

"Fighting Prejudice, Disease, and Second-Class Citizenship Is My Business"

It's The Business of Every American Who Wants To See Our Country Grow Stronger, Healthier and Happier Year After Year . . .

SAYS—
JOE LOUIS AT
TESTIMONIAL
DINNER
GIVEN IN HIS
HONOR AT
WALDORF-
ASTORIA



In a stirring speech made at the Southern Conference for Human Welfare Dinner honoring him, Joe Louis, world's heavyweight champion, asserted that "fighting prejudice and disease and second class citizenship is my business." He continued, "It's the business of every American who wants to see our country and its people grow stronger, healthier, and happier year after year."

Attended by more than 500 outstanding figures in the theatrical, civic, sports and professional world, the dinner was held in the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf Astoria, New York, on Monday evening, December 16. Frank Sinatra star of screen and radio was master of ceremonies at the event; Jean Muir, former screen actress and Duke Ellington, composer, served as co-chairmen of the dinner.

Among the leading personalities who paid tribute to the "Champ" as a "great fighter and great American" were Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of the Bethune-Cookman College; Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare; General John K. Kilpatrick, president of Madison Square Garden; Carole Landis, screen star; Ham Fisher, cartoonist and creator of "Joe Palooka"; Dr. Channing Tobias, leading educator, recently appointed to President Truman's Civil Rights Commission; Dr. James Sheldon, president of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League who recently exposed The Columbians Inc., and Duke Ellington.

Thanking all the guests for their "kind words," Joe Louis stated, "Your words have given me a kind of road to travel on—a road to follow that will be bumpy in spots, but there'll be many of you along to help to do the repair job." In a forthright declaration of his principles, which was broadcast over radio station WMCA, the Champion asserted, "I hate Jim Crow. I hate the poll tax. I hate keeping good folks down because of their color. And I'm not going to let those hates stay in my system. I'm going to do all I can to stop Jim Crow and lynching and the evils he brings. That's why I'm 100 percent for the Southern Conference for Human Welfare; they are my kind of people and your kind of people."

Among the exciting highlights of the evening was the auctioning of the boxing gloves Joe Louis wore when he knocked out Tami Mauriello. Mr. Herman Sobel, a brush manufacturer from New Rochelle, New York, was the highest bidder with an offer of \$15,000. Later the audience responded to the appeal of Clark Foreman, Conference president, who he called for "progressive Negroes" money to help defeat the Southern bigots and white supremacists" and almost \$15,000 was raised.

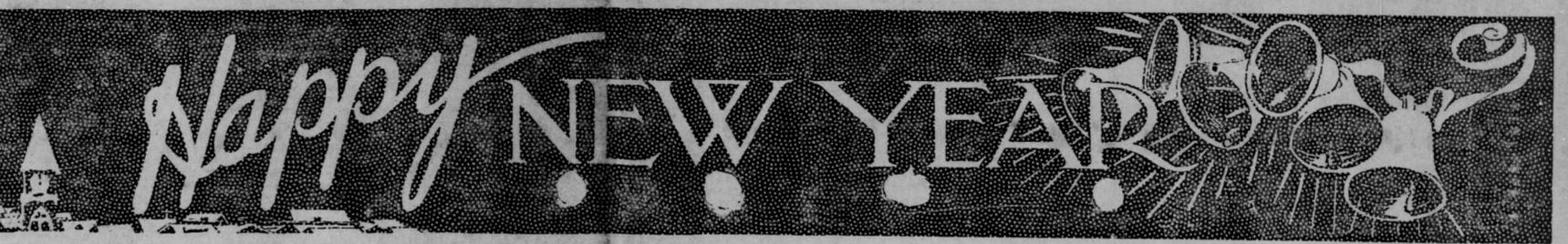
Percy Green, editor of the Jackson, Mississippi Advocate who mobilized Negroes to go to the polls and later to testify in the two hearings, was another speaker. Calling the 1946 campaign in Mississippi one of the most "violent, vulgar, vicious, brutal, unchristian, undemocratic campaigns ever carried on in this country," Mr. Green stated that in spite of the "almost complete breakdown of federal and state law enforcement more than 2500 Negroes in Mississippi went to the polls and cast their ballots."

