

THREAT TO NEGROES SEEN IN MOVE TO OUTLAW CLOSED SHOP

Washington, D.C., Jan. 9th— Efforts by Senator Joseph H. Ball to give the impression that passage of anti-closed shop legislation would be beneficial to minorities were challenged today by the Labor Department of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a letter to Senator Ball, Clarence Mitchell, the Association's Labor Secretary, stated that:

"The Washington Post this morning quotes you as contending that 'the backing (Senator) Morse gave FEPC legislation would make it hard for him to refute arguments by Southern Democrats that the closed shop is discriminatory.' I earnestly hope that this quotation does not reflect your views with respect to the enactment of FEPC legislation. It would be a terrible blow to minorities if, in your efforts to attack the closed shop, you attempt to give the impression that this will be a benefit to minority group workers seeking employment.

"Where I was a member of the staff of the FEPC, it was my duty to scrutinize and investigate the major cases before our agency involving discriminatory practices which prevented employment of colored persons in companies with closed shop contracts. At no time did any one on the staff or on the Committee indicate that the elimination of the closed shop provision would ensure employment of minority groups. On the contrary, at all times it was our desire to have colored workers share in the benefits of the closed shop agreements by having them admitted to employment and full union membership.

"At this moment, I have on my desk a matter in which I sincerely believe that the sole protection of some 300 colored employees of a large plant is the fact that their bargaining representatives have negotiated successfully a union shop agreement with the employer. Now that there are white workers available in the labor market, this employer gives evidence of seeking to displace the colored employees in the better jobs with non-union individuals. If your bill to outlaw the closed shop becomes law, it would place every one of these persons in jeopardy.

"The arguments of Southern Senators that the closed shop is discriminatory will have no weight with minority groups, because legislators have advanced every type of specious argument to defeat measures which would benefit wage earners in general and also minority groups. . . . Those persons who have so consistently and vigorously opposed FEPC legislation will joyfully support the anti-closed shop bill in an attempt to divide labor and minorities, thereby greatly damaging the interests of both."

NAACP SUPPORTS ANTI-FILIBUSTER SENATE RESOLUTION

Washington, D.C., Jan. 15th—Hailing the introduction on the Senate floor of four separate resolutions to amend the rules in order to end filibusters by majority vote, the NAACP's Washington Bureau this week urged that such resolutions be speedily adopted. Introduced by Senators Leverett Saltonstall (R. Mass.), William F. Knowland (R. Cal.), Homer Ferguson (R. Mich.), Wayne Morse (R. Ore.), Glen H. Taylor (D. Idaho), and Claude Pepper (D. Fla.), the resolutions were referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, headed by Senator C. Wayland Brooks (R., Ill.). The present Senate rule requires a two-third vote to end debate and has seldom been successfully invoked.

Leslie S. Persy, NAACP administrative assistant in Washington, stated, in a letter to Senator Brooks:

"For more than twenty years legislation basic to the establishment of real democracy in America such as the anti-lynching bill, FEPC, the anti-poll tax bill, and other important measures has been strangled to death because the antiquated rules of the Senate have made it possible for a willful, and for the most part, irresponsible, minority to dominate the Congress through its ability to talk indefinitely.

"The Committee on Rules and Administration, of which you are the chairman, has the opportunity to perform a genuine service to the Congress, the people of the United States and to the Democratic process by taking prompt and favorable action on these resolutions establishing 'majority rule' in the Senate."

Walter, White executive secretary, NAACP, urged interested organizations and individuals to telegraph or

write to Senator Brooks, Majority Leader Wallace H. White, Jr. and Minority Leader Alben Barkley insisting that prompt and unequivocal action be taken now on the anti-filibuster resolutions which have been introduced.

"This action is imperative," Mr. White said, "because unless the Senate rules are changed, there is little hope of passage of remedial legislation such as the anti-lynching, anti-poll tax, FEPC and civil rights bills."

JIM CROW CONVICTION CONTESTED BY NAACP

New York, Jan. 16—Arrested and convicted for violating the Arkansas separate coach law, Charles Royal, a Negro, is being represented by the NAACP, which has filed a brief in the Arkansas Supreme Court appealing his conviction on the grounds that the statute, as applied to Royal, a passenger in interstate commerce, was unconstitutional and inapplicable to him under the theory of the Irene Morgan case.

Royal, on January 9, 1946, en route to McGehee, Arkansas, from Kansas City, Missouri, was taken off the Missouri Pacific Railroad at Van Buren, Arkansas, for sitting in the "white" coach. He was tried, found guilty and fined \$25. An appeal of the conviction taken to the Circuit Court was affirmed, and the present appeal was then instituted in the Supreme Court of the state, by Attorney J. R. Booker, of Little Rock, Arkansas, the NAACP's representative in the case.

NAACP TO PETITION U.S. SUPREME COURT FOR LIVES OF MISS. YOUTHS.

New York, Jan. 15th—Not for another sixty days will the death chair claim Charles Trudell, 16, and Jas. Lewis, 15, sentenced to die on Jan. 17th for the alleged murder of their white employer. The NAACP, through its representative, Walter D. Coleman, was yesterday successful in securing from the Mississippi Supreme Court a stay of execution to allow time for the preparation of a petition for a writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.

There is some hope felt now that these youths will not have to pay the extreme penalty for a crime committed when under the age most U.S. state laws prosecute criminally. Because of the denial of civil rights involved in their case, and because of their extreme youth, an outcry has been raised here and abroad against punishing them by death. The Governor of Mississippi has been deluged with letters and telegrams of protest from an outraged public which resents the trend in some states of demanding death penalties for children under eighteen. Among the many protests were two cables from London, from the League of Colored People and the West African Students' Union.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE TO HAVE ALL-OUT NAACP AID.

New York, Jan. 16th — In co-operation with the fifteen-man Civil Rights Committee, recently appointed by President Truman to study violations and recommend legislation to strengthen the federal government's hand in dealing with problems of racial discrimination and mob violence, Walter White, executive secretary, NAACP, on January 14th, sent a letter to all NAACP branch officers. The letter requested them to forward immediately to the national office of the Association specific instances and detailed descriptions of cases of which they have direct knowledge, in the following categories: lynching, police brutality, denial of right to vote and register, discrimination in employment, housing, transportation, recreation, education and health.

In addition, the stag of the national office of the NAACP is compiling material for presentation

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