth bunker. Half the men began a routine investigation of the position and the other half stood guard.

As Strausborger and four comrades moved toward the emplacement, a Jerry stuck his head over the sanbags and fired two bursts from his machinegun. The German than made a motion as if to indicate he was surrendering. Hohmann signaled his men to hold their fire, but it developed the German was calling his comrades for help.

Two more Krauts appeared and the Yanks opened up with Tommy guns, automatic rifles and Garands. The firefight lasted about five minutes and, although the Germans had the advantage of a sheltered position, the Americans killed all three.

Shortly after the Yanks moved back to their own lines and the Nazis covered the bunker positions with mortar fire.

Anna Mae Winburn at Chi's Rhumboogie

DYNAMIC, BATON TWIRLER, — ANNA MAE WINBURN, former Omaha girl, who now leads the International Sweethearts of Rhythm all Star Girl's band and currently now playing at Charlie Glenn's Rhumboogie Nite Spot, in Chicago.

NAACP ASKS HEALTH BILL AMENDMENT TO AID NEGRO

Washington, D. C —In testimony March 23 supporting the principle of hte bill (S. 191) to amend the public Health Service Act, Dr. Louis T. Wright, NAACP Board member told the Senate Education & Labor Committee that because of the inequitable manner in which certain states allocate their own general funds under the resent system, clinical and hospital care for Negroes is practically non-existent.

In support of his stand for an amendment to insure medical assistance to Negro patients and protect Negro members of the Medical profession, Dr. Wright declared that a white erson who is ill has 14 times a better chance of recovering than a Negro. He said that the Negro suffers more from all sorts of diseases than whites as a direct result of wide differentials between ahounts spent by the states on public health. Current figures, he ointed out, "show that infant mortality is 69% higher than for whites; that a Negro child has an average life expectancy of only 53 years in contrast to a white child who can look forward to 65."

BLAMES DISCRIMINATION

Dr. Wright exlained, from a medical standpoint, these differentials had nothing to do with the Negro's susceptibility to disease, "but rather shows the combined impact of discrimination in economic life and in obtaining medical assistance." He used as example, Mississippi, where despite a Negro population of 1,074,578 there were only 0.7 beds pd thousand for Negroes in 1938 and as few as 75 set aside for over a million Negroes in 1940-42.

STATUS OF PROFESSION

The status of Negro physicians, technicians and nurses was also attached. In 1914, Wright charged there were 3,500 physicians in private practice and 7,500 nurses. Because of race discrimination a qualified Negro physician is denied staff and in-patient privileges in practically every non-Negro hospital in the United States.

In southern areas, Wright declar ed the result of such prejudices is an indifference bordering on criminal neglect in the attitude of White physicians toward Negro patients. The amendment to the bill proposed to relieve racial inequalities in medical assistance.

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Honor Man of His Class

GREAT LAKES, ILL., April 4

Wesley Schonyers, 219 Eeast Federal Street, Burlington, N. J. was selected the honor man of his class at the Camp Robert Smalls Radioman Service School last week when he graduated with an average of 84. He was advanced in rate from seaman second to seaman, first class.

In Radioman School, Schonyers was instructed in how to make minor repairs on radio equipment, transmit and receive radio messages between one ship and another or between a ship and shore activity, and to use the typewriter.

Schonyers entered the Navy last June after graduating from the Wilbur Watts High School in his home town. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schonyers, live at the above address.

Are Race Relations' Advisors Helping or Hindering Negro's Advancement

(Continued from page 1)

on Negro affairs," etc., has come into, what appears to be, permanent existence.

In a survey carried on among the "race consultants," the "advisors on Negro affairs," etc., themselves, I asked:

"If it had not been for these race specialists jobs, would you or could you have directed your training and talents to the expansion of Negro insurance companies, the development of Negro banks, Negro chain stores and cooperatives, to bringing modern techniques of news gathering and reporting into Negro publishing, to Negro education, to politics?"

The answer was yes, almost unanimously.

SPECIALISTS BEING USED AS BUFFERS

These men and women have been used by Washington as a buffer between government and the American Negro, and since they have been on the scene, no independent Negro organization has arisen to define and to advance the Negro's social, political and economic position—that is, none that has attained the desired status of effectiveness enjoyed by the NAACP and the Urban League, which themselves, are interrecial with the white vewpoint frequently finding expression in matters that should be purely Negro.