Declaring that race prejudice was the worst influence in the political life of the country, Mr. Green declared it must be abolished not only "because of what it means to the future developments of the Negro, but because of what it means to the white people and to the future relationship of the entire nation with the people of the world." In conclusion Mr. Green stated that he had faith in the American idea and as long as there are people "like those in the Southern Conference for Human Welfare" working for real democracy.

COMPLETE TEXT OF JOE LOUIS' SPEECH
I want to thank all of you for your good, kind words and I want to tell you too, that I will try to live up to the fine things you have said about me. You've given me a long way to go. Your words have given me a kind of road to travel on—a road to follow that will be bumpy in spots, but there'll be many of you along to help to do the repair job.

It was good of you to come. You are here, I know because you're on the same road—the road that will lead to a happier, healthier, and better America, e've got to get a lot of traffic on that road—else the people going the other way, and you know who I mean, will push us off. They're so used to pushing it comes by them natural like. We have decency and right and what made America strong on our side; we need the good people of our country to work and fight together to make the dream of Abraham Lincoln come true.

But, honestly, I don't see why the Southern Conference had to honor me especially. I am just doing what every ordinary American who has a heart and a soul is doing—what every decent person in this country who believes in fair play, in giving his fellow American an even chance to live in peace and quiet is doing. If anyone should be honored here to



LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS 10c Per Copy AND WORTH IT... "To Sell It, ADVERTISE"

THE OMAHA GUIDE

JUSTICE & EQUALITY ALL THE NEWS WHILE IT IS NEWS HEW TO THE LINE

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PHONE HA. 0800

2420 GRANT ST.

SATURDAY, DEC. 28, 1946 Our 19th Year—No. 47 Entered as 2nd Class matter at Post-Office, Omaha, Nebraska, Under Act of March 3, 1879. PUBLISHING OFFICES AT 2420 GRANT ST., Omaha, Nebr.

Ala. U.S. Court Denies Discrimination Versus Negroes In Primary

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 27.—In a crowded court room last week Judge Charles Kennamer of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama dismissed the suit of William Mitchell against Mrs. George Wright and Virgil Guthrie, registrars of voters in Macon County, on the grounds that no discrimination against the plaintiff, Mitchell, had been shown by the evidence.

In a pre-trial hearing, the Judge ruled against the class-action feature of the plaintiff's suit. Last week, on the trial, he indicated that discrimination against Negroes generally by the registrars had been shown by the evidence, and stated that if this were a class action, he would have ruled for the plaintiff, but the evidence failed to show any discrimination against Mitchell as an individual.

All of the registration rolls and application blanks of Macon County from 1942 through 1945 had been subpoenaed by the plaintiff. It was demonstrated that, while Macon County had a population of 27,650, of which 22,000 were Negroes, less than 2 percent of the Negroes had been registered, while over 47 percent of the white voters had been registered during the registration period in July, 1945, on which this suit was based.

Ninety-three Negroes and seven whites presented themselves to the registrars and were registered forthwith. Ten Negroes were registered, twenty-three failed outright, and application blanks for the remaining 60 who attempted to vote were certified as qualified by Mrs. Wright, the chairman of the registration board. The defendants failed to place these six Negroes on the registration roll, however, giving as an excuse the fact that they had failed to produce the necessary persons to vouch for themselves. Actually, evidence was produced to indicate that vouchers for some of these applicants had been presented themselves to the board, but were not permitted to vouch for the Negro applicants. The evidence also showed that anyone was permitted to vouch for a white applicant, although the registration board insisted that all Negroes know the person who vouched for them.

