

# OUR GUEST Column

Edited by Verna P. Harris  
**NEGRO-LABOR SOLIDARITY**

(by Alfred Baker Lewis, Member of the Board, NAACP, Union for Democratic Action)

The recent tremendously successful and enthusiastic mass meeting held at Madison Square Garden in New York on behalf of the FEPC illustrates very well the sort of alliance between Negro organizations and organized labor which will help to give us a much more progressive Congress in future elections if it can be extended throughout the country. Official representatives of the AFL and the CIO as well as individual progressive unions joined with representatives of Negro organizations in pledging continued active work on behalf of the bill for a permanent FEPC.

Negroes form one-tenth of the population. But they do not furnish one-tenth of the members of professions like engineering, medicine, or law which are most highly paid, or one-tenth of the United States Senators, Representatives, or State Governors. A very large part of this is due of course to racial prejudice. But much of it is due to the economic handicaps from which Negroes as a group suffer. They do not have the money to go to college in the same proportion as do whites, for they are most heavily concentrated in the lowest paid jobs, including domestic service and agricultural labor. Being concentrated in the South, they do not have the same educational opportunities even in the lower grades. Incidentally, Southern states spend for the education of white children less than the national average, because as one down-to-earth sociologist put it, "The kids are where the cash ain't." (This makes tribute of income is the biggest argument for the proposed Federal Aid to Education bill).

While Negroes suffer from racial as well as economic discrimination in the present state of American democracy, workers too are economically under-privileged. The children of miners, textile workers, white sharecroppers, or longshoremen, do not furnish any such proportionate number of leaders in education and medicine as do the children of lawyers, professors, doctors, insurance men, or bankers. Those who get their income from work or service lose their pay when they are sick, injured, unemployed, or old, or if they die prematurely; while those who get their income from rent, interest, dividends and profits find that their money keeps on rolling in even after they are dead.

Since the wealthy class who get property income do not get their money from their own efforts, it is clear that they get it by exploiting the efforts of others. Organized labor is numerically the largest force that is trying to reduce this exploitation. Since Negroes suffer from economic exploitation intensified by color prejudice, there is and should be a natural alliance between Negroes and labor, for they have a strong identity of interest. Both alike are interested in opposing labor baiters, Negro haters, anti-Semites, and reactionaries. The progressive wing of organized labor best exemplifies that alliance.

Organized labor was the strongest supporter of our social security system, from which Negroes benefit substantially. Just now both organized labor and the Negro community are backing the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill to raise the rates of benefits for old-age pensions and unemployment insurance. This bill would also extend our social security system to domestic servants and agricultural workers, a proposal which would greatly help Negroes; and it would set up a system of compensation for sickness and non-industrial accidents, with free medical

## ATTACKS HASTIE'S USE AS IS. GOVERNOR

Washington, D. C.—Senator Abe Murdock chairman of the important Sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs was notified by the NAACP that testimony submitted to the committee by Leslie Hunt representative for a powerful corporation with extensive interests in the Virgin Islands, was a vicious attempt to kill the nomination of the first Negro governor in the Island's history.

Walter White sent the following wire to the committee chairman. We have learned with amazement and disgust that one Leslie Hunt has alleged before your committee today that Judge William H. Hastie whose nomination as governor of the Virgin Islands you are now considering is either a communist or communist sympathizer and that his confirmation as governor would be disastrous to the Virgin Islands. No grosser

libel against a man of impeachable integrity, ability and loyalty could have been uttered. We vigorously urge that Hunt's testimony be treated with the contempt it deserves and that instead his own record as secretary of the Virgin Islands corporation might well be investigated by the proper authorities on recommendation of your committee.

## ELKS ANNOUNCE ANNUAL ORATORICAL CONTEST

Elk's Annual Oratorical contest sponsored by Iroquois Lodge No. 92 and Cherokee Temple No. 223, IBPOE of W will be held April 18, 1946 at the Elks Hall, 2420 Lake.

