

# The Negro Press in A Changing World

Following excerpts from address by P. B. Young Sr., president and publisher of Norfolk Journal and Guide at Wilkie Awards Dinner, Washington, D. C. March 1. On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to thank Mrs. Meyer and her associates on the committee for their interest and for carrying forward in this magnificent way the ideals of our late lamented friend Mr. Wendell L. Wilkie.

As a tribute to the memory of that great American may I also express the gratitude of the Negro Press of the United States for the added recognition implied in these awards.

Our lamented friend envisioned a free world, and he wanted our America to lead him to the cause of freedom. He believed that a free America was essential to a free world and he believed with deep sincerity that America could not be truly free unless all of her people were free.

In his private life and public acts he exemplified the high ideal which he so ably espoused.

This occasion brings to public attention the Negro Press. It underlines the importance of our efforts in the United States to serve a high purpose in the field of journalism, to establish and

maintain harmonious race relations, to deal constructively with a great human question, which our people—at least a majority of our people—are trying to resolve in a spirit of justice.

I have chosen, therefore, to discuss the topic, The Negro Press in a Changing World.

In order that you who are not so familiar with the origin, the background and present status of the Negro Press may be able to view it in the proper perspective, let me review briefly these essential details.

### 119TH ANNIVERSARY

This week the Negro Press of the United States is celebrating its 119th anniversary. That may seem singular to those who recall that the institution of legal slavery was abolished 81 years ago. With a few exceptions we have been in the habit of viewing the social evolution of Negroes in America in terms of what has happened since emancipation.

But years before this historic change occurred people outside of the region in which slavery was legalized were indulging in the good old American custom of striving to make this Nation free as a whole. Thus, in 1827 there was established in New York City a small sheet which bore the significant title of Freedom's Journal. It was the first newspaper dedicated to the Abolitionist cause and ante dated Garrison's Liberator by four years. Freedom's Journal was an organ of protest.

### GROWTH OF PRESS

From that small beginning the



DAMAGE CAUSED BY TIDAL WAVE

Washington D. C. Signal Corps Radiophoto—Soundphoto—A general view of the damage caused by the gigantic tidal wave that swept the windward side of the island of Oahu. Note building on right which has been carried out into motor highway.

### INFLUENCE ON OTHER AMERICANS

Who else, you may inquire, besides Negroes reads the Negro Press, and what influence does it exert on race relations, or upon the thinking of other people, upon legislation, or upon the whole American way of life?

It is difficult to answer that question except to say that almost every Negro newspaper of merit has a substantial list of white subscribers, and this includes a number of colleges, universities, and public libraries. Occasional studies have shown that even in the South white people buy in considerable amounts the Negro newspapers from the newsstands.

Occasionally we receive from white readers letters of approval, just as we frequently receive letters of disapproval. We have this experience with our own people. Some of our papers are anathema to colored readers because of what is considered radicalism or sensationalism, and others are anathema because of what is considered conservatism.

The war increased racial tensions in the United States. This fact revealed that a great many white people were reading the Negro Press, some out of interest in the content, some out of curiosity, and others out of concern for possible trouble because of the candor with which our press was dealing with discriminatory practices which were excluding Negroes from participation in the war effort, except the draft for military duty.

LOYALTY UNDIMINISHED  
In the early stages of the war it was discovered that one of the most assiduous patrons on the Negro Press was the FBI. It was a rare day that one of our papers did not receive a new subscription or a visit from the FBI. The education of this agency in the technicalities heaped upon an American minority solely on account of color must have been extensive and unprecedented. The fact that years of watching and distilling of every line, every word printed in the Negro Press that could by any process of reasoning have been classified as treasonable brought not one single arrest, nor one single act of suppression, constituted irrefutable proof of the undiminished patriotism of the American Negro at a time when sabotage of the war effort was running rampant in circles outside of the Negro race.