One white witness stated that he had merely given the names of several persons to the registration board who could vouch for him, although he never consulted these people about it and had no idea which of the persons had signed his form in the registration office.

As counsel, the defense had the services of E. C. Boswell, the author of the infamous Boswell Amendment to the Alabama Constitution, which was passed on November 1946, by the voters of Alabama. It requires applicants for registration to be able not only to read and write any section of the Federal Constitution, but be able to understand and interpret any section to the satisfaction of the registrar—a subtle method of disqualifying otherwise qualified Negro voters.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS IN THE OMAHA GUIDE Columns EVERY WEEK! READ THE GREATER Omaha GUIDE

night—it's the people like Percy Green and our brave friends in Mississippi—it's the Southern Conference workers who carry on our fight in the deep Southland—it's the thousands of little people thru out Dixie who are going to the polls for the first time and who like the feeling of being real citizens and who are going to stay that way.

Some people ask me why I bother to get mixed up in movements like the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. That's just what they say. The idea is that I'm doing all right as a fighter and that I should stick to my business. They mean all right—but they just don't understand that fighting prejudice and disease and second class citizenship is my business.



1947—A Year for Pulling Together

GOP. Asst. Campaign Chrm. V. Washington Writes L. Perry

Mr. Leslie S. Perry
Administrative Asst. Washington Bureau
100 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Perry:

Your attack on the legislative program of the Republican party was not surprising to those of us who know the attitude of the officers of your association toward the Republican party. No later than October of this year Senator Wayne Morse was forced to answer Walter White, Secretary of the NAACP when he urged in his syndicated column that Negroes should vote Democratic. Of course you know the majority of us did not take Mr. White's advice on November 5, and the Republicans were returned to power.

For fear that you are not apprised of all that goes on in the front office of your own organization, I am enclosing a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Walter White, which is self-explanatory. After writing Mr. White this letter I wrote him:

It's the business of every American who wants to see our country and its people grow stronger, healthier and happier year after year. I hate Jim Crow. I hate the poll tax. I hate keeping good folks down because of their color. And I'm not going to let these hates stay in my system. I'm going to work with other people and do all I can to stop Jim Crow and lynching and the evils they bring. That is why I'm 100 percent for the Southern Conference for Human Welfare; they're my kind of people and your kind of people. Thanks again for everything. I'll try to keep punching both in the ring and out of the ring. With all of you behind me, I guess, I can't go wrong.

in longhand telling him of a sudden change in my plans and stating that I would get in touch with him later. Not knowing Mr. White was so deeply enmeshed in Democratic politics I tried on four different occasions to get in touch with him in New York. He never did respond to any of my telephone calls nor did he answer the enclosed letter or my note in longhand.

Frankly, I did not know of the change in policy of the NAACP from a non-partisan organization to a partisan political organization. It did not take long to discern this, however, after I entered the national political field. I do not feel it quite fair that the Republican National Committee should let the Association officers continue to attack the Republican party without informing the membership of your organization as well as the general public of our attempt to cooperate with the NAACP in the building of a Republican program, not from a partisan view, but from the standpoint of progressive legislation affecting minorities. Needless to say I regret that I must enter into controversy with you at this time, but it is the only true American way when there is a misunderstanding. The Republican party does have a program and I am sorry that your organization did not participate in its forming.