The contestants from various of the high schools are: Misses Mable Hill; Cosetta Eubanks; Norma Lee Thomas; Nola Moore; Lena Pierce and Mr. Theodore Cunningham.

Mr. Russell Reese; Mr. Ernest Williams; Mrs. Marian Hickman; Mrs. Odessa Johnson and Mrs. Bettie Davis Pittman, chairman. Mrs. Bennetta L. Cleveland, local Commissioner of Education. Everyone cordially invited.



**PRESIDENT SIGNS HOUSING BILL**  
clutching the four pens used in signing the housing bill, authorizing the expenditure of \$250,000,000 for the conversion of war

## Ask GOP National Committee Consideration of 5 Items

housing units and military barracks into 100,000 temporary houses for veterans and their families. Pres. Truman beams a big smile toward left to right, Sen. James M. Mead, (Dem. N.Y.) author of the bill, Wilson Wyatt, Housing Expediter and Philip M. Kultznick, Federal Housing Commissioner, who witnessed the ceremony

New York.—The following letter was sent today to the Republican National Committee asking consideration of the 5 items—FEPC, the Anti-Lynching Bill, the Housing Bill and the conservative Republican-Southern Democratic coalition—at its meeting in Washington on Monday.

### St. John AME Church To Present Famous Violinist-Composer



**CLARENCE CAMERON WHITE** famous violinist-composer, will be presented Friday May 10, 1946 at Central High School auditorium under the auspices of St. John AME Church. For several years Dr. White has been his recent representative violinist, and now, at the height of his career, he will again tour America during this season.

"As the Republican National Committee meets on Monday, we ask, on behalf not only of 13 million American citizens of Negro blood but as well on behalf of the other Americans concerned with the fate of our country, that the Committee take unequivocal and affirmative action in the 1944 Republican platform. We ask that unless the Committee can see its way clear to take action without pushing it take no action at all so that those interested may thereby know that the Republican National Committee does not see fit to implement without reservation its party pledges.

The issues upon which we request affirmative action are:

(1) The Fair Employment Practice Commission

Support of Federal legislation of this measure was pledged without qualification in the 1944 platform. But eight Republican Senators failed to vote for cloture in the United States Senate and by that margin cloture was not evoked. In the House of Representatives the majority of Republicans have failed to sign the discharge petition despite numerous pleas to them that they do so. Republican signatures could bring the bill to the floor for a vote immediately. But those votes are to date lacking. We ask that the Republican National Committee take whatever steps are possible under its present machinery and that it revise its policy and procedure if necessary to secure enactment of this session of the Congress of the bill for the permanent FEPC.

(2) The Anti-Lynching Bill

The recent mob outbreak at Columbia, Tenn. the attempts to revive such lawless organizations as the Ku Klux Klan and similar groups designed to stir up racial and religious prejudice threaten a recrudescence of violence which can only be checked by federal legislation. We ask the Committee to go on record and to implement such pledge by support of cloture in the Senate and the signing of the discharge petition in the House.

(3) The Anti-Poll Tax Bill

The United States is vigorously supporting democratic elections in Bulgaria and Japan while American citizens, Negro and white, are denied the right to vote here in the United States. This is a most extraordinary and hypocritical contradiction. Republican votes for cloture can bring about the passage of the anti-poll tax bill with the next few weeks. Will the Republican National Committee see that these votes are forthcoming?

(4) Housing

Americans of all races and all sections of the country desperately need housing. A fantastically inflated cost of real estate interests is bringing pressure to bear on the Congress against housing legislation. Many of the Republican Senators and Congressmen, as well as those on the other side of the aisle, have given evidence of yielding to that pressure. We ask the Republican National Committee to repudiate this lobby and to put forth every possible effort for the immediate enactment of such legislation.

(5) The recent public announcement of a coalition in the Congress between conservative Republicans and Southern Democrats, although evidence of such a working agreement has long been seen, has unfurled many American citizens, particularly those of a minority like the Negro, because of the opposition of that coalition to legislation desperately needed for alleviation of suffering caused by job discrimination, disfranchisement, mob violence and lack of housing. We ask the Republican National Committee to repudiate this coalition without equivocation.