Other questions I asked were: "Are you being held responsible for the false optimisim heightened in the Negro people by your presence in important government bureaus, appointees without any direct responsibility to the Negro electorate nor to any organized body in Negro life? In your opinion, did you make a valid contribution to the integraton of Negroes into Amerilan life?"

The answer varied. All were agreed, however, that their years of government job holding had not integrated Negroes into American life. Who are these men and women? Here are some thumbnail descriptions:

WEAVER-DEAN OF BLACK CABINET

Dr Robert Weaver, considered dean of the "Black Cabinet." He entered the Housing Division of PWA under Harold Ickes, moved to the U. S. Housnig Authority under Nathan Straus; met a complete deadlock in the War Manpower Commission, quit for a race relation job with Mayor Ed Kelley's Chicago Commission on Race Relatons, then left that for the recently organized American Council on Race Relations. (A consultant body which advises municipal and state committees as to what to do when Negroes get too insistent about their rights.)

William Trent with the Federal Works Administration until it was killed. He was a former special assistant to the president of Bennett College. He has returned to the feild of education via the United College Fund.

Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune, president of the National Council of Negro Women; onetime president of the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She resigned the presidency of Bethune-Cookman College which she founded, to give all her tme to the NYA. She now has neither post, portfolio or college.

Alfred Edgar Smith, who took over the place vacated by Forrester B. Washington in the early days of the New Deal, and continued with the WPA until it was scuttled.

LANCASTER GIVES VIEWS OF JOB

Emmer Martin Lancaster, Special Assistant on Negro Affairs to the Secretary of Commerce; a practicing attorney in Akron, Ohio, for 15 years before he took the spot vacated by Eugene Kinckle Jones in 1940.

He came to Washington from an independent professional practice and not from an institutional job. He considers his and that of all race advisors frankly political.

Edgar G. Brown, onetime tennic champion, who was a big factor in the old Civilian Conservaton Camps (CCC).

Former Federal Judge William Hastie, who went to the War Department as Civilian-Aide-on Negro affairs to the Secretary of War. He later resigned and the statement he released created a national flurry. Truman K. Gibson, Jr., his assistant, took over. Gibson is a young Chicago lawyer.

Theodore R. (Ted) Poston, former New York newspaperman, who was given a job in the Office of War Information (OWI).

MOON, JOHNSON, HILL AND JONES

Henry Lee Moon, who has a long career in public relations and journalism, came to Washington to be Dr Weaver's press relations expert. Clarence Johnson from the West Coast and former organizer for the Dining Car Employees Union, went from housing to WMC and is now back in housing. Of the staff of race relations advisors, Eugene Kinckle Jones was the first appointee. T. Arnold Hill, Mrs. Bethune's assistant in NYA, who later worked as a special OPA advisor, were the only ones in the group whose previous careers were devoted entirely to race relations as a full time profession. Jones had been general secretary of the National Urban League for 35 years; Hill was with that organization for 25 years.

Frank Horne, former dean at Fort Valley Normal, Georgia, took Weaver's place in the Federal Public Housing Authority where he still is.

Representing no organized group in Negro life, responsble to no organized group, without defined authority or official status, these "federal advsors" crystalized, it seems, into an artificial hierarchy of petty government officials divorced from the economic and social forces of Negro life and on the periphery of the technical stream of government administration.

(T be Continued next week)

FAITHFUL TO THE TRUST

It won't be long now, Omaha's city primary election will be held on Tuesday, April 17th. The final electino will be held may 15th. That means that it is time, once again, for all Omahans to carefully evaluate the candidates, and decide who shall represent us on the City Council for the next three important years

It should not be a very difficult choice for most folks to make.

The present adminstration, headed by Mayor Butler, has been n office, except for minor changes, since 1933. During the past twelve years, they have worked together as an intelligent and efficient team, with only one goal in mind; the common good of Omaha and its citizens, including you and your family.

Let's consider the RECORD for these twelve years:

Omaha's bonded debt has been reduced from 15 million dollars to 4 million dollars—the lowest bonded debt Omaha has had in more than thirty years.

Despite manpower shortages, Omaha's police department ha" never been more efficient. Old links between the police department and the underworld are but unpleasant memory.

In the face of riseing living costs, Omaha property taxes have actually been reduced.

The fire department has been modernized, and a fire prevention program instituted which has saved much property and probably many lives.

These are only a few of the outstanding facts brought out by the record. It is a record that calls for the re-election of these men.

Dan B. Butler, Harry Knudsen, Richard W. Jepsen, Roy N. Towl Walter Korisko, John Kresel and Harry Trustin.

