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The Hartford Chronicle

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National
Favorite

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NAACP Drive Is Officially Open

The Hartford branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had as their main speaker at the meeting to launch their membership campaign for 1946 held at the AME Zion Church on Main Street, Mr. Alfred Baker Lewis of Greenwich, who is a member of the National Board of the NAACP and Chairman of the Connecticut Citizens Political Action Committee as well.

"The NAACP," said Mr. Lewis, "has been the spearhead of the struggle for full equality for Negroes in every aspect of our national life since it was founded in 1909. During the war our efforts were largely directed toward getting opportunities in the armed forces for Negroes which had previously been denied to them. Some progress was made in this direction. Negroes were admitted to the Air Corps, to the Marine Corps, to other branches of the Navy besides the Mess Department, and a few were commissioned in the Navy. But we were not able and still must try to win the abolition of the segregation in the armed forces which is being maintained without any break at all.

"We were in the forefront in the fight to win equality of job opportunities. Our Association participated in bringing the pressure to bear on President Roosevelt which resulted in his executive order forbidding discrimination in job opportunities in the employment policies of companies holding war contracts on the ground of race, creed, or color, and setting up the Fair Employment Practices Commission to enforce this executive order. We are now the largest organization working for a permanent federal Fair Employment Practices Commission law and for Fair Employment Practices Commission laws by states. Here in Connecticut we ran the campaign which resulted in the State Senate, controlled by the Democrats, passing a State FEPC law, but I am sorry to say that despite our best efforts the lower house controlled by Republicans turned it down.

"Before the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was formed, lynchings averaged more than two hundred

every year. Our ceaseless agitation for a Federal Anti-lynching bill has resulted in a substantial reduction, so that lynchings today average only five or six a year. This is still five or six too many, and we have not been able to get a Federal Anti-lynching Bill passed. It is significant that when there was a wave of kidnapping a few years ago, Congress very quickly passed a Federal Anti-Kidnapping Bill; while more than 20 years of agitation for a Federal Anti-lynching Bill have proved unsuccessful. The reason is, of course, that the victims of kidnappings are the wealthy and their families, while the victims of lynchings, although not all of them are Negroes for about ten percent are white, are always men or women in gingham, the economically lowly in other words.

"We are struggling for equal voting rights since the states in which the majority of Negroes live effectively disfranchise most of them. Partly this is done by requiring payment of a Poll Tax as a necessary qualification for voting. We are vigorously supporting the bill in Congress to abolish this tax.

"It was our attorneys, Mr. Thurgood Marshall and William Hastie, (who has been recently appointed by President Truman as Governor of the Virgin Islands) who won the case outlawing the Democratic white primary system which prevailed in the Southern states and by which Negroes were excluded from voting in the primaries and by which Negroes were ariated of the party which in those states was bound to win. Negroes today, because of the work of our legal department, are voting in increasing numbers in the South. The Negro voters were the decisive factor in the recent election to Congress of a progressive Democratic woman, Mrs. Helen Douglas Mangan, in an election in Georgia, used by the resignation of the previous Congressman.

"The NAACP is fighting for equal rights in education. This requires payment of equal salaries to white and Negro teachers having equal qualifications. In this respect we have made substantial advances, and have won a number of notable victories in the courts. It also means reducing and eventually abolishing the difference in the average expenditure for the education of white and Negro children in those states where separate schools exist. In this respect we have made some progress, but far more still remains to be done. We are endorsing the bill to provide Federal Aid to Education in order to help in this direction, since this bill requires that Federal funds should be spent by states where there are separate schools in proportion to the Negro and white population.

"We are now defending 32 Negroes charged with attempted murder in Columbia, Tennessee, for no other reason than that they defended their homes against attacks by a white mob. The case every year expenditure to win it, will be historic and will require since the whole record will have to be carried eventually to the United States Supreme Court in all probability. This is an example of the defense work which we are constantly called upon and always try to be ready to do."

Other speakers on the program were returned veterans: Spencer Shaw, former lieutenant in ground forces, and James C. Walker, former Marine Sgt.

Mr. Shaw said: "We must fight all things that are corroding American democracy, and that we must be citizens first and Negroes, secondly." Mr. Walker also stressed integration of all peoples in the struggle for true democracy. He said: "That is the hearts of the common people, there is a common cause."

Mr. Percy Christian, recently elected president, and Dr. Allen F. Jackson, honorary president, pointed out the need for a large active local membership.

Mrs. William Beckham, campaign chairman, gave a report of \$116 from already subscribed members to initiate the campaign.

Mr. Arthur L. Johnson, director of the campaign, presided at the rally, and announced the year's goal for 2000 members.