The position taken by the Republican National Committee on these issues will profoundly affect the decisions made in 1946 and 1948 by many Americans, but particularly by Negro citizens.

of the common of every race, religion, and nationality. Recommendations for the award should be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Committee of Award, in care of NAACP, 20 W. 40th St., New York 18, N.Y. Each communication should state in detail the achievement of the person recommended as meriting the Springarn Medal.

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### CASTS FIRST SPADEFUL IN GROUND BREAKING FOR GRANDFATHER'S MEMORIAL



**BOOKER T. WASHINGTON III** grandson of the immortal Booker T. Washington cast the first spadeful of soil in the ground breaking ceremonies which were held on the old Burroughs Plantation in Franklin County, Virginia on April 5th to mark the beginning of the establishment of the \$2,000,000 memorial which is planned to commemorate the life of Booker T. Washington and to perpetuate his ideals and teachings.

Young Mr. Washington who is an architect, will also assist in the planning of the memorial.

S. J. Phillips, President of the Booker T. Washington Memorial, said that the program characterized the theme of Booker T. Washington's life, "Helpfulness Towards Others." The country's response to the appeal for contributions is highly encouraging.

Organized labor and Negro leaders are behind the bill for Federal Aid to Education. Organized labor is also a leading supporter of the bill for a permanent FEPC, and of the bill to outlaw poll taxes as a requirement for voting in Federal elections. Thus intelligent workers and Negroes are in accord in the effort to pass such important progressive measures.

Unfortunately for the solidarity of this natural alliance between Negroes and organized labor, the older unions in the United States were formed before many Negroes were industrial workers, and therefore, said to say some of them still exclude Negroes. But the more recently formed unions in the heavy industries, such as the Steel Workers, the United Automobile Workers, or the Packinghouse Workers, do not exclude Negroes but welcome them on equal terms.

## Urban League Membership Drive Launched

Mr. Russel Reese, chairman, sounded the guns to the membership committee he called together at the Omaha Urban League, on Friday, March 29, 1946. Mr. Reese pointed out in a very forceful way the value of the Urban League to the community, the activities in connection with the addition of school teachers last summer, the organization of Community Improvement Club, the organization of Business Men and Womens Clubs, The Community Fair, The Art and Model Ball, its development of the Imperialist Choral Group.

Mr. Reese announced the following plans are available: Plan 1, Membership in the Omaha Urban League for the current year and monthly copies of SPECTATOR cost \$1; Plan 2, Membership in the Omaha Urban League for current year, monthly cost of SPECTATOR and quarterly copies of OPPORTUNITY cost \$2.00; Plan 3, Membership in the Omaha Urban League for current year, monthly copies of SPECTATOR and NEGREO DIGEST, and quarterly copies of OPPORTUNITY cost \$4.50.

Members of the committee are: Mrs. Gertrude Brooks; Mrs. Pearl Brummel; Mrs. Gertrude L. Craig; Ms. E. B. Childers; Mrs. Ethel Kirtley; Mrs. Adam Lee; Mrs. Estelle Gray; Mrs. Katherine Manly; Mrs. Lula Rivers; Mrs. Jamie Norman; Mrs. William Givens; Mrs. Sara Walker; Mrs. Esther Woods; Miss Margaret Fischer; Mr. J. C. Harris; Mr. C. Cade; Mr. O. C. Beck; Mr. Sam Towles; Mr. William Givens; Mr. Charles Stewart; Mr. Burns Scott; Mr. L. L. McVay; Mr. James G. Jewell; Mr. George Camper; and Mr. Henry Black.

gunnery at Elgin Field and Transition at Walterboro, S. C. in a P-47 which was then the hottest ship in the air.

He flew missions in dive-bombing, strafing, cross country, low mission tweeps at tree top level, and simulated bomber escort with groups of nearby B-24s.

