

# NNPA MEETS IN ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 21, 1946.—The third annual meeting of the Central Regional Conference of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, held in St. Louis Jan. 18 and 19, was characterized by forward-looking and aggressive planning for the post-war newspaper. The sessions were attended by representatives from most all regions, who listened to highly enlightening addresses and discussions. The two day session, were compact with matters pertaining to the profession and of the Negro newspaper during the period of reconversion. The issues of national concern pertaining to federal grants were also considered by the body, future action being referred to the executive committee, to be completed at its meeting in Washington in February.

Action for closer coordination between the Lincoln University School of Journalism and the publishers was instituted. Representatives of the school distributed questionnaires seeking advice on plans for expenditure of \$325 grant to conduct research in the journalistic field in 1946. All support for a permanent FEPC legislation was manifested.

Among those who addressed the panels and luncheon sessions were S. E. Carvel, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Sam Shelton, representing Joseph Pulitzer, publisher, St. Louis Post Dispatch; E. Lansing Ray, St. Louis Globe Democrat; I. A. P. Kaufman; Foster Eaton, St. Louis Star-Times; also Frank L. Stanley, president of the NNPA; George Gringerham, St. Louis Globe Democrat; Ennos B. Vinius, president Anfenger Advertising Agency; Edwin B. Meisner, president, St. Louis Car Foundry, and Chairman, St. Louis Interracial Commission.

Musical presentations, winning the acclaim of the publishers, were rendered by the choir of the Summer High Schools under the direction of Wirt Walton and C. Spencer Tocus, respectively. Social events were held at the West End Waiters Club and Club Riviera. The meeting to which the St. Louis Argus and St. Louis American were joint hosts, was voted one of the most hospitable and interesting regionals experienced by members of the NNPA. The city lent full cooperation, along with the local papers, to make the sessions highly enjoyable.

The meetings were presided over by Dowell Davice, vice-president, Kansas City Call. Members of the executive board present were Frank Stanley, Dowell Davice, H. H. Murphy, John Sengstack, Cecil Newman, William Nunn, A. G. Shields.

Other delegates registering included: E. Von Anderson, Omaha Star; W. O. Walker, Felix Walker, Charles E. Carvel, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Cleveland Call Post; Newman, Minneapolis Spokesman; James V. Morris, Iowa Bystander; J. E. Mitchell, Mrs. Nannie Mitchell, Frank Mitchell, Mrs. Zelma Mitchell, J. Orvel Mitchell, Irving Williamson, Richard Jackson, St. Louis Argus; Frank Stanley and Frank Gray L. Blackwell, Louisville Defender; C. A. Scott, Atlanta Daily World; N. A. Sweets, E. N. Davis, St. Louis American; A. Marcelle Kennedy, Myles Stevens, and James Mamlet, Kansas City Plaindealer; Robert Barber, Miss Lucille Bluford, Melton Bledsoe, Elmer Baker and Bernard Toomy, Kansas City Call; Louis O. Swinger, Memphis World; A. G. Shields, Arkansas World; Emory O. Jackson, Birmingham World; Vemba Inge, St. Louis American; Robert L. Saunders, Cincinnati; Mrs. Brown, Arkansas World and Mrs. Faith Benjamin, Cleveland Herald; Russ Cowan, Michigan Chronicle; Ebony Jackson, Birmingham World; H. H. Murphy, Afro American; James Morris, Iowa Bystander; John Sengstack, Chicago Defender; Mr. Howard, Howard News Syndicate. Visitors included Misses Theo Nix and Consuelo Young from the Lincoln University School of Journalism; Mr. Jeffrey; Mrs. M. R. B. Atwood, president.

Miss Mercoms, who is a graduate of Bethel College, Newton, Kansas, took her graduate work in sociology at Wayne University of Michigan. Before joining the Red Cross she was a case worker for the city relief department, Detroit, and a home service worker for the Detroit Red Cross Chapter. Since coming overseas "war ago she has directed clubs in Northern Ireland, England and France.

