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The Dawn of Tomorrow

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

VOL. IV—NO. 23

LONDON, CANADA, MAY, 1948

Price 5 Cents

Civil Disobedience Is Unnecessary

New York, N.Y. April — Disavowing "civil disobedience as an effective technique for solving the race problem," Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, expressed the hope in a letter to Senator Wayne Morse "that sufficient courage can be mustered by the government to do the simple thing which will make unnecessary and unthinkable any campaign of civil disobedience. That simple act is to wipe out segregation forthwith."

Mr. White's letter of April 15 was in response to a wire from Senator Morse deploring what he deemed NAACP "encouragement" of the proposal made by A. Philip Randolph for complete non-participation in any selective service or universal military training program which does not specifically prohibit racial segregation.

Meanwhile on the floor of the Senate, April 12, Mr. Morse, a member of the NAACP board of directors demanded to know "how far Mr. White would go, as secretary of that association, in supporting Mr. Randolph's position, because if he or the other officials of that association are going to support to any degree whatever Mr. Randolph's civil disobedience program, I serve notice now that I shall dissociate myself from the board of directors of that association."

Asserting that "we have not counseled Negroes to refuse to serve their country," Mr. White concluded: "We would be less than honest and grossly derelict to the membership of the NAACP and to America itself if we did not say bluntly that the Negro is totally fed up with segregation in the armed services and will oppose in every legitimate and legal fashion such segregation."

He cited the "Galling injustices" and discriminations endured by Negro troops in the last war and charged that "the unnecessary and dangerous emphasis on racial separation broadens the chasm of antagonism between Negro and white Americans because the Army and Navy lack the courage to abolish segregation. This practice has caused the United States to be ridiculed throughout the world, particularly among the two-thirds of the people of the earth who are colored."

Not only has Congress failed to take effective steps towards eliminating segregation in the armed services, Mr. White maintained, but has also engaged in "the cheapest of politics" with regard to a minimum civil rights program. "It is openly reported," he said, "that the Republicans are debating how little they can do on the civil rights program and still attract Negro support. They are reported to favor an emasculated anti-lynching bill, overlooking the demand for abolition of the poll tax and freedom to secure jobs on merit through a federal fair employment practice law, believing that

Wants Ban Put On Reg'l College Plan

New York, N.Y., April — Continuing the fight against congressional approval of the southern plan for segregated regional educational institutions, Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, today dispatched communications to 75 members of the Senate urging them "to oppose this measure if and when it reaches the floor of the Senate."

Action of the Senate Judiciary sub-committee last week favoring the Jim Crow plan was condemned by the NAACP board of directors as "complicity in the plot of the southern governors to circumvent the Supreme Court decisions in the Gaines and Sipuel cases." The committee approved the plan by a 6 to 2 vote. Voting for were Senators E. H. Moore, Okla.; Pat McCarran, Nev.; J. William Fulbright, Ark.; Forrest C. Donnell, Mo.; James O. Eastland, Miss.; and Alexander Wiley, Wis. Senators Homer Ferguson, Mich., and William Langer, N.D. voted against approval. Senator J. Howard McGrath, R.I., abstained from voting.

In his letter which went to all Senators except those from the deep south, Mr. White expressed "shock" that the committee has approved the plan "in the face of the unanimous opposition to the measure by all responsible Negro educational, church, professional, business and civic organizations." He asked the Senators to withhold approval of the plan because it was designed to extend segregated education to the regional level and because it contravened the Supreme Court decisions "which require states to furnish to Negro students educational opportunity equal to that furnished white students WITHIN the state boundaries."

RETURNING TO JAMAICA

Mr. and Mrs. J. Myers are returning to Jamaica after being residents of the city for over twenty-five years. Mr. Myers has been employed as a chef on the C.N.R. for twenty seven years. Mrs. Myers has been an active member of the Missionary Society of the B.M.E. Church.

On Thursday, April 15th a delightful and pleasant surprise party was held in their honour at the B.M.E. Church. Rev. E. A. Richardson presented Mr. and Mrs. J. Myers with a purse from friends and well wishers. They are planning to leave London by train Saturday, April 24th enroute to New York. From New York they will take a second train to Miami, Florida from where they will fly to Kingston, Jamaica.

the Negro vote can be purchased by passage of one emasculated bill. . . . On the other side on the aisle there is little difference of attitude."

HOW THEY CAME TO BE INTERESTED IN RACIAL JUSTICE

HOW I BECAME INTERESTED
by Drew Pearson

When I was about six years old, my father, who had been teaching at Northwestern University in Chicago, moved to Swarthmore, Pa., where he became a professor at Swarthmore College. I grew up in this Quaker community.

One of my first friends was a Negro boy named Charlie Maddox. He and I were in the same grade in school, and we played together frequently in the afternoon. Charlie was a fine boy, and I liked him. Probably I knew him better than any of the white boys.

As I grew up, however, Charlie and I gradually drifted apart. I finished preparatory school, went to college, worked in Europe. Some years later, I came back and saw Charlie on the street. He was one of the respected members of the colored community, but to the best of my recollection he had not finished high school. He was then a janitor. I had been able to go on to other, more interesting and more profitable things.

