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Weekly Feature Launched To Promote Race Harmony

Every Week, we shall present "Our Guest Column," a non-profit service of the American Press Associates devoted to furthering group understanding. Edited by ERNA P. Harris, noted journalist, our new weekly column will feature prominent guest contributors who will review current developments on the minority group front and suggest local and nationwide action. Coming soon as guest columnists are Pearl S. Buck, A. Philip Randolph, George S. Schuyler, Dr. Ira De Reid, Rev. Howard Kester, Elmo Koper and other leaders in the fight for equality.

OUR GUEST Column

(Edited by ERNA P. Harris)

Lillian Smith, the courageous author of "Strange Fruit," told New York recently that the matter of racial and religious tolerance America has just about where Germany was in 1933 when Hitler came into power.

Lillian Smith's opinion, if correct as far from comforting. We can not dispute what she says on the grounds that the pure and virtuous American people would automatically reject an American Hitler of an official policy of anti-Semitic and anti-Negro bigotry. The 5,000 odd victims of lynching in all sections of the country and the Negro casualties in race riots would certainly testify to the mob spirit in placid, run-of-the-mill Americans.

Colored citizens have no illusions about the farce and pretense of a square deal for all. But unfortunately, a considerable number of America's focal minority do not take time out from their own woes to spot the mote in their own eyes. As fantastic as it seems from a logical standpoint, a fair share of anti-Semitic prejudice and bigotry are to be found in the hearts of 15,000,000 Negroes.

Of course it's easy to explain why members of minorities echo the stereotypes of defamation of other minorities. But it still cannot be justified. Psychologists tell us that a man who is kept down by someone more powerful feels the need to kick still another person in order to bolster his pride and ego. Thus on the Texas border we find exploited Negro workers blindly helping their cracker bosses to oppress even further the illiterate and hapless Mexican immigrants. Thus also in our big urban centers we find even intelligent and educated Negro professionals slandering Jews and Catholics.

Sometimes it seems reasonable to hope that a new day among minorities is developing. We got a glimpse of it during the war when many a Negro felt a kinship and bond of despair with the persecuted Japanese-American. Quite a few Negro soldiers bitterly resented the racist epithets that various admirals and generals hurled at our yellow-skinned enemy. Certainly the times are ripe for a growth of solidarity between Jews, Negroes, Nisei and other victims of discrimination. The FEPC has found that equal job opportunities are denied to all these minorities. If anything, the problem is getting worse.

A crisis is ahead for America. Sometimes people react intelligently to the needs of the hour and unite, as in the 30s. The CIO and unionization of mass industries was a principal result of this solidarity in other nations. We become panicky and strike out blindly, clinging to the straw of individualism and sinking a knife into the backs of our fellow men in an effort to keep afloat.

These are the two paths ahead. Let us hope that the Americans of color analyze the situation at hand and choose the rational course. Then no longer will any of us mouth the Hitler-like doctrines of anti-Semitic, anti-Japanese or anti-Catholic bigotry.

NO JOB COLOR LINE, SAYS AMERICAN AIRLINES

New York—American Airlines and its subsidiary American Overseas Airlines, Inc., have written the NAACP that they do not discriminate as to race, creed or color in the employment of personnel. This statement was in response to an NAACP letter inquiring about employment opportunities for war-trained Negro aviators.

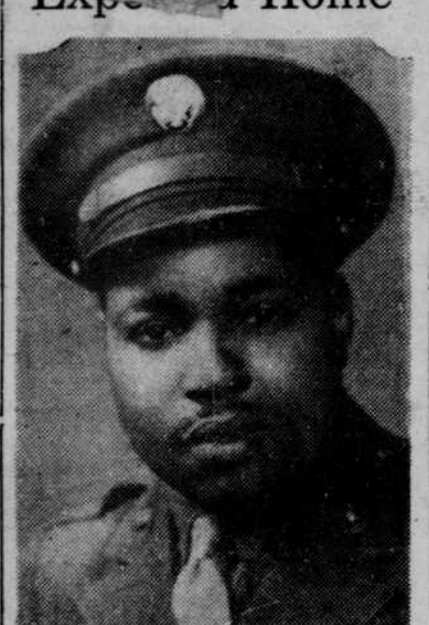
However, American Overseas Airlines declared that since they operate to overseas bases only

Union Services

To Be Held at Zion Sunday Night 8 p.m.; Rev. E. V. Wade will Address Audience

Union services will be held at Zion Church, 2215 Grant Street, Sunday, January 13th. Devotional services at 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. E. V. Wade, pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, Mo.