Assisting Miss Mercoms as program director is Mrs. Betty J. Smith, 2 West 120th St., New York, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Whitecloud, Hunter, Calif. She came overseas in June, '45. Mrs. Smith has devoted much of her time at the Canebiere Club assisting the soldiers in putting on their own shows. She has been instrumental, also, in arranging for clever murals on the walls of the coffee lounge. Such famous cartoonists as Bill Mauldin, Lyle Suter and C. Ford have left samples of their work.

Regidor Redondo, Filipino head clerk, who is also a former accountant. He is a native of Mindanao.

Miss Marion D. Vollmer, of Columbus, Ohio, who is Assistant Field Director, is a local veteran of nearly 33 months Pacific service.

HOME BOUND GI'S STOP AT RED CROSS CLUB  
Marselles, France—Welcoming from eight to ten thousand soldiers a day as they stream thru the port of Marselles on their way home is the job of Miss Geneva Mercoms, daughter of Andrew Smith Mercoms, 227 E. 10 St., Lawton, Kan., director of the Negro-staffed American Red Cross Club here.

"IT PAYS TO LOOK WELL" MARY'S BARBER SHOP Ladies and Children's Work A Specialty 2422 LAKE ST.

## Plain Talk

By Dan Gardner

### Gardner Says We Need Brand New Leadership; Young, Courageous; Bold, Courageous

What we need is brand new leadership. Young, courageous, yet capable, wise and adept in the ways of this, the dawn of the new era of atomic diplomacy. We need men and women at the helm of our racial ship who are attuned to the times; men and women who are not burdened with the weight of old age, and outlived usefulness. We need fighting blood in the veins of our leaders in the trying days ahead, and in their minds we must have practical knowledge of things, not gushing theories, a lot of guesswork and half learned principles.

There is a place for all things and all people, and in our new leadership we use all elements. The social worker has his place; so does the business man. The preacher must be heard as must the politician. The farmer should have his voice and the carpenter and mechanic must surely have representation. The educator, the professional soldier, the editor and the athlete, as well as the musician should be given their say. Some of our present confused difficulties and groping can be traced to the elevation of one particular category to power with less or little emphasis on what the others are doing or can do. The preacher has shared the reins with the social worker and educator in the past; today we find the politician at the driver's seat. But what of the laborer, the domestic, the so called small fry?

It was an oxymoron for many years that the only persons whom the Negro masses would give an ear to was a Negro preacher and a white man. This more or less, is still true today, although social workers and educators are claiming as they go about selling the white public with philanthropic leanings an estimate of their influence and strength with the great mass of us who are identified with common labor and domestic tasks. In the labor and domestic ranks, we have surged to the front and wield much influence where the minister once reigned supreme and Negro leaders, despite work of A. Philip Randolph, Frank Cross, and a few others, are comparatively unheard of in the national Negro horizon because of today's highlighting of the problems of labor. Musicians, both classic and popular, have enjoyed a certain prominence in our leadership and we have heard and read what it was all about or not, their names looked good on letterheads and throw-aways because their work has so much bearing on the opinion whites have of us. The same goes for athletes, including boxers with bashed-in noses, and cauliflower ears and who speak out of the side of the mouth in the gashouse accent commonly associated with that line of endeavor.

Through power politics, the atomic bomb development, plus the tragic clouds of Hiroshima. The white man is going into a period of history where the sky seems the limit to his ascendancy. The challenge of the darker races as presented by Japan went up in the tragic clouds of Hiroshima. The white man's plans and schemes for flame throwers yank aside the skirts of immunity enjoyed by jungle living natives in Africa, the Pacific, Asia and the comparative safety of the nomadic tribesmen of the desert and the mountains of the century. Today nothing is safe from him. He is riding the pinnacle and has warned that he brooks no challenge to his supremacy. The white man has had no magic formula to reach his present eminence. There are no mumbo-jumbo combinations that are sure-fire incantation to bring about radical and immediate changes. He got on top through hard work, by the use of same brain God gave us all. Today he belongs to the Have's and we are the Have Nots. Our aim is to belong to his class. We cannot until we take steps as he has taken his or in a similar way. The shortcuts are dangerous and many times a gambling choice.

