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President Kennedy Salutes Negro Press On 25th Annual Newspaper Week

Washington, D.C. — In a tribute to the Negro Press on its 136th anniversary, President Kennedy has declared that in spite of hardships, Negro newspapers have "never stopped working toward the goal of equal opportunity."

The White House message went to the National Newspaper Publishers Association on the eve of the founding date of "Freedom's Journal," the first American Negro newspaper, which was launched by John B. Russwurm on March 16, 1827, and in salute to NNPA for its sponsorship of the 25th annual observance of National Negro Newspaper Week, March 12-23.

Said the President: "When John B. Russwurm published the first Negro newspaper on March 16, 1827 human slavery was an entrenched institution in our nation. Only a small band of Americans in that period had a firm faith in the coming

of freedom. Their faith in the future was inspired and nurtured by the Negro newspaper.

"Looking back at this period, one must observe that despite serious economic hardships the American Negro Press has never stopped working toward the goal of equal opportunity."

"There is no more rewarding chapter in our history than fellow citizens to seek better education for themselves and their children, to build better schools, to foster their arts and to carve out their own economic opportunity."

"Today, over a century later, we are mobilizing all our resources to complete the task of full emancipation and to remove the last vestiges of second-class citizenship. In this task the Negro newspaper, I am confident, will continue to make a significant and important contribution."

"The Negro Press . . . Emancipation . . . Freedom's Promise" is the theme of the press celebration, which is currently being observed by Negro newspapers, churches, educational institutions and organizations throughout the United States. Many groups took note of the birthday of the Negro press last Saturday.

According to NNPA President E. Washington Rhodes, of Philadelphia, at the close of the Press Week observance the publishers will announce selection of 10 honorees who will receive the Russwurm Award in recognition of outstanding efforts to advance the cause of democracy during the past year. Individuals, groups and organizations are eligible to receive the NNPA nod.

The Press Week promotion is a project of the NNPA's Public Affairs Commission which is chaired by Thomas W. Young, president-publisher of the "Norfolk (Va.) Journal and Guide." Other members of the commission are D. Arnett Murphy, vice-president of the Afro-American Newspapers, Baltimore, and Moss H. Kendrix, director of the Moss H. Kendrix Organization, Washington, D.C.

HOW HE CAME

He did not go to the temple throng,
A risen, victorious King,
He did not seek those who sought His death,
His judgement on them to bring.

He came to those who had loved their Lord,
He came in a kindly way,
And a woman who wept for a master slain,
Beheld Him, at dawn of day!

He came to disciples filled with fear,
And showed them His hands and side,
He walked with two on a country road,
In the quiet of eventide.

A Guest He was in a humble home,
Where the housewife the meal had spread,
They knew their Lord by His wounded hands,
When He graciously broke the bread.

He waited, not in a kindly guise,
On the shore of the Syrian sea,
To disciples wearied with fruitless toil,
A Helper again was He.

We know that He is the Lord of all,
His kingdom will have no end,
And we know He still is our comrade too,
Our Loving, our faithful Friend!

— Elsie Duncan Yale

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