

SIGN OF PROGRESS

(By Joseph M. Proskauer, President

The American Jewish Committee)
At Geneva, Switzerland, a short time ago, a new page was written into the record of human liberty when the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted the first draft of an International Bill of Rights to be submitted to the General Assembly at its next session. The nations of the world have thus recorded the growing realization that the racial, political and religious rights of men and women everywhere are of direct concern to all.

The United Nations in its brief lifetime has taken many steps to insure the dignity of the individual and to establish every person's equal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Not the least of its activities in that direction has been an uncompromising insistence that those on its own staff be judged always by their individual merits, rather than by the color of their skin, their religion or the country of their birth.

The recent appointment of Dr. Ralph J. Bunche as chief of the secretariat of the United Nations Palestine Commission is a case in point. This eminently qualified scholar was called to his new duties as a result of his splendid work with the Trusteeship Division and with the Special Committee on Palestine.

Dr. Bunche is the grandson of a Negro slave in the South. His post is a source of great pride to all of us who look forward to a world in which human beings are truly emancipated—freed forever from the shackles of race prejudice and religious bigotry. The leadership of the United Nations is pointing the way even to such freedom-loving countries as the United States.

We hope the time will come, in not too-distant future, when a well-deserved appointment such as Dr. Bunche's may be viewed, not as a sign of progress, but as a natural event among enlightened men. Until that day, thoughtful citizens will rejoice in each forward step that brings us closer to peace and brotherhood.

JUSTICE FOR JEWS PROCLAIMED BY UNITED NATIONS

(Editorial from Canadian Statesman, Bowmanville, Ont.)

By a two-thirds majority the United Nations Assembly has ratified the partition of Palestine into two autonomous states, Jewish and Arab. This is the first crowning achievement of the United Nations in implementing justice for a minority people. Jews now have a national home under self-government for the first time in 2,000 years. No longer will they be subjected to a dual nationality.

Already the Arabs are beginning acts of terrorism in opposition to the decision of the United Nations. Their aggression must be stopped at once for there can be no compromise, no weakening, not only as a matter of justice but to establish and maintain the authority and prestige of the Assembly.

A five nation commission has been set up to carry out the provisions of the decision and to supervise the creation of the two states by October 1, 1948. The members will be drawn from Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Panama and the Philippines. These minor states will have to be backed by force agreed to under the Security Council.

With Russia adhering to partition there will be no hope for the Arabs to upset the plan. Aside from Arab resistance the moral force of the whole world is on the side of the Jews. The Arabs were liberated by the Allies in World War I; they sided with Hitler in the late war. Now the must bow to justice for the Jews.

SHERMAN WILLIAMS ORCHESTRA SET FOR SAN FRANCISCO ENGAGEMENT

Sherman Williams and his Bullitt Recording Orchestra who made their Pacific Coast debut at the Savoy Club in Portland, Oregon after a run of 12 months at Don Robey's Bronze Peacock in Houston have been more than well received on their initial appearance in the west. Held over for five weeks in Portland the Williams crew are slated to open at Louis Landry's New Orleans Swing Club in San Francisco on February 20th.

ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA, — January, 1948 — According to an announcement made by S. J. Phillips, President of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial, Mrs. Ada Chappell of South Boston, Virginia, has been appointed postmistress at Booker Washington Birthplace, Virginia, which post office will be opened on February 12th at the birthplace of the famous educator.

Plans are under way to make the inauguration of this U.S. Post Office an outstanding event of Negro History Week, since it is the first time in American history that a Negro has been thus honored.

The Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial is sponsoring special mailing envelopes for this historic occasion. One of these covers bears an authentic picture of Booker T. Washington as a seven year old lad listening to the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation. Thousands of requests for these souvenirs of the post office opening celebration have already been received. They are obtainable at 15 cents each on orders to Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial, Rocky Mount, Virginia.

In addition to these individual requests, group orders for large numbers are being placed by schools, and many business organizations of both groups are securing the covers for complimentary mailing to customers and friends. The huge volume anticipated will be further swelled by mailings to stamp collectors throughout the nation.

All these letters will pass through the Booker Washington Birthplace Post Office for cancellation during the opening period. Arrangement is being made to dispatch each with the recently issued George Washington Carver Commemorative Stamp, thus paying homage to two celebrated Americans on this historic occasion.

Mr. Phillips states that according to expressions received, the American public is pleased to have this singular honor given Booker T. Washington.

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