Mr. Orduna is now driving a cab for the United Taxi Service while awaiting recall to the Postal Service. He has a strong desire to go into commercial flying but the opportunity has not presented itself as yet.

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segregation was still retained. The only change was in the fact that Negroes would now be placed in smaller units and attached to white units.

Washington, D. C.—The General Dwight D. Eisenhower who recently appointed a six man board to investigate "caste" in the army received a suggestion from Walter White of the NAACP to appoint a Negro to the newly created six man board to inquire into some GI complaints regarding caste in the army.

Mr. White worded his suggestion in a telegram which stated "It is not too late may I suggest that a most useful purpose would be served by addition of a qualified Negro to six man board appointed by you to inquire into caste in the US Army. As you and I know from first hand observation, officers, and sergeants more from caste and racial discrimination than the Negro. From our conversations I am certain you agree that no really democratic army will ever be achieved as long as such racial demarcations resulting in discrimination and segregation continue. May we also suggest calling of qualified Negroes to give first hand testimony and this association will be happy to furnish names of Negro enlisted men, officers, and sergeants and civilians who have first hand and exact information to contribute."

Earlier in the week Mr. White meeting with Gen. Eisenhower in Washington had discussed the recent Gillen Report which was based upon an investigation into the effects of racial segregation into

Iran, Africa and Marseille, France where he joined the 332nd Fighter Group. They flew missions over Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Yugoslavia, Switzerland and other Balkin and lowland countries. He was a witness of the crack up of 2nd Lt. Thomas Hawkins while taking off in a P-47. Orduna's plane was hit by flak while over Austria but luck rode the cockpit with him and he came back safely. On his 20th mission over the Adriatic Sea the canopy (top hatch) of Orduna's plane flew off while he was at 30,000 feet, almost six miles up which resulted in his hospitalization from exposure for 3 months and his return to the States.

Ralph says Italy is a beautiful country with a climate, like our California's and that the natives, though poor, were friendly. Modern conveniences were few in the area in which he served.

The Lieutenant received his pilot's training at Tuskegee Army Air Field where he took 10 weeks of preflight consisting in part of physics, navigation, aerodynamics and theory of flight, after which he went to Primary where he studied more associated ground school subjects. After 10 weeks of training and 65 hours of flying, he then moved to basic where he received additional training and advanced flying. He graduated with 192 hours of flying and 13 months of training. In addition he took

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## Union Services

Union services will be held at Zion Baptist Church, 2215 Grant St., Sunday night April 7. Devotional service 7:30 Pm. Sermon at 8 pm. by the Rev. E. B. Childers, pastor of the Zion AME Church.

The public is urged to attend these two closing services of our Union Services.

## Loftis Resigns Presidency of Local NAACP

E. A. Loftis, who recently succeeded Rev. C. Adams as president of the local branch of the NAACP, announced Wednesday that he had resigned this office. He said that the treasury funds had increased considerably during his few weeks as president. But that he felt it best for the interest of the branch that he should resign.

## ANNOUNCES LAST CALL FOR SPRINGARN AWARD NOMINATIONS

New York, N. Y.—The NAACP announced this week that the time limit for nominations for the 31st award of the Springarn Medal would soon expire.

The Springarn Medal is awarded annually for the highest achievement of an American Negro in some field of endeavor. The choice is not limited to any one field and nominations are invited from spiritual, scientific, artistic, commercial and educational fields.

Paul Robeson, noted actor and singer, was the recipient of the 1945 Award for his distinguished achievements in the theatre and on the concert stage, as well as his active concern for the rights

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Also serving on the committee are Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Judge Jane Bolin, Oscar C. Brown, Chicago NAACP, James B. Carey, Cong. William L. Dawson, Earl B. Dickerson, Roscoe Dungee, Edwin R. Embree, W. J. Faulkner, David M. Grant, Thomas L. Griffith, Jr., George E. C. Hayes, Rev. Charles Hill, Lillie M. Jackson, Baltimore NAACP; Dr. D. V. Je

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