NO CLAIMS TO PERFECTION  
We make no claims to perfection. The Negro Press is made up of humans whose emotional reactions are similar to those of people whose skins are of different pigmentation. Among us are Republicans, Democrats, Protestants and Catholics, conservatives and radicals. Different members of our press hold different views on methods and techniques for extricating the race from the net work of discriminatory devices designed to keep us in a permanent status of second class citizenship. But there is no difference of opinion on the part of any of the members of the Negro Press as to the necessity for rising above second class citizenship, and the determination to do so.

THE MAIN TASK NOW  
The main task of the Negro Press in this changing world is to disseminate the truth, as to the true status of race relations in America; as to the extent that democracy includes, or touches, America's minority groups; to point out the injustices in the administration of law, and to obey and decry all efforts to perpetuate a system in America under which our minorities are denied equality of opportunity in the lawful pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

There is a woeful lack of information in this country concern-

ing Negroes. To millions and millions of Americans the sources of information are closed—voluntarily—in some cases, involuntarily in others. But they are closed. And the information that is permitted to get out is distorted, diluted and often misleading. In the United States not long ago, a Senator of one of the more enlightened southern states made

the statement that "the South makes the provisions per capita for the improvement of white people that are made for Negroes. Then he asked the Senate and the world why change this, in apparent earnestness?" The Senator is an intelligent, experienced man, and must have known that his statement was erroneous and mis-

leading. But millions of American people read, and believed that what this southern statesman said was true. No other Senator in the august body refuted what he said. We have seen in no American newspaper, other than in Negro newspapers, any refutation of what he said. But it is in the record for all Americans and for

all the world to see and believe that in the South there is no discrimination against Negroes in matters of education, health, employment, housing and other fundamental necessities of life.

The fact is that in the Senator's own state the per capita expenditure for the education of children

(Continued on page 5)

### WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

## State Department Blueprints International Atom Control; House Probes Spy Intrigue

Released by Western Newspaper Union

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

### Pictured (from bottom to top) during tense UNO talk on Iran are Andrei Gromyko, representing the Soviet; Sir Alexander Cadogan of Britain, and Edward Stettinius and James Byrnes of the U. S.



### LABOR FRONT: Farm Machinery Tie-Up

Government seizure of strike-bound farm machinery plants appeared as the remaining alternative as negotiations between companies and union bogged down and equipment was badly needed for the maintenance of high crop production to meet domestic and foreign demands.

As the government pondered taking over the plants, the International Harvester company continued to resist the CIO-Farm Equipment Workers' demands for union security, maintenance of membership, dues checkoff, arbitration and methods for settling grievances. Both company and union agreed to a government fact-finding recommendation for an 18-cent an hour wage increase.

In addition to 30,000 workers in 11 International Harvester plants, 12,500 employees in six plants of Allis-Chalmers and J. I. Case remained out over contract differences.

### Coal Snag

While the government kept one eye on the farm machinery situation, it trained another on the coal industry, where parleys between John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers and the operators sagged over the UMW chieftain's demands for the creation of a health and welfare fund.

Dropped last year during the bargaining over a new contract, the health and welfare fund issue was raised again this year by Lewis, who gave it No. 1 position on the negotiating agenda. Asserting that it would cost them \$50,000,000 annually, the operators proposed the creation of a joint committee to study an accident compensation plan as an alternative.

### SPY INTRIGUE: House Acts

Hard on the arrest of a 29-year-old Russian naval officer for espionage by the FBI in Portland, Ore., the house committee on un-American activities, headed by Representative Wood (Dem., Ga.), voted to send investigators up to Canada to probe possible connections between the Soviet spy ring uncovered in the dominion and agents in this country.

Revealing that the committee had been aware of the FBI's investigation of the Soviet naval officer, Lt. Nicolai Redin, the committee counsel said that the group soon would hold hearings on subversive activities and spy on a number of witnesses, including atomic scientists and government employees.

Meanwhile, Redin, nabbed for obtaining information about the destroyer tender USS Yellowstone, charged "the whole thing is a buildup for political purposes." A member of the Soviet lend-lease purchasing staff in the U. S., Redin enjoys no diplomatic immunity and was held on \$25,000 bond.

