

Imperialist Choir Receives Commendation from Presbyterian Minister

Dec. 31, 1945
715 South 19th Street,
Omaha, Nebraska

Prof. Walter Bell
c/o Omaha Urban League,
2213 Lake Street,
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Bell—
Having been in the city for only a short time, in our ignorance we accidentally arrived at the Urban League last night unaware that it was a community center for colored people; so I trust our intrusion may be forgiven.

Because I am intensely interested in choral music, the brief mention in the Sunday paper attracted us and I can assure you we were well repaid for the trip.

Your ability as a director and arranger was well demonstrated throughout the entire program and gave evidence of your knowledge of harmony so essential to real music appreciation.

May I extend hearty congratulations to the choir for their ability to follow expert leadership. Their enunciation, rhythm, and breath control was the best I have heard for many a day. The pre-program piano rendition by the accompanist, was a work of art. May his tribute increase.

I sincerely hope it may be our privilege to hear your group again. If it is not asking too much, I would appreciate a line from you as to where and when the group will sing.

Signed—
W. WROTHWELL,
Former Pastor First
Presbyterian Church,
Auburn, Iowa.

(The above is a letter received by Mr. Walter Bell, Director of the Imperialist Choir, with reference to the program presented at the Urban League on Sunday, December 30. The pianist referred to above is Mr. Booker T. Washington.)

The group appeared at the Bancroft School P.T.A. meeting January 10, and a portion of the group will appear at the Cleaves Temple Reception on January 15 at the Cleaves Temple Church, 25th and Decatur streets.

DR. HAROLD UREY SPEAKER AT CARVER MEMORIAL MEET
Dr. Harold Urey, a Nobel prize winner and noted atomic bomb expert will be the principal science speaker at the Carver Memorial meeting honoring the late Dr. George Washington Carver which will be held here (NY) Sunday January 13 at Abyssinian Baptist Church. Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee will also be a principal speaker.

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PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO THE NATION



Washington, D. C. Soundphoto—Broadcasting from the White House, President Harry S. Truman carried his fight for adoption of his reconversion legislation program to the nation. He also dwelt on problems confronting the nation, especially management-labor strife and its threat to prosperity.

LEGION SEEKS TAPELESS BILL

Washington, D. C.—Necessary changes in administrative regulations and rules to conform with the liberalization of the GI Bill of Rights as amended by Congress, will now be sought by the American Legion.

This is entirely an American Legion bill said National Legislative Director John Thomas Taylor. We fathered the original bill in 1944, and we sponsored the amendments now enacted into law. National Commander John Stelle has named a special Legion "watch dog" committee which will stand by to see that the operations of the amended bill are not again hamstrung by administrative regulations and rules not in accord with the original intent of Congress.

Director Taylor listed the major changes in the bill as follows:
1. The loan guarantee is raised from \$2,000 to \$4,000.
2. The honorable discharge becomes the veteran's certificate of eligibility for a GI loan.

3. No GI Bill benefits shall be deducted from any future benefits.
4. Real estate, and farm loans made on the appraisal of a Veterans Administration certified appraiser no longer require V. A. approval.
5. Operational business loans and loans made by an individual private lender require V. A. approval.

6. Educational assistance allowances are raised to \$65 a month for single veterans and \$90 for those with dependents, and to not less than \$105 for the disabled veteran.
7. The age factor of 25 years for educational benefits is entirely eliminated.

8. Recognized correspondence schools are made available.
9. On short intensive educational courses, the full amount of benefits is allowed. For example, any veteran can take in one year, the four year's course.
10. Americans who fought in the service of Allied governments are made eligible for GI Bill benefits.

11. The word "normal" is removed from the former requirement of "reasonable normal value" and loans are based on "reasonable value".
12. The amortization period on farm loans is raised to 40 years and on homes to 25 years.