Sincerely yours,
Val J. Washington
Assistant to the Chairman
Mr. Walter White, Secretary,
National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People
210 W. 40th Street
New York 18, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:
Some years ago, when I was engaged in the newspaper business, I had the pleasure of meeting you. Upon several occasions I have heard you speak, and have attended meetings over which you presided. However, in recent years I have not come into direct contact with you, but have followed and admired your work. You probably know that I was recently made Executive Assis-

tant to the Campaign Chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Assistant to the Chairman. A few weeks ago a letter which you had written to Mr. Brownell was turned over to me. At the time Mr. Brownell was retiring from the Committee, and I had just been appointed. My job, as you can readily realize, is no easy one, and I will need the help of all true friends and well-wishers. I am anxious to talk with you, and would like to make an appointment to see you the next time I am in New York. Since my schedule keeps me pretty much on the go, I think I stand a better chance of seeing you there than in Washington. Our program for the success of the Republican party is in the making, and I would like to know what suggestions or criticisms you might have which would assist us in drawing up this program. You can be of great assistance to us. I will either write or call you before coming to New York. You can reach me in Washington Monday and Tuesday of next week should you want me at an earlier date. I am looking forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely yours,
Val J. Washington

NEW YORK GIRL SETS PRECEDENT

Raleigh, N. C. (Global)—Friday December 6, Eunice Tucker of New York City, a co-ed at St. Augustine College, became the first Negro ever to preside over a mixed meeting of North Carolina students.

The precedent was set when Miss Tucker was elected president pro tem of the North Carolina Student Legislative Assembly, which was participated in by delegates from State Negro colleges and 79 delegates from white colleges.

The gavel was handed over to her by a University of North Carolina student, former Senate President Robert Morrison of Hickory. This marked the first time that Negro students had been invited to participate in the annual assembly.

TWO OUTSTANDING SONG FESTIVALS TO BE GIVEN FOR OMAHA'S SOCIETY

Imperial Choral Ensemble To Present Post-Christmas Recital December 29th

The Imperialist Choral Ensemble will present their post-Christmas recital Sunday evening Dec. 29th at the Elks Hall at 6:00 p. m. Personell of this group are: Jacqueline Johnson; Charlene Dailey; Young Lee Simms; Lavon Monday; Delores Hall; Juanita Mosley; Olive Whitney; Lillian Bell; Evelyn Butler; Norman Monday; Eva Whitby; George Miles; Arthur Hayden; Leonard King; Joseph Webb; Marvin Reed; Clarence Smith; E. W. Collins; Ervin Penn; Norris Preston.

Progressive '24' To Present St. John's Senior Choir In Recital In February

Plans are under way for the presenting of St. John's Choir in a musical recital by the Progressive '24, an auxiliary of St. John's Church in February 1947. This auxiliary in presenting this choir will bring to the Christian music-loving public some of the finest local talent in the city of Omaha. Many beautiful, new and breath-taking spiritual and musico-dramatic compositions are being prepared for this presentation. There will be a special arrangement of solos.

The Choir has already commenced to rehearse diligently and industriously under the direction of Mrs. Pearl Gibson for this occasion. A full orchestra will accompany this group in their presentation.

Mr. W. P. Ervin, president
NAACP YOUTH CHAPTER SET UP ON COLUMBIA CAMPUS

NEW YORK, Dec. 18th.—An orientation meeting of the newly-chartered NAACP Youth Chapter at Columbia University, New York City, was held on the campus on December 13th. Over one hundred and fifty students heard addresses by Dr. Ruth Benedict, noted anthropologist, and Faculty Advisor of the Chapter, and Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP Youth Secretary. Officers of the chapter were elected, and a goal of 1000 members was set up. The group will work toward the elimination of textbooks containing passages derogatory to minority groups, abolition of the college "quota system", improvement of student-aid taught attitudes toward race problems and the support of inter-racial Sydenham Hospital's drive for funds to carry on.

NAACP ACTION STAYS MISS, DEATH SENTENCES

New York, Dec. 18.—Two Mississippi Negro youths sentenced to die in the electric chair on Dec. 13, 1946, on a charge of murdering their employer, may yet be saved due to the successful action of the NAACP, through its attorney, Walter D. Coleman, in Mississippi, in obtaining a temporary reprieve from the Governor of the State.

