

WESTERN UNION

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a fully
automatic service
which will deliver
your message to
any of our 100,000
destinations
anywhere in the
world.

SYMBOLS
D BY PER
17 AM
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300

17 8 28

JUN 017 NL PD=NEWYORK NY FEB 16

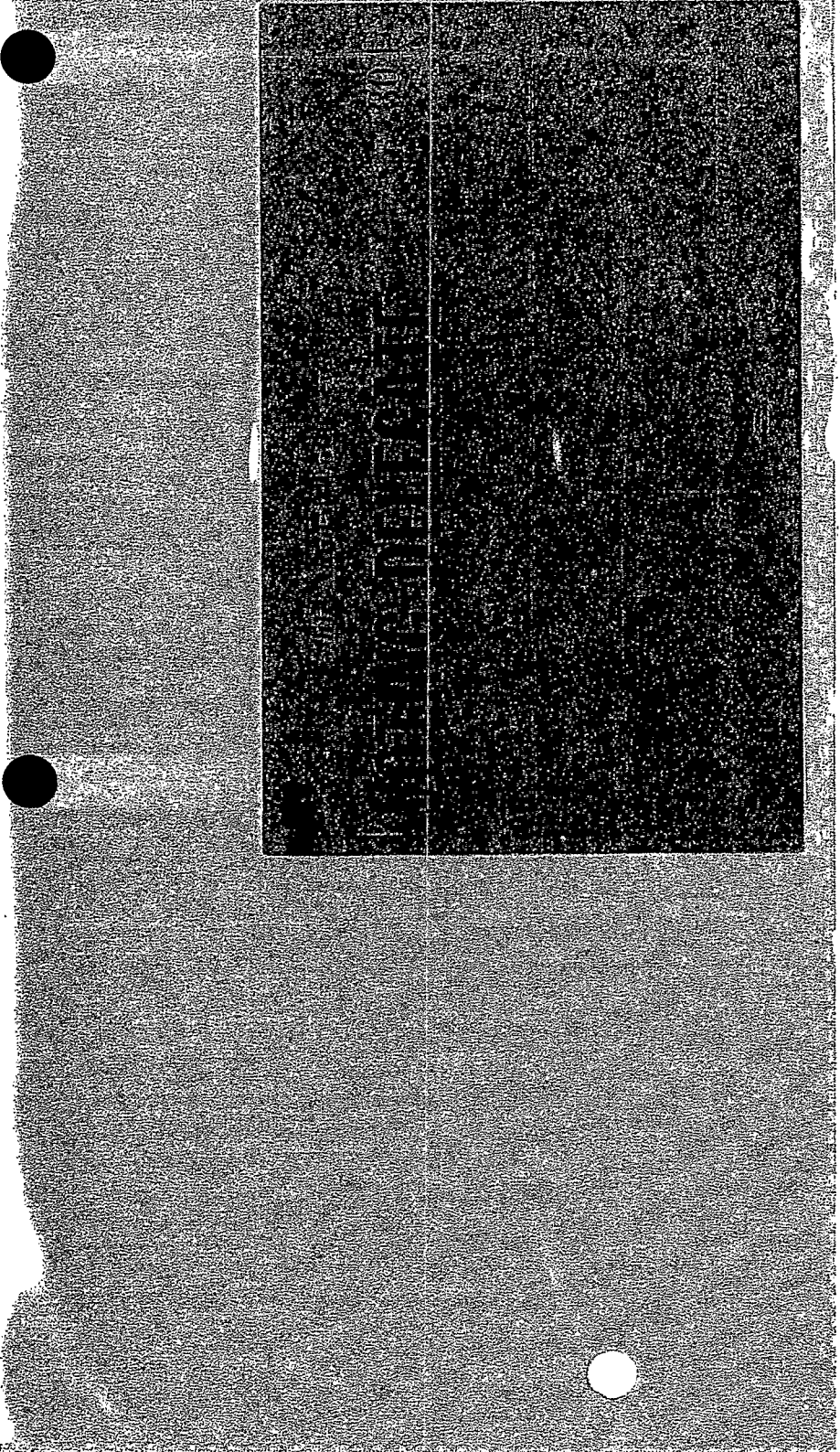
HARRY T MOORE

P O BOX 4 WIMS FLOF

CAN YOU SERVE AS MEMBER OF PANEL SPEAK FIFTEEN MINUTES
OR DESIGNATE REPRESENTATIVE ON CIVIL RIGHTS ROLE OF NAACP
IN SOUTH AND PROBLEMS OF YOUR STATE AT SOUTHEASTERN
REGIONAL CONFERENCE, BAILEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA MARCH 26.
EXPENSE TO BE BORNE BY YOUR CONFERENCE. ADVISE

GLOSTER B CURRENT DIRECTOR OF BRANCHES

WAACP 26



STAPLES

Titusville, Florida
August 6, 1947

Hon. I. C. Grafton
City Attorney
Titusville, Florida

Dear Sir :

We, a group of Negro citizens of the City of Titusville, are writing to ask your opinion with reference to a proclamation by Mayor W. J. Darden, which appeared on page 2 of the Titusville Star-Advocate, under date of Aug. 5, 1947, and which reads, in part : " I, W. J. Darden, Mayor of the City of Titusville, do hereby proclaim that a Primary Election of the white qualified electors will be held at the City Hall in the City of Titusville, on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1947, for the purpose of nominating the following candidates for the General Election." Will qualified Negro citizens of the City of Titusville be permitted to vote in the City Primary on Sept. 2, 1947 ?

We have been, and still are, under the impression that all qualified citizens have a legal right to vote in the Primaries of the City of Titusville, as well as in the General Election. Our impression is based on recent rulings by the U. S. Supreme Court, by various other Federal and state courts, and on an opinion by Attorney General J. Tom Watson. We fully realize that the Primary is the most important election, and that those citizens who cannot vote in the Primary have very little voice in the affairs of the City.

Many of us have been citizens and tax payers in Titusville for a number of years, and we solicit the right to vote in the Primaries on Sept. 2 and Sept. 22, 1947, as well as in the General Election on Oct. 10, 1947. Please let us know if we are to have this privilege. An early reply will be appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE, NAACP