TRUMAN COMMENDED FOR USES BILL VETO

Washington, D. C.—President Truman's veto of the bill which would return the United States Employment Service to state control deserves the highest praise, the NAACP telegraphed the Chief Executive. We shall do our utmost to persuade the members of Congress to defeat any attempt to override the veto said the NAACP message. On two previous occasions the Association has urged President Truman to veto the proposal, charging that under state control Negroes had more difficulty securing jobs than under the Federal Government.

The following statement was issued today by Mr. Perry Howard, member of the Republican Party, prominent Negro attorney National Committee.
"I hope that the Negroes of this country will not be misled by the magnificent but empty gestures made by the Administration last week to cloak the President's FEPC with magic. Magic would do away with job discrimination. Only a Permanent FEPC law, enacted by Congress will do that, and only the Republican Party, as history and the failures of the Democratic Party have proven, can make possible the enactment of such a law.

"As long as the Democratic Party continues to be dominated by race-rabid southern agitators and filibusters, the Democratic Party holds no hope for the Negro people. The League expressed concern for the millions of families caught in between the bottom rents of private housing and the top rents of public housing.
It appears, the testimony ran that this gap requirement would create a no-man's land of families to whom this Congress would be saying a decent home in a suitable environment for every American family except you whose incomes fall just above the group eligible for public housing and just below those for whom decent housing is provided by private enterprise.
In order to provide for this one group, Johnson suggested an administrative determination of top rents to prevent public-private housing competition.
The League especially commended the Committee for lower income benefits including: liberalization of the conditions limiting

O'SULLIVAN NEW UTILITIES DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN

Eugene D. O'Sullivan, prominent Omaha attorney, was chosen unanimously as chairman of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Utilities District for 1946 at the annual election of officers January 2.

W. G. Larson, Omaha real estate man, was elected vice-chairman.

Mr. O'Sullivan succeeds Frank Frost, retiring chairman, and Mr. Larson takes the place of Dr. Willard H. Quigley, retiring vice-chairman.

Appointments to the various operating committees of the board of directors will be made by Mr. O'Sullivan at the next regular meeting of the board.

"We will continue our policy of many years standing, which is to give the people of Omaha the finest possible gas and water service at the lowest possible cost," Mr. O'Sullivan said after his election.

Party holds no hope for the Negro. But the Republican Party does not intend to sit back idly while the Democratic Party waltzes in its weaknesses and Negroes are given surveys when they want equal job opportunities. As a member of the Republican National Committee, I recommend the Republicans in the Senate and House who are now initiating a campaign to force the Democratic Party to go along on passage of the Permanent FEPC bill immediately after Congress convenes. I pledge them my support and I hope that the public will back them in every possible way.

Urban League Hits at FHA Racial Policies

The National Urban League hit again this week at FHA racial policies in testimony before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee in support of the Wagner-Elliander-Taft General Housing Bill. Reginald Johnson, the League's Field Services Director, who gave the testimony quoted Gunnar Myrdal, author of An American Dilemma, contributing the failure of the FHA to help Negroes directly traceable to the policy of segregation used by private institutions, using the passage: "This is a serious one for the Negro and is particularly harmful since the FHA has become the outstanding factor or leader in the planning of new housing. It seems probable that the FHA has even brought about a greatly increased use of all sorts of restrictive covenants and deed restrictions that are the most reliable legal means of keeping Negroes confined to their ghettos."

The members of the Committee showed tremendous interest in the criticisms that were laid before them concerning the FHA, and Johnson was questioned at length concerning the FHA policy, one Senator even showing considerable surprise to find that the bias existed.

Anti-Bias Clause Suggested

The League representative also recommended that the Committee amend the Housing Bill by inserting a clause requiring the provision of this bill shall be made available solely on the basis of need and economic qualification without regard to race, religion, color, or national origin; and that the National Housing Administrator, in discharging his responsibility of the several constituent agencies, shall acquire compliance from each agency with this provision.

