

# TENTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER



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## N.A.A.C.P. DEFENDS CONDEMNED BOYS

New York, — The eight Negro boys condemned to death in Scottsboro, Alabama, are being represented in court today by attorneys retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The N.A.A.C.P. will receive tonight telegraphic and long distance reports of proceedings in court and will promptly make this latest news public.

At an interview in Kilby Prison, all eight boys in the presence of William Pickens, N.A.A.C.P. Field Secretary asked Alabama's foremost criminal lawyer, retained by the N.A.A.C.P., to defend them. Final arrangements with this attorney and his firm are to come before the Board of Directors of the N.A.A.C.P. on Monday, and when the arrangements are concluded the attorney's name will be publicly announced.

At the interview at Kilby Prison at which both Mr. Pickens and this attorney were present, Mr. Pickens felt obliged to warn the condemned boys that the Communists were seeking only to use them for their own purposes. Speaking of the Communist tactics to the boys Mr. Pickens said in part.

"Their chief aim is to use you as a means for interesting colored people in the Communist Party, and in that they are likely to make you a great sacrifice in Alabama . . . . They have bewildered and amazed your poor parents and relatives: they have paid their fares to New York and other parts of the country, have put them on platforms and in parades, all for purposes of their own, and not for the primary purpose of keeping you out of that electric chair."

Mr. Pickens reports to the N.A.A.C.P. National Office that all of the boys expressed willingness to sign up with the N.A.A.C.P., some of them saying, "Please tell those other people to lay off and let your people handle it."

Meanwhile contributions to the Scottsboro defense are pouring in on the N.A.A.C.P. from all parts of the country. Oswald Garrison Villard, editor of The Nation, sent his check for \$50. The Milwaukee Citizens Committee, through their treasurer, Mrs. L. McStroul, sent in a total of \$59.53 in collections. The Manhattan Lodge number 45 of the Elks in New York sent in \$25 and numerous

## DEATH WARRANT RECALLED SHORTLY BEFORE EXECUTION

New York — Thirty hours before Frank Scott, South Bend Negro, was to be executed in the Indiana State prison at Michigan City R. L. Bailey, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, succeeded in having the death warrant recalled by the court and the prisoner was removed from death row. The death warrant was recalled by the court on the ground that it was defective and Scott was sentenced to life imprisonment. The next step in the case is up to the State.

Mr. Bailey in a letter to the National Office of the N.A.A.C.P. states that Scott, who was convicted of murder, was defended at the trial by the County Poor Attorney; that not a single instruction was asked in his behalf at that trial: that no effort was made to gain him a new trial and no foundation was laid for appeal "To come to the conclusion," writes Mr. Bailey, "will simply state that I succeeded in saving this man's life. In my judgment, he has a chance for parole after about five years."

A local white daily, speaking of the revocation of the death warrant, writes: "A bombshell fell into the midst of officials Thursday when it was suggested that since the original date of execution had passed without Scott having forfeited his life, the defense might make the claim that Scott was legally dead in the eyes of the law. If such a claim could be substantiated, Scott would march out of the death cell and out of the prison a free man, instead of marching to his doom in the chair."

Individual and group contributions for the purpose are on the way. Miss Rosie Swain at a tea in New York addressed by Robert W. Bagnall raised and sent in \$50, of which \$25 was a contribution from Mother A.M.E. Zion Church.

The case promises to be a bitterly fought and in view of the high calibre of attorneys retained, an expensive one to fight, and the N.A.A.C.P. is urging all friends of the cause to send in their contributions as liberally and as promptly as possible. Every cent received will, as always, be accounted for.

## PICKENS RANKS HIGH AS TRIBUTE WRITER

New York — William Pickens, field Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is among a list of well-known Americans who contribute each one chapter to a book entitled "What I Owe to My Father." The book is published by Henry Holt and Co., with an introduction by James E. West, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America.

Among those who contribute chapters to the book are Jane Addams, Alice Stone Blackwell, Samuel A. Eliot, Edward A. Filene, Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Nicholas Vachel Lindsay, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and Oswald Garrison Villard.

In his tribute to his father, Mr. Pickens writes: "It must have meant something for a little black American child to grow up without fear, especially in the South." His father believed in him utterly and to this Mr. Pickens attributes the strength of his life: "He always believed me and believed in me. I cannot remember a single occasion when he manifested the slightest doubt of my word or of me."

## Negro Authors Speak at Macey's

New York — Archie Poole, of Warren Book Store on West 135th Street, is responsible for a new and significant development in the merchandising of books by Negro authors. He arranged for three colored authors to speak before the clerks and buyers in the book department at Macy's department store, which is one of the largest book selling centres in the city.

The three authors who have talked there under Mr. Poole's arrangement are Jessie Fauset Harris, James Weldon Johnson, and Walter White, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Each of the authors talked along the line of his own contribution and also called attention to the work of other Negro writers. Mr. Johnson recited from "God's Trombones," and Miss Fauset called attention to the new literary material afforded by the meeting of black and white in America.

## INCONSISTENCY OF NEGRO RADICALS

Negroes who have turned upon the capitalists as they have the right to do for just cause, nevertheless, make a serious mistake in saying that the development of the Negro in business will not improve the condition of Negro labor. These thoughtless persons should know that troubles of the Negro are due largely to the fact that he does not belong to the employing class. He is usually the man seeking a job rather than the man with one to offer. While the "craft oligarchy" of the American Federation deals Negro labor a terrible blow by actual discrimination and subterfuge, much of the unemployment and the underpayment of the Negro could be remedied if the Negro race had its share of employers. The Negro would then have one rather than two problems to solve as he has now.

Our radical students of economics would not have Negroes join the employing class because they would destroy that class and have the socialized state exercise this function. To increase the number of Negro business men would merely postpone the day when all social and economic wrongs will be righted. In that ideal state no rich man will oppress the poor, for there will be no such distinction and they might add, too, that in such a primitive state there will be no riches to enable one to overpower the other by acquired authority.

History shows, however, that although large numbers of people have actually tried to realize such Utopian dreams, they have in the final analysis come back to social progress based on competition. If no one is to enjoy the fruits of his exceptional labor any more than the individual who is not prepared to render such extraordinary service, not one out of a thousand will be sufficiently humanitarian to bestir himself to achieve much of importance, and force applied in this case to stimulate such action has always broken down. If the excited whites who are bringing to the Negroes such strange doctrines are insane enough to believe them,

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The speeches were received with enthusiasm according to reports to the N.A.A.C.P., and the audience obtained a new view of Negro literature.