### SCIENCE: Use Germans

Some 100 German scientists are now in the United States working on military projects involving captured German equipment including rockets, buzz bombs, jet-propelled planes and aerodynamic research instruments, Secretary of War Patterson announced.

### GERMAN ASSETS: Uncovered in Spain

Enjoying the co-operation of the Franco government, the U. S. and Britain, acting for the Allied control council, have uncovered more than 100 million dollars in German assets in Spain and taken possession as the ruling force of the vanquished Reich.

Included in the assets are controlling shares in extensive holding companies; 30 ships and other facilities of three shipping companies; 100 buildings; gold worth \$1,125,000; German paintings used for propaganda purposes, and a huge stock of champagne which was to be sold to obtain foreign exchange.

Discovery of stock of the Sociedad Financiera Industria in a vault under the German embassy in Madrid gave U. S. and British officials control over a far-flung holding company comprising 17 corporations. Organized at the beginning of the Spanish civil war to supply goods and munitions to Franco, the holding company was supported by the Nazis.

Among the German businesses taken over were makers of tires and rubber, medical and electrical equipment, electrical appliances, radio sets and telephones, and light bulbs. Krupp's extensive licensing of patents and processes at a 3 per cent royalty also were subject to Allied administration.

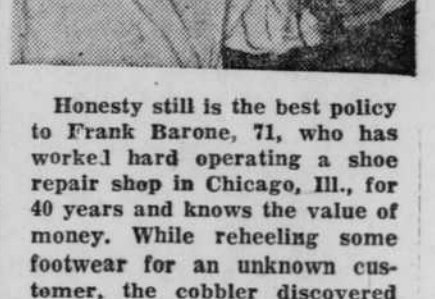
### FARM EXPERIMENT: Dropped by Ford

In line with its announced policy of abandoning activities not directly connected with the manufacture of automobiles, the Ford Motor company will dispose of 10,000 acres of farmland in Michigan originally acquired for experimenting in the adaptation of agricultural products to industrial use.

The company also decided to give up the model school project organized for the communities surrounding the huge land holdings. One-room schools were remodeled, kindergartens opened for three- and four-year-olds, and studies shaped to permit practical application of textbook teachings.

Under the new policy pushed by Henry Ford II, the company will not resume manufacture of some of its own tires and a tugboat used for Ford piers on the Detroit river has been sold. Operated by a foundation separate from the company, the Ford museum and Greenfield village will not be affected.

### Found: An Honest Man!



Honesty still is the best policy to Frank Barone, 71, who has worked hard operating a shoe repair shop in Chicago, Ill., for 40 years and knows the value of money. While reeling some footwear for an unknown customer, the cobbler discovered \$1,100 in ten and twenty dollar bills stuffed deep inside the shoes. When the customer returned, Barone handed over \$1,090, insisting on withholding \$10 as a reward.

### PEARL HARBOR: Reopen Hearings

Pondering lengthy testimony on the Pearl Harbor disaster of December 7, 1941, the congressional committee named to investigate the catastrophe decided to reopen public hearings to obtain more detailed information from top military and naval officers as to their whereabouts on the evening preceding the attack.

Decision to call General Marshall, Admiral Stark and Rear Admiral Beardsall back for questioning followed late testimony of Comdr. L. R. Schulz that President Roosevelt had sought to contact Stark on the night of December 6 after receipt of the first 13 parts of the Japanese message indicating a rupture in diplomatic relations.

While Marshall and Stark had told the committee they could not recall their whereabouts on the night of December 6, Schulz said that Mr. Roosevelt was informed that Stark was attending a theater. Beardsall was said to have been dining with the late Admiral Wilkinson, chief of naval intelligence. Schulz's testimony may serve to refresh their memories, Committee Chairman Barkley said.

### OUTDOOR SPORTS: Licenses Up

America's hunters and anglers spent more than 28 million dollars for licenses during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945. Although 8,190,901 hunting licenses and 8,280,232 fishing licenses were purchased this does not mean that 15,471,133 different sportsmen bought licenses to hunt or fish, for many bought both. There may have been even more since land-owners do not have to buy a license in some states.

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