This clause was suggested, he told the Committee, on the basis of observation and study of past experience. We are impelled to the conviction, said Johnson, that the benefits of this bill will not be readily extended to racial minority groups according to the needs and economic qualifications of that group unless there is a legislative mandate to that effect.

Urged Speedy Enactment

The League urged the speedy enactment of the legislation, however, describing it as the first ray of hope for some substantial alleviation of our intolerable housing conditions the enactment of the United States Housing Act of 1937 providing it specifically for a comprehensive housing program for every income group, with due regard for the needs of veterans and with recognition of the roots of the housing problem.

Pointing to Title VI of the Bill, which provides for acquisition of land, Johnson declared that, from the viewpoint of Negroes and other minority groups, this provision met one of the two chief criteria for testing the efficiency of any housing legislation.

Large Funds for Public Housing Johnson urged a larger authorization of funds available for public housing, to insure decent living conditions for more than half the total population with income levels below the \$1,000 per year.

The League expressed concern for the millions of families caught in between the bottom rents of private housing and the top rents of public housing.

It appears, the testimony ran that this gap requirement would create a no-man's land of families to whom this Congress would be saying a decent home in a suitable environment for every American family except you whose incomes fall just above the group eligible for public housing and just below those for whom decent housing is provided by private enterprise.

In order to provide for this one group, Johnson suggested an administrative determination of top rents to prevent public-private housing competition.

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financing and remodeling of existing housing with FHA aids, and the lapse payment clause which is a vital complement to the measures encouraging home ownership for families in the lower income group with FHA aids.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S MOVE FOR FEPC MERE GESTURE

A. Philip Randolph, International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters stated that President Truman's belated effort to develop a survey of the facts by the existing FEPC agency bearing on discrimination during the reconversion period is a futile gesture. Government Agencies are in possession of ample facts concerning this question. No new facts are necessary and this suggestion coming from the White House can only serve to delay legislative action which is the primary and commanding issue before the minorities in particular and the Negro in general. The President has the power and the facilities for mobilizing the Senate and House leaders to put the FEPC legislation over and this is the one single demand that the Negro people in particular and all minorities in general make upon him concluded Mr. Randolph.

SEGREGATION STILL RULE IN ARMY CAMPS

Washington, D. C.—Segregation is still the rule in many army camps, according to a report sent to Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson on December 30, by the NAACP.

Out of fifteen camps visited by Jesse O. Dedmon, Jr., secretary of the NAACP, more than half were found to be ignoring War department Memorandum No. 97, which prohibits segregation. Only Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland got a clean bill of health. Of this post the report said all facilities, both recreational and others, were found to be open to all men stationed at the post regardless of race, creed or color.

Ft. Bragg, N. C. and Ft. Benning, Ga. were found to have a policy of complete segregation. Ft. Dix, New Jersey had separate barracks and mess quarters and separate separation facilities. At Pope field, near Ft. Bragg, not only were separate facilities found, but Negro soldiers were being used in menial servant's jobs and those working in officers' clubs weren't being paid the compensation required by regulations.

At Ft. Benning Negro soldiers about to be shipped overseas were placed in a stockade to keep them from going AWOL, but no such treatment was accorded white soldiers.

Complete segregation was to be found at Camp Mabry and Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla. At the latter camp, civilians in the post exchange refused to serve Negro soldiers until all white had been served. Negro officers were not permitted to eat in the officers' mess or live in officers' quarters.

At MacDill field, Fla., enlisted men stated that German prisoners of war had directed them to sit in certain places in the mess hall or they could not be served.

Negro doctors and nurses at Camp Livingston, La., could not treat other than Negro patients and could not use either the officers' club or mess.

Negro and white prisoners in the stockade were separated.

Walter White, NAACP secretary, urged Secretary Patterson to make a prompt investigation and take vigorous steps to correct the conditions.