MIDDLETOWN MAYOR FETED



Friends and relatives attending cocktail party in honor of Mrs. Spence, who was voted the "proudest mother in Harlem" as her son Robert became "Mayor for a Day" in Middletown. The party was given at the residence of Mrs. Hazel Welsh, daughter of Mrs. Spence. Left to Right: Standing: Mrs. Marjorie Ford, Mr. Robert Spence, Jr., Mrs. Hazel Welsh, Mr. Aubrey Welsh, Mrs. Betty Griffin. Left to Right, Seated: Mrs. Beryl Spence, Mr. Floyd Wamsley, Mrs. Floyd Wamsley, Mrs. Frank Wamsley, Mr. Bruce Heglinger and Mrs. Bruce Heglinger. — Photo by Wamsley

Cabbies Breed Racial Hatred

Mr. James Johnson, local business man and his wife, Mrs. Johnson, arrived at Union Station Wednesday morning, May 8, between 5:30 and 5:45 a.m. From the station, they proceeded to the Union Place entrance to engage a cab for transportation home. The first cab drove toward the entrance and before it could reach the entrance, a gentleman hailed a cab by opening the door and jumping in. Mr. Johnson inquired of the driver which direction he was going and was informed by the driver that he was driving him home. The next cab approaching, Mr. Johnson used the same procedure of stepping out to secure a cab; simultaneously the first cab driver hesitated and backed up his cab. Mr. Johnson immediately attempted to enter the cab, when he was informed by the driver that his cab also was engaged by sailors who, incidentally, occupied seats in front of him on the train returning from New York. During the conversation they were discussing their being away from Hartford for 22 months. When confronted by the fabrication made by the driver that stated they had engaged the cab, the sailors told Mrs. Johnson to get into the cab as they had not engaged it. The fabricating driver tried in vain by his persistence to have the sailors get into the cab but they insisted on the Johnsons using same. As soon as they were seated, Mr. Johnson proceeded to tell the driver that he had told a plain lie in stating that the cab was engaged. This, the driver didn't like. He drove about 10 feet when Mr. Johnson told Mrs. Johnson that he encounters plenty of white trash in Hartford, which didn't set so well with the driver. The driver then pulled to the curb, took keys from the ignition and refused to go any further.

Mr. Johnson then engaged another cab by telephone from the same concern and was on his way in another five minutes.

It is of the opinion of the CHRONICLE that the monopolizing passenger hack companies in Hartford should check and pre-

vent such occurrences that appear constantly. It is also of the opinion of the CHRONICLE that the Public Utilities Commission must give more positive consideration to Negro applications for taxi licenses as well as to veterans of all races who have helped to make it possible for the liberties that we all are supposed to have. Ed.

Commission Reports On Girls

Before the year 1940, Negro girls faced severe difficulty in obtaining employment in the business and clerical field. Despite qualifications, Negroes could rarely obtain positions as clerical workers and stenographers, but barriers in the employment of qualified Negro girls are gradually disappearing in many places.

The State of Connecticut has taken the lead in the employment of Negro women in the clerical and similar capacities. The following departments are employing Negro women: Education, Public Welfare, Highway, Unemployment Compensation, Personnel, Interracial Commission and Old Age Assistance.

There are opportunities for business and clerical workers outside of the State Merit System. Negro girls have been used successfully as typists in the United States Employment Service; Pearl St. Community House in Waterbury; G. Fox & Company; Board of Education; YWCA; Housing Authority; National Conference of Christians and Jews; OPA offices in Hartford; Southern New England Telephone Company and Winchester Repeating Arms Company, New Haven; YWCA and YMCA, Bridgeport; Carver Foundation Community Center, Norwalk; Crispus Attucks Community Center, Greenwich; and Community Center, Stamford.

In the clerical field, many factories in Connecticut have found

Ex-GI Latest Victim Of Discrimination Policies At 'Retreat'

One of the most distressing stories reached the CHRONICLE office on May 18 when Mr. Joseph Holden of 75 Wooster Street told of the story of discrimination that he received at the job that he reported to fill for the Institute of Living or better known as the Hartford Retreat.

Mr. Holden was sent on 5-13 by the United States Employment Service of 414 Capitol Avenue to the Retreat for the position of Chef. Upon his arrival at the Retreat he stated that he was interested in the job of Chef or Comer. Dietician. Mr. Holden was refused on the basis of the fact that he was a Negro. Mr. Holden was plainly made to understand that he could not be used because of the fact that the position open would necessitate his having the authority to be the supervisor of several persons that were white and that for this reason he would not be acceptable for the job. He then left and reported the incident to the Employment Office of the United States.

Mr. Holden came into the CHRONICLE office and reported the incident and was referred to the Connecticut Inter-Racial Commission. It is the opinion of the CHRONICLE that the Retreat was not looking for an American Chef but that they were looking for a Chef that was anything but a Negro. It is also the opinion of the CHRONICLE that such an incident makes one shudder in his feet when we find that this same young man risked his life to allow such places as this to exist, while he was over across fighting

for the preservation of such notable institutions of America.

