



THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DARKER RACES

VOL. 40

LONDON, CANADA, APRIL 1966

Price 5 Cents

KIND WORD FOR CASSIUS CLAY

Cassius Clay, the world's heavyweight champion, expressed himself rather illogically, perhaps even unpatriotically, when he was informally classified him 1A. But what Cassius Clay said, hot off the cuff, was mild compared to what thousands of college students and professors are saying.

Many people say these protesting students and college professors are mistaken. Very few of the extremists call them unpatriotic. But the way all the sportswriters and the governors and the boxing commissions reacted to Clay's expression tells us a lot about what we are.

For a year or two, Cassius had been classified as 1Y which meant he did not meet the mental requirements to get into the Army. He complained that there had been no new examination to reclassify him and the complaint has some justification.

We would be naive if we didn't acknowledge that there was great pressure to get this fellow out of circulation. If an off-beat journalist in North Carolina who enjoys no connections with government, army or prize-fighting receives a few letters every week asking, "Why isn't Cassius Clay in the army?" we can well imagine the letters which must have poured upon draft board officials, army

officials and government clerks.

In 1966, Cassius Clay is in the same position Jack Johnson was fifty years ago. But the emphasis is entirely different. People hated Jack Johnson because he had married a white woman. The public clamored for a "White Hope" to recapture the heavyweight crown "for the White race."

Today such a clamor is ta-

boo. Sammy Davis, Jr. enjoys great popularity and he is married to a white girl. Harry Belafonte is married to a white girl and he is a most respected concert artist of the day.

Cassius Clay knew they hated him when he told the Negro Floyd Patterson, "You are now the white hope." No one hates Cassius because he is a Negro.

It would be easy to say the

folks recent Cassius because he is a loud mouth and a wise guy, but that is too simple. The loud mouths in sports are admired and respected. Leo Durocher is anything but retiring and Ty Cobb was anything but sportsmans like.

People don't hate Clay because he promises a knockout in the fourth round. Bab Ruth pointed to the stand before he hit a hom run and the crowd rase and cheered his

trip around the bases. When a reporter told Babe he received more money than President Hoover, Bab replied, "I hit better than him." The folks revered Bab. I revered him even after listening to his language while he was playing pool with a teammate up in Doyle's on Broadway.

The truth is America really should love Cassius Clay because he is a living symbol of Puritanism, old fashioned, Puritanism. He doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, he doesn't take the Lord's name in vain and he divorced his wife because she wore slacks and outraged an orthodox tenet of Puritanism.

Negro Leaders LBJ, Confer

The "Big Six" of the nation's civil rights leaders are playing a prominent role in developing an "action-oriented" agenda for the White House Conference on Civil Rights, to be held on June 1 and 2.

The Council which is comprised of a cross section of national leaders is holding a series of weekend "work sessions" at the White House to work out the format and a substantive agenda for the historic Conference.

List of Names

Among those serving on the Council are: A. Philip Randolph, the dean of the civil rights leaders, who is also Honorary Chairman of the Conference; Roy Wilkins, Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League; Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Floyd McKissick, National Director, John Lewis, Chairman, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; and Miss Dorothy Height, President, National Council of Negro Women.

President Lyndon B Johnson proposed the Conference in his commencement address at Howard University last June 4 when he said its object would be "to help the American Negro fulfill the rights which after the long time of injustice, he is finally about to secure."



Easter Promises

(Ginie Glasmeire)

Against late smudgy melting snows
A clump of crocus brightly blows.
Their cups so full of precious gold
Life's promises do surely hold,
As we recall those bulbs so dry
That deep in dark, cold earth did lie.
And now see glories of rebirth
In purple, white and golden mirth.

So against our varied sordid woes,
A hold golden shine e'er glows.
Our Lord salvation's gifts unfold
More than our meager cup can hold.
And now those sins that loud did cry,
In glory wither up and die;
As Easter shows us Christ's great worth,
And we at last find our rebirth.