AK-SAR-BEN ICE SHOW OPENS JANUARY 14



Ice Follies and Ice Capades, long recognized as the top names in musical ice shows, have combined resources to produce Ice Cycles of 1946. And that all-new frozen fantasy will play an eight-day engagement at Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, Omaha, starting Monday, January 14.

World-famous skating champions, lavish costumes, lovely girls, beautiful lighting and gay settings from going AWOL, but no such treatment was accorded white soldiers.

The Shipstads and Johnson of Ice Follies and John H. Harris of Ice Capades, that automatically assure the best in well-rounded and rapidly-paced entertainment, have given their first-hand experience and ability to stage the new musical ice extravaganza. And they have engaged the best ice skating production directors who include Mary Jane Lewis of Broadway and Hollywood, and Fran

Claudet, former Canadian skating champion, both of Ice Follies; and Rosemarie Stewart, former British blade titleholder and Ice Capades director.

Ice Cycles of 1946 feature such ice stars as Marilyn Quinn and Eleanor Meister, lovely Ice Capades star; Robin Lee, five times United States singles champion and headliner with Ice Capades; Bob Turk, Pacific Coast champion, with a touch of the modern in his skating; Henry Lie, twice Norwegian figure-skating champion; Buddy Lewis, barrel-jumper and stunt skater; beautiful Jane Zeiser, Ice Follies queen, and such comedy favorites as Ted Meza, Howard Sullivan, Dick Mershon and Arthur Nelles. Lovely girls include Nadine Thompson, Margaret Field, Jean Arlen, Jean Crystal, and many others.

Mail orders for Ice Cycles of 1946 should be sent direct to the Omaha Coliseum Corporation, 63rd and Shirley, Omaha, Neb., with a stamped self-addressed envelope enclosed for return of the tickets.

Squash The Wolf Outside Their Door



(Drawn for Victory Clothing Collection by F. O. Alexander, Philadelphia E.I.I.I.I.I.)



Tuscaloosa, Ala.: Convalescing service men visit the USO club where a few hours of relaxation away from hospital routine help to keep morale high. USO hostesses entertain with music, suitable games and conversation. The favorite topic is still "Home". More than 500 USO clubs are located near hospitals caring for service men.

Cancer Struck All Three



Between the ages of 5 and 19 years, cancer kills more children than all of the following diseases combined: Scarlet Fever, Infantile Paralysis, Typhoid Fever, Meningitis, Peritonitis, Diphtheria, Dysentery, Diarrhea and Malaria.

The American Cancer Society states that, contrary to common misconception, cancer is not solely a disease of middle or old age. Guard those you love from this scourge of childhood.

So far the State War Council in Albany has set \$600,000 for emergency housing and the Division of the Budget added \$1,500,000 from the State Emergency Rental Fund, 43,000 temporary units will be erected immediately and they will house 140,000.

YOUTH DELEGATES HIT MILITARY TRAINING
Wilberforce, O.—Opposition to peacetime military training was voted here December 30 by delegates to the 7th annual NAACP youth conference. Resolutions also hit restrictive covenants and urged a Federal program of low-cost housing as embodied in the pending General Housing bill. Support was urged for the United Nations organization and for the Wagner-Murray-Dingell social security legislation. The conference voted to meet in New Orleans, on November 21-24, 1946. Bernard Jackson of Boston, Mass., was elected chairman; Daniel Neusom Detroit, vice-chairman; Nancy Whitaker, Cincinnati, sec'y; and Eleanor Cunningham, Chicago, assistant secretary.

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ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN OF PULLMAN CAR CLEANERS
The campaign to organize the Pullman Car Cleaners and Yard Forces throughout the nation by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters according to A. Philip Randolph, International President at the headquarters in New York City is moving promisingly forward. Mr. Randolph states that this is one of the largest groups of railroad workers of the nation in any particular craft or class or industry and that the Brotherhood is waging a militant fight to represent them for the improvement of their wages and working conditions.

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