Our capacity to organize and to lead must be demonstrated today. We must control or be able to influence every Negro in the country, from tenant farmer to insurance executive, from levee worker to college president. This influence must be in favor of a right program worked out by right methods and dedicated to the help and improvement of us all, in relation to, in addition, the common needs of all men, white and black. This calls for a radical change in our leadership front. Many who hold positions of power and influence, must be shunted to one side to make way for newer positions and prospects. And we must know in front what any leader in any field really plans to do with us in the future. Our newspapers must raise the cry and it must echo in every hill and vale where our people may be, letting them know what is a foot and to get in on the bandwagon because we face either the ignominy of being always on the tail end or the chance to move onward with honor and respect.

Mr. R. J. Turner, prop. of the T F and R Radio Shop, is opening an all-Negro operated Cabinet Manufacturing Plant at 24th and Willis Ave., on or about Feb. 4, 1946.

All products in wood and plexiglass, such as radio cabinets, kitchen cabinets, and etc., will be made.

Mr. Newman of 1322 Park Ave. has been in one building 42 yrs. and says he has made many many friends in that space of time. He now has a nice line of groceries and all brands of liquors. His store seems to be headquarters for the community. Everyone

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Settlement of Steel Strike Basic to Industry; Plan to Revive Essential German Output

EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in this column they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.



On picket line at General Electric plant in Erie, Pa., with dad, his youngster joined CIO for a \$2 a day wage increase.

#### LABOR: Basic Dispute

A settlement of the steel case portended early solution to a whole string of major strikes affecting basic industries and promised speedy resumption of large-scale production since reconversion has been reported as already 90 per cent completed.

In stepping into the steel dispute to prevent a shutdown of the nation's mills supplying vital material to American industry, President Truman proposed a settlement on the basis of a wage increase approximating 16 per cent and a price boost to operators in the neighborhood of \$4 a ton. Though representing a compromise between the two parties, the offer fell below the CIO-United Steel Workers' minimum demands and also ignored their position that price raises were unnecessary.

Because solution of the steel controversy would enable industry to accurately estimate costs partly based on steel prices, an early settlement of the automobile and electrical appliance walkouts was expected to follow.

#### DEMILITARIZATION: Hear 'Ike'

Calling himself "only a G.I." although he officially was "of the brass," bald, boyish-looking Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, army chief of staff, appeared before a joint congressional committee to personally report on the demobilization slowdown, which has aroused troop demonstrations the world over.

Declaring that the new program was adopted to brake an excess of discharges over the original schedule, "Ike" said that we would have "run out of army" by April unless the slowdown was put into effect. As it is, he said, 1,665,000 more men have been released than planned and another 2,000,000 will be separated within the next five months.

Vigorously denying that the slowdown was prompted by the desire of high officers to retain their rank, or by efforts to push military conscription through congress, Eisenhower said that sufficient men were required to occupy enemy territory

#### VETS: Buck Outsiders

Carrying banners proclaiming that "We Can't Live on Promises," "We Fought for the U. S. A. and Now We're Discarded," and "Welcome Home for What?" World War II vets picketed every mine about Lansford, Pa., in a drive for jobs held by outsiders who accepted employment in the pits during the war years.

While thousands of United Mine Workers in the area refused to cross the ex-G.I.'s picket lines, officials of the Edison Anthracite Coal company refused to discharge outsiders just because they were not born in the district, claiming that it would be liable to lawsuit. Many of the demonstrators had never been previously employed, Edison having rehired all old employees discharged from service.