Omaha is going to need steady, experienced hands at the wheel during the next three years. Our present city commissioners are the men for the job.

They have been faithfull to the trust you have placed in them. A vote for these men is a vote to continue good, economical government in Omaha.

...(Pol. Adv. paid for by Friends) ...

Newsletter "What's Happening in Washington...

(Continued from page 7)

goods may also be included.

At war's end, an estimate of 15 million veterans become potentially eligable forGI loans. With private capital matching every government guaranteed dollar, here's one of tomorrow's biggest sales opportunities.

Vandenberg will offer two proposals at San Francisco. Ultimate Sen ate ratification of the New United Nations Charter may depend upon their acceptance. He will ask:

(1) Provision for amending the Charter by something less than unanimous agreement probably by three-fourths of all member nations whichu must include four of the Big Five. The United Nations Charter, like our American Constitution, must be able to adapt itself to inevitable change.

(2) Provision to permit change of membership of the Big Five Security Council by something less than unanimous consent—perhaps by reconsideration of its membership every 10 years. Original Council will consist of the United States, Great Britain, Russia, China and France.

Vandenberg will point out that the four largest states in 1790 were Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Massachusetts. Within 30 years New York outstripped all four. Virginia, first in 1790, has dropped to 20th. Today, Illinois, Ohio, California, Texas and Michigan ,none of which were even states in 1790, outrank all but New York and Pennsylvania of the original 13 states.

Many Senators believe that if unanimous consent of the Big Five is required, it will be almost impossible ever to dilute the veto power of any of its members on aggression or on amendment or on changed representation on the Security Council. Organization would be brittle and eventually crack up.

JOHN L's 800,000—Perhaps Soon a Million: Few people realize that in addition to 600,000 miners, John L. Lewis now has 200,000 members in other industries under his control. They are members of iDstrict 50—his catch-all union, sniffed at only two years ago. 75,000 are in the chemistry industry. He controls one of the big rubber locals in Akron—ostensibly a CIO union. He has substantial representation in commercial aircraft ground crews, zinc plants, smelting companies, gas utility corporations, celanese factories, asphalt works, and shoe firms. Lewis has cashed in on spectacular publicity about his ability to get big wage-raises, even against FDRs opposition.

District 50's 200,000 have been obtained at the expense largely of CIO but partly from AFL. Hence, a stumbling block to re-admission to AFL.

If he wins the present mine-wage battle, his membership will quickly pass a million.

ROYALTY OF 5c per long distance call—to build a general welfare fund—has been demanded by the Washngton, DC., Teleiphone Traffic Union, supported by National Federation of Telephone Workers, (independent).

"EQUAL RIGHTS WITH VETERANS": War Workers League of America is in process of formation to insist on "equal rights with war veterans" in reconversion period. Organization was born in Buick's Melrose Park plant in Chicago.

ARMY STOCKPILING: Fearing mass exodus of workers from war plants immediately after end of European war, Army is stockpiling standard military items at spectacular rate. Army has little faith in legislation as a means of keeping war workers through Jap war. Believe all out drive which began last fall must continue unabated to provide backlog sufficient to balance sharp drop after VE day.

This determination to lay in large stocks of supplies while the production program is going forward on its own momentum, explains post VE day estimates which Army has sent to WPB. Army says procurement can be reduced about 30% "within a reasonable time" after VE day. "Reasonable time"—perhaps 4 to 12 weeks.

EXTENED FURLOUGHS: Furloughs granted many soldiers to meet critical war plant labor short ages will be extended if necessary. Soldiers have been furloughed to tire plants, cotton duck and tire cord mills and plants producing steel shells.

FLOOR FOR CIVILIAN ESSENTIALS: WPB and armed services are conferring to fix limits below which, regardless of military urgency, supplies of civilian essentials will not be permitted to fall. Discussed so far are minmums for clothing, particularly work clothes, textiles, work gloves, shoes, car tires, batteries, general repair parts. WPB told the gold braid that tires for civilian needs must go no lower; flatly rejected military demands that would have reduced adult civilian leather to about a quarter-pair shoes per person annually.

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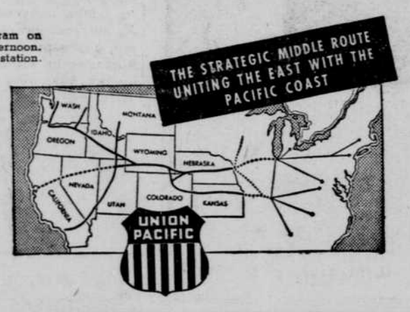

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