Pending an investigation of the facts, the execution of Charles Trudell, sixteen, and James Lewis fifteen, has been stayed until Jan. 17, 1947. If the Governor finds the facts warrant it, it is probable that he will commute both boys' death sentences. Should he fail to do this, attorneys will immediately carry the appeal to the Federal courts.

Calvin's Digest The Year Ahead

BY JOHN M. LEE

Looking back over the past twelve months, as everyone will be doing, if only briefly, in these last days of 1946, we shall try to plan the year ahead so that the gains will surpass the losses. It is a procedure that we follow in our personal lives, and collectively, as a progressive and influential minority group, we will try to come closer to the ideal of full and equal citizenship on all fronts.

The closing year has been one of many paradoxes. It has been the first year following the death of FDR, with the resultant weakening of the forces of liberalism. It marked the defeat of the progressive program and the repudiation of its leaders at the polls, while it foreshadowed the struggles of the year ahead.

There has not been a single year since his emancipation in which the Negro has not made rapid gains in social, economic and political standing. The past year is no exception. There have been many notable advances on an individual and collective basis that will serve in history to mark an important era in the affairs of the American Negro. Simply stated, the Negro actually accelerated his pace in 1946, but it must be noted that the forces of reaction and fascism showed their greatest strength in this same year.

It was in 1946 that American fascism gouged out the eyes of Isaac Woodward; it was in 1946 that the Department of Justice tacitly admitted that it was powerless to protect the lives and interests of American Negroes, by failing to bring to justice the mob responsible for the lynching of two Negro men and their wives on a lonely road in Georgia.

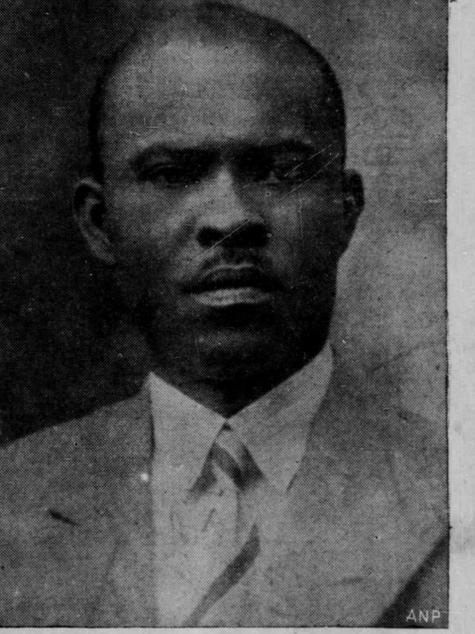
It was in 1946 that the Ku Klux Klan, showed a strong resurgence in so-called liberal communities all over the country; it was in 1946 that the Columbians and many kindred hate groups revived the Hitler pattern, and came from underground to openly campaign and terrorize for white supremacy.

Balanced against the losses, the aggregate of all the gains made by American Negroes in 1946, are as nothing since there has not been one substantial guarantee provided that the United States will not become the world capital of fascism. It was in 1946 that the report was made that Chicago was on the verge of a violent racial outburst. Over twenty-seven years have passed, and yet Chicago, one of the largest of our cities, have profited little since it last was torn by racial disturbances.

The cause of the right of Negroes to vote in the South was struck a weakening blow when Alabama added impossible tests and conditions to the poll tax qualifications for voting. This blot can not be wiped out by pointing to the many Negroes who were elected to important public office; just so long as some of us remain slaves, none of us are free.

The year ahead is as promising as we believe it will be. We cannot hope to accomplish in twelve short months what many thousands of men and women have not been able to bring about in several generations, but we must do better than we did last year. We must carry on a tighter struggle with all forces united against the fascists who are in a strategically superior position at the moment.

HAITI'S LEADER!



DUMARIS ESTIME, the recently elected president of Haiti, has declared he will sponsor reforms to improve the conditions of the masses of the people. Better educational and economic opportunities for the people are among the things for which he stands. Reports indicate he is strong for cooperation with American Negroes. (ANP)