Expelled Home



1st-SGT. HERMAN M. STEVENS

Will Display War Souvenirs on Return

First Sgt. Herman M. Stevens, son of David and Myrtle Stevens, is expected home Thursday, Jan. 10, and expects to be discharged soon. Sgt. Stevens is connected with a Quartermaster Company and has served overseas for two years in Belgium, France and Germany.

He was in charge of 400 men in his Company which is quite a responsibility for any first sergeant. He will have in his possession a large accumulation of souvenirs, and expects to place them on display sometime after his arrival home.

At the time of his induction, he was attending Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo. and has spoken several times of resuming his education, pending discharge.

Sgt. Stevens will be entertained by close friends and relatives of the family.

Our minimum qualifications for pilots are higher than those of domestic lines. They prefer college graduates, not more than 6 ft. 2 in. tall, or more than 200 lbs. in weight. The age bracket is 23-28 years.

At least 1500 flying hours are required, with a minimum of 800 hours in four-engine planes.

The company states that it has at present its full employment of pilots and is able to recruit pilots with experience considerably in excess of the minimum qualifications shown above. However, they offer to put any qualified person on their waiting list.

ATLANTAS PLAN TO BETTER THEIR COOKS AND MAIDS

Atlanta, Ga.—Believing that whether a job be as maid or cook it should be done well, a group of Atlantans are launching a training center to turn out better workers in the low income group. The aim of the center will be to produce better maid, laundresses and thirteen other low income groups.

Said Ruby Blackburn, an employer of the Atlanta board of Education of the movement. Our people want a fair day's pay for a full day's work. We have been half paid, it's true, but we've been half trained and sometimes not trained at all. We want every job a good job.

"We'll even be an employment bureau, we'll send out trained, courteous workers. When they inquire, they will be required to give notice and they'll expect notice in return. We'll keep our books balanced, expecting fairness from the employer and employee."

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Owners of Vacant Lots Urged to Loan Land for Vet Housing

Hastie To Be Named Virgin Islands Governor

Washington, DC.—President Truman has decided to appoint Judge William Henry Hastie, Negro dean of Howard University and outstanding leader of his race, as Governor of the Virgin Islands, to succeed Charles Harwood of New York.

The appointment will go to the Senate when it reconvenes January 14.

Bishop David Wm. Short Accepts Voting Membership in Fraternal Council of U. S. Negro Churches

Most Bishop David William Short, national president, bishop and founder of the National David Spiritual Temple of Christ Church Union, incorporated, of the United States of America, representative of the "Orthodox Christian Spiritual Inter-racial Faith of All Nations," was offered and accepted a voting membership in the National Fraternal Council of Negro Churches in America, which has headquarters in Wilberforce, O. This national council was founded in 1934, for the improvement of civil, economic, industrial and general social conditions in America, particularly as they affect the Negroes. Bishop R. C. Ransom, Founder; Bishop A. P. Shaw, President; Bishop R. R. Wright, Jr., Executive Sec'y; Rev. E. W. Perry, Vice-president at large; Rev. J. H. Moore, Recording Sec'y; Rev. E. L. Hickman, Assistant Recording Sec'y; Dr. V. M. Townsend, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. J. M. Bracy, Statistician; Rev. W. A. Cooper, Chaplain; Rev. H. B. Hawkins, Auditor; Dr. J. L. Horace, Chairman of Executive Committee; and Dr. Luther Stewart, Sec'y of Executive Committee. Bishop Short, has been assigned to the Committee on Race Relations. Bishop Short is the very prominent pastor of David Spiritual Temple of Christ Church with office and headquarters at 1115 West Cherry St., Milwaukee 5, Wisconsin.