The divergent roads followed by me and by my old friend Charlie Maddox have caused me to do a lot of thinking in the years that have followed. Charlie had just as good brains as I, was just as smart as I, but he lacked opportunity. Certain doors were closed to him. Higher education was difficult. For me, it was comparatively easy.

So he became a janitor, and I have tried to do my bit to widen the door of opportunity to other Charlie Maddoxes.

HOW I BECAME INTERESTED
by Justine Wise Polier

(The daughter of the great American, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, received early the inspiration to devote her life and energies to humanity and justice among men.)

I deserve no credit for my interest in racial justice. As a Jew and therefore as a member of a minority group that has long suffered discrimination, segregation and persecution, I was particularly sensitive to the effects of the doctrine of racism that poisons every society it touches.

The conviction that democracy meant that all people should have equal opportunity to live fully and not be subjected to the injustices and scars that stem from racial injustice was part of the air that I breathed in my parents' home. When I was ten the distinguished Negro painter, H. O. Tanner, visited us and painted my father's portrait. I remember my father's explanation that this distinguished artist lived and worked in Paris because he felt that he could only live as a free man outside this country and that in Paris his work would be judged on its merits. I also remember the lynching

of a young Jew in the South unjustly accused of rape and my parent's explanation of what prejudice and bigotry did, not only to those who were hurt, but how it brutalized and debased those who practiced it.

When I graduated from college and went to work in the textile factories in Passaic, I saw how much manufacturers played one group of Americans against each other, deepening the fear of older Americans against newcomers, of whites against Negroes, so as to prevent trade unionism and the achievement of decent working conditions. I noted, regardless of skill or ability, there were few opportunities for Negroes in other than unskilled jobs. Thro my work as Counsel for the Mayor's Committee on Relief I became familiar with the full meaning to Negroes of segregation in the Harlems of New York.

Through association with my husband in the Scottsboro case, I saw with horror how the administration of justice in America broke down under the pressures of fear and prejudice in the South.

However, the experience that moved me most deeply came through my work in the Children's Court. Here I found children who needed care outside their own homes, were required by law and custom to be placed in private religious agencies according to their religion. I found that while the religious agencies wanted exclusive control in this field they too discriminated against Negro children and provided either segregated or no facilities for them in many situations. I shall never forget a small Negro boy who was in a temporary shelter awaiting placement. While there he talked to other boys about the possible schools and learned that a nationally famous non-sectarian school was a favorite with other boys. As a Protestant child he asked if he could go there. The Judge was forced to tell him that because he was a Negro he would not be admitted. Even after local law prohibited private child-caring agencies which received public funds from discriminating against children on the basis of race I continued to find many of these agencies giving only lip service to the law but continuing to find one excuse after another for not accepting Negro children.

In recent years through my association with the Commission on Community Relations of the American Jewish Congress it became clear to me that prejudices against other groups are only effectively diminished as men work, study and live together as equals. In the active fight against discrimination and prejudice those movements that undertake to move forward along such basic lines seem to bring the only promise of real achievements.

Rejects Gift From Florida Governor

Mims, Fla., — In a sharply worded letter to Governor Millard F. Caldwell of Florida, Harry T. Moore executive secretary of the State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, informed the state's chief executive that Florida Negroes would not consider as a "gift his proffer of \$237,500 to the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College at Tallahassee.

The Governor was awarded the sum as damages in a libel suit against Collier's Magazine as the result of editorial censure of his alleged statements and lack of effective action in the lynching of Jesse James Payne in Madison County two years ago. At the time he filed suit against the magazine, the Governor promised to give any sum awarded to him to the state college for Negroes.

Criticizing Governor Caldwell for his failure to suspend the sheriff, Mr. Moore further asserted: "We wish to make it clear that we shall not consider this as a gift to the Negroes of Florida. Florida A. and M. College is a state-supported institution. The support and development of this school is the responsibility of the State of Florida. If Florida A. and M. College is not getting sufficient financial support to make it measure up to the standards maintained at the University of Florida at Gainesville and the Florida State University at Tallahassee, it is the fault of our state government, and not the responsibility of Florida Negro citizens. Therefore, any money that you give will be a contribution to our state government, and not a gift to the Negroes of Florida. We wish also to emphasize the fact that such a gift will not soothe the wounded feelings of Florida Negro citizens. We are still disappointed because of your failure to take effective action in the Payne lynching."

TROOPS GIVE \$274 TO NAACP

New York, N.Y., April — Two

small units of U.S. Army troops stationed in Germany have sent in 110 memberships and the sum of \$274.00 to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The units, the 16th Air Ammunition Squadron and the 18th Motor Transport Squadron, stationed at Landsberg, sought a 100 per cent membership.

While not attaining their goal, the units plan to continue their drive for additional memberships. In his letter of transmittal, Master Sergeant William Thomas, Jr., of the 16th Squadron credited the success of the campaign to the assistance he received from Sergeants James Adams and Herbert McGregor of the 18th, and Sergeant Robert E. Jennings of the 16th.