"For the benefit of all concerned, Mr. Holden did not become abusive or impatient, but went along trying to find himself a job in his line of work. He was fortunate in that he applied for work at the Bond Annex and was hired as a Salad Chef on the very next day 5-14. This is important because he now has the distinction of being the first Negro to hold such a position at this great business enterprise.

George A. David, Ed.

Delegates To National Parley

Mrs. Minnetta Elzy and Mrs. Maraville Twiman of New Haven were recent delegates to the Inter-Continental Conference of the National Council of Women of Canada, which was held at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. The conference had delegates of many races from every continent as well as many states in the Union.

Among those present were Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Miss Eugenia Holmes from Africa, and Miss Jane Carol, an actress of note some years past.

The theme of the talks given was "The Practice of Peace." The speakers stressed the fact that only through organizations such as theirs, which have members all over the world working for a common cause, can the world look forward to real peace. It was emphasized also that women all over the world must realize their responsibilities in bringing "the free way of life," which can be done only by understanding each other and recognizing the rights of the common man.

Mrs. Elzy and Mrs. Twiman, while at the conference previewed "The Searching Wind," a Paramount picture production, which is soon to be released.

Their services satisfactory. The Plastic Division of Colt's Patent Fire Arms Company, Kolodney and Myers, Inc. are examples. Department stores are experimenting with Negro sales ladies. G. Fox & Company, Steigers, Sage-Allen in Hartford and Davidson & Leventhal in New Britain are pioneering in the field of new opportunities for Negro salesladies.

There is an expected increase of businesses owned and operated by Negroes in the post-war period. In Connecticut the need for more to help in the promotion and clerks, typists, and stenographers reaction of the business will certainly increase.

While an increasing number of areas of employment are being opened, there are still definite limitations based upon race, color, or creed. It would seem fundamental that in this country, economic opportunity should not be limited by any of these factors.

Negro girls when given a fair trial, have proven themselves to be effective workers. There is a great need in Connecticut for effective public education on the use of qualified Negro girls. The Vocational Directors of the schools should stimulate the preparation and training of the girls for business education. The experience of the Inter-racial Commission is that there are more clerical and business opportunities open to Negro girls than there are qualified applicants to fill them.

WEE CONTESTANTS



ALLEN CHAPEL CONTEST A SUCCESS

By Mrs. James Lee

Mrs. Rosalyn Lawson Putnam, director of the South End Community Center, delivered a wonderful address, subject, "Giving", to the mothers and friends who attended the Mother's Day program and Baby Contest at Allen Chapel AME Church of which Rev. Charles H. Richardson is pastor. Mrs. Millie Edwards was guest soloist.

There were eleven children participating in the contest and the reports were very good in spite of the heavy rain fall. The first prize was awarded to Charles Timothy Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold L. Martin. Second prize went to Sandra Thomas,

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Thomas. The next prize went to Hollis Connie Mack.

In the picture reading from left to right are: Sandra Thomas, Charles Timothy Martin and Margaret Elizabeth Reddick.

Mrs. Charles H. Richardson and Mrs. Eunice Haskins were in charge of the service.

A prize was awarded to Mrs. Thennie Baten, the oldest mother in point of service of the church. Each participant in the contest and mother received a gift from the sponsors.

The accompanist for Mrs. Millie Edwards was Mrs. Anna Stewart.

Incidentally the ages of the children are Sandra, 1 year; Charles, 3 years; Margaret, 2 years.

Photo by James Lee

Mrs. Putnam Achieves Success

Mrs. Rosalyn Putnam, President of the Dwight School Parent-Teachers Association and formerly a YWCA social worker, is having amazing success as director of activities at the South End Community Center.

The Center was organized last fall as the outgrowth of a voluntary day care project designed to provide activity for the youngsters in summer. So great was the response and so keen the interest in terms of voluntary leadership for the day care project, that Mrs. Putnam, long a resident of the South End and long in sympathy with its needs, decided to attempt a winter program.

With the aid of the PTA and Mr. Anthony Marinaccio, Dwight School Principal, the South End Community Council was formed. The aim of the council was to develop opportunity for youngsters in the South End area, to partici-

pate in recreational program devoid of race, creed, and religious prejudices.

The people and the various organizations of that community has shown their interest by their all out support of the movement. With Dwight School as headquarters, the council has had the thorough cooperation of both the principal and teachers. The mothers of the community have opened their homes for the club meetings and serving as councilors, hobby instructors and group sponsors, they and the children have worked exceptionally well together and have succeeded in forming a barrier against prejudices.

"The country," said Mrs. Putnam in an interview to the CHRONICLE, "is only as strong as its individual communities and as democratic, and we like to think of ourselves as democracy in action."

The center, operating throughout the winter, has proven that there is such a thing as a true democracy. For all the functions in the South End have been

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