NAVY OFFICER PREFERRED NOT TO LOAD NEGRO TROOPS

New York—The commanding officer of the US aircraft carrier Croatan did not refuse to load 123 Negro troops at Le Havre, he only stated to Army officers that he "preferred not to do so."

This is the official explanation offered by the Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal in his letter to the NAACP and to other groups and individuals who protested when the incident was made public.

Secretary Forrestal implied that the final blame rested with the Army, saying the army authorities were not obliged to give any weight to the Commanding Officer's preference, but they evidently elected to do so, removing the

Bowles Commended for Stand on Job Bias MULZAC CHARGE DISMISSED, CASE CLOSED, SAYS COAST GUARD

Washington, D. C.—Chester Bowles, OPA administrator, drew praise last week from the NAACP for his forthright charge that government agencies were turning down Negroes and other minority group workers, despite many vacancies and many requests from agency heads for workers. Bowles made his statement after he found that colored OPA workers being laid off by that agency, were being turned down elsewhere because of their color.

We commend you for forthright stand, wired the NAACP, taken on question of employment of Negroes in government agencies. Fair Employment Practice Committee impotency makes imperative heads of all government agencies take firm stand for employing all persons qualified regardless of race, creed, or color. Your outspoken criticism of certain agencies relative to the question of employing Negroes sustains hope of all minorities that they will receive fair and equitable treatment in reconversion period.

Sinatra and Kaye Cited For Racial Tolerance

The Chicago Defender, national weekly Negro newspaper, has cited CBS stars Frank Sinatra and Danny Kaye in the paper's annual honor role of Americans who in 1945 have worked to improve race relations. The award went to Danny Kaye for having a Negro member of his radio program in a regular role dissociated from stock Negro characters; and to Sinatra for his "one-man war" against intolerance.

Mrs. Versie Winston Bailey Heads Beauticians

Omaha Unit No. 101 of the National Beauty Culturists League held a meeting Sunday afternoon at the Railroad Mens Club, 24th and Miami Streets.

The following beauticians were elected officers:

President, Mrs. Versie Winston Bailey; vice-president, Mrs. Vinny Walker; secretary, Flossie Morris; treasurer, Cassie Murrell.

The meeting was well attended with 25 shops represented. The election was under the supervision of the State Organizer, Mrs. Christine Althouse.

The next meeting is January 14th. All licensed beauticians are asked to attend.

Land Would Be Tax Exempt During Loan Period Utilities Would Become Permanent Improvement

Mr. Duward R. Crooms, Executive Director of the Omaha Urban League, urged all land owners to list any vacant property that could be made available for Veteran housing. Mayor Leeman recently announced that property loaned would be tax exempt as to the owner during the time it was being used for temporary housing and that the city would extend utilities to the building site and this would become a permanent improvement to the land.

Mr. Crooms also announced that the services of the League would be available to service men in securing housing. He also urges that any property owner who has available space to list this with the Urban League.

In extending the service of the Urban League, Mr. Crooms said that he thought that there was a definite need for housing among the service men that has not been made vocal, and that many of the service men are doubling up with relatives and creating a crowded condition. He urged all veterans to list their needs with Urban League.

G. Bernard Shaw Drops A Bomb Into Racial Talks

With his traditional outspokenness, George Bernard Shaw has written in less than forty words what may well prove to be bomb shell in racial discussions. When this renowned playwright was asked for a statement on minority problems, he sent a postcard on which he had written: "The color question is not one of my subjects but beyond a notion that the next great civilization may be a black one I have nothing to say worth publishing. The heroine of my most popular tale is a Negroess."

Mr. Shaw, who is now in his 90th year, has been said, to have achieved a legendary fame while still alive, in contrast to most of the great men who are long dead before their names acquire a crust of legend and fable. It is true that his fame rests as much upon his ready wit and on his willingness

Open House

The new Community center facilities located in the Jewell Building and sponsored by the YWCA, Urban League, City Recreation Department, Youth Centers, Inc., and the YMCA, will have its formal opening to the public on Sunday afternoon, January 20th at 3:30 p.m. A program, including musical selections and talks by outstanding Omahans has been arranged.