Miami, Florida
March 15, 1947

Dear Co-Workers :

The NAACP is now launching the most intensive membership drive in its history. The slogan this year is: "Take It A Million". Florida's goal is 25,000 members. We hereby call upon the 66 branches in Florida to swing into this campaign with full force. Let us put our best into this effort to reach or surpass the goal set for our state.

We are asking the persons listed below to make up a volunteer Speakers Bureau to work with Florida branches during this campaign. These persons have proven their interest in the work of the NAACP, and we feel that they will be of invaluable assistance to us in this effort. Each branch will please communicate with the speaker desired with regard to transportation expenses, dates, etc.

- State Speakers Bureau -

1. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune - National Vice President of NAACP
Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach
2. Mrs. Viola D. Hill - Vice President, Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
626 W. Washington St., Orlando
3. Milton P. Roaks - President, Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
1125 Pierce St., Clearwater
4. Rev. W. J. H. Black - Vice President, Florida State Conference, NAACP
300 Dorsett Ave., Lake Wales
5. Rev. E. J. Jackson - Vice President, Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
620 - 11th St., West Palm Beach
6. Miss Melba J. Cambrie - Executive Secretary, West Palm Beach Voters' League
609 - 2nd St., West Palm Beach
7. Atty. L. E. Thomas - Member, NAACP State Conference Legal Committee
1035 N. W. 2nd Ave., Miami
8. Atty. E. H. Callaway - Member, NAACP State Conference Legal Committee
217 1/2 E. Main St., Lakeland
9. Rev. M. C. Strachan - President, Tampa Branch, NAACP
1521 Lamar St., Tampa
10. C. Blythe Andrews - Editor, Florida Sentinel
Box 2619, Tampa
11. F. A. Dunn - President, Pinellas County Voters' League
Box 1227, Sta. A, St. Petersburg
12. Mrs. Fannie A. Ponder - Board member, Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
1315 - 5th Ave., S., St. Petersburg
13. Thomas R