#### UNO: Faces Test

No sooner had the United Nations organization to preserve postwar peace gotten underway than it appeared headed for its first substantial test over Iran's appeal for security against alleged Russian designs on the middle-eastern state.

At the same time, Indonesian natives were to call on UNO for support in their fight against the re-establishment of Dutch colonial rule in the East Indies, but since no member nation was expected to sponsor their plea, they could not hope for a hearing.

Iran's determination to push for a showdown, even against British persuasion to defer discussion at this time in the interests of unity, posed a delicate problem, since Iranian delegates could take the issue before the general assembly if the security council which includes Russia vetoed action.

#### U. S. Aid Needed Abroad

In the U. S. for a vacation, blunt and rugged Winston Churchill told newspaper reporters that he hoped America would not pull out of Europe and jeopardize the fruits of victory. Britain was not strong enough to handle the job alone, he said. Declaring that he favored the partition of Germany, Churchill said that has never occurred except through rough and ready military occupation.

ever since the development of the movement of the northern province of Azerbaijan for self-rule with Moscow's support. Efforts to stem the uprising were crippled by the refusal of Russian troops occupying that section of the country to permit Iranian forces to re-establish governmental authority.

Meanwhile, President Truman supported the position of this country's military advisers to the UNO meeting in demanding U. S. control of strategic Pacific islands instead of submitting them to an international trusteeship as favored by America's civilian delegates.

Declaring that the islands should be kept under U. S. control, Mr. Truman disclosed that this country would ask UNO for sole trusteeship. Other islands captured by American forces during the Pacific campaign, but not needed for our security, will be turned over to UNO, he said.

#### CHINA: Plot Development

Work of China's national resources commission, charged with developing the country's key industries and administering other enterprises assigned to it, promises to be greatly enhanced with political unification under discussion of party leaders in Chungking.

With the commission presently operating about 30 mines, 30 power plants and 40 factories, American consultants have been called in to help with the improvement, rehabilitation and expansion of the country's youthful oil industry in one phase of postwar development.

Discovered in 1939 on the southern edge of the Gobi desert, the Yumen field has been especially marked for extensive exploitation. Seepages were known in the area for 2,000 years before drilling operations were undertaken and oil struck at 500 feet. Developed to provide China with petroleum after the Japanese had blockaded the seaports, the Yumen field currently is producing 4,000 barrels a day from 25 wells to supply a small refinery.

#### AUTO INDUSTRY: Huge Expansion

In preparing to capitalize on a tremendous backlog of five years, plus normal demand, the automobile industry has laid plans for plant expansion and rehabilitation aggregating 800 million dollars.

**M. Melchiorson**  
Democratic Candidate for Sheriff  
World War Veteran  
Remember

Mr. M. Melchiorson, who has filed for Sheriff on the Democratic Ticket, is very deserving of your consideration. Well-trained and will make a good Sheriff. He wants to meet everyone in Douglas County and express himself. A very nice man to meet. You will hear about him later on from time to time.

(Political Adv.)

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**McDONALD REPORTING**  
By C. C. McDonald

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All products in wood and plexiglass, such as radio cabinets, kitchen cabinets, and etc., will be made.

Mr. Turner plans to have a staff of about 12 men, ex-service men with some experience in this field are preferred.

Look forward to the Elbony Cabinet Co., for your custom-built cabinets.

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**Forecast Drop in World Sugar Harvest**

A 400,000-ton decrease in world sugar production in 1945-46 compared with the year before is forecast by the USDA office of foreign agricultural relations, total output being estimated at 27.8 million short tons, 400,000 below the previous year.

Though North America's beet sugar production has been upward since 1943, Europe's has been downward, and world output for 1945-46 at 7.3 million tons is expected to be the smallest since 1923. Increased harvests of sugar cane in the western hemisphere also have been offset by decreased production in the Far East, Africa, Australia and the Pacific, and an estimated crop of 20.5 million tons for 1945-46 would be 500,000 tons less than the year before.

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