Now Eligible for Honorable Discharge

Eighty-three Negro sailors convicted in 1944 by court martial in the Port Chicago mutiny and the Guam riot cases have been granted clemency, according to official word received from the Navy Department by Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary, National Urban League. Information was given to Mr. Granger in his capacity as Special Adviser to Secretary Forrestal.

Forty-seven of the 59 men who were charged with mutiny growing out of the Port Chicago explosion in July 1944 have already been released and returned to overseas duty on probation. Of the three remaining, two are in the hospital, and a 3rd will not be released because of bad conduct record. All 36 of the men charged with riot in the Guam court martials in December 1944 will be released by January 15. Sentences for the 83 men ranged from five to twenty years.

Eligible for Honorable Discharge—All of the men will serve until their points make them eligible for regular Navy discharge, Granger stated, and assurance has been given that at the end of their service they will be given honorable discharges if their records are satisfactory.

The Secretary's action, Granger continued, in releasing practically all of the 86 Negroes court-martialed in California and on Guam closes a unhappy chapter in Navy history. The wise policies the Navy has adopted, and the strenuous efforts being taken to make these policies effective will, in the future, result in smoother relations between personnel and in greater Navy morale and efficiency.

Granger's Report Presented Appeal
The clemency action was taken by Navy Secretary James Forrestal as part of procedure releasing 1700 servicemen imprisoned for various offenses. Honorable action on both cases had been urged by the NAACP and other civic organizations, and officially in special reports presented by Mr. Granger after visiting Port Chicago and Guam. Walter White, NAACP Secretary, reported the Guam arrests on his return from a tour of the Pacific. Granger visited Port Chicago last June and Guam in October as a part of his inspection of 67 Navy bases made upon the Secretary's request.

In urging that the Navy relax the severe sentences imposed in both cases, it had been pointed out to the Navy Secretary that above the enlisted men's guilt of the actual charges, charges paraded against them, there was a background of unsatisfactory personnel conditions which contributed to poor morale among Negro service men, and was a prime factor in promoting their offenses.

The Port Chicago case began July 17, 1944, when the explosion of an ammunition vessel wiped out 300 Negro enlisted men who were loading it, together with five of their white commissioned officers. Shortly afterwards, a company of these Port Chicago personnel were transferred to Mare Island where they were assigned to identical duty. The explosion-shocked Negroes, many 20 years or younger, protested against allegedly unfair working conditions and refused to load the vessels. The majority subsequently went back to work, but 50 continued to refuse and were arrested and court-martialed on charges of mutiny.

In the Guam case, 36 Negroes were convicted and sentenced on charges of riot and illegal possession of government property. The men had been involved in a series of fights with white marine guards and one of their number had been shot and killed by a white sailor. In desperation they finally seized naval arms and trucks to invade the Marine guard barracks in revenge for the attack committed against their own barracks.

NAACP Reports Men Restored To Duty

New York—Word has reached the NAACP that the 50 sailors involved in the Port Chicago, California, explosion and subsequently convicted of mutiny have been restored to duty on probation.

Major H. C. Sparks, executive officer at the US Naval Disciplinary Barracks at Terminal Island, California, wrote:

"Please be informed that these men have been restored to duty on probation and are now presumably overseas."

The 50 colored sailors were tried during September, 1944, by a Navy court in San Francisco. They were charged with refusing to continue loading ammunition following an explosion at Port Chicago in which more than 300 of their comrades were blown to bits.

Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, attended the trial as an observer and declared that in his opinion the men were being tried because of their color and race. Following their conviction and sentences to long prison terms, all 50 men signed a request that the NAACP handle their appeal.

Briefs seeking to set aside the convictions were filed by Marshall in Washington and oral argument was made by him before the Judge Advocate General and also before the entire board of the Judge Advocate General on April 3, 1945.

NAMED CONSULTANT FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Washington, D. C. Soundphoto—Lieut. Col Margaret D Craighill, who has been appointed consultant for the medical care of women veterans, the first position of its kind in the Veterans Administration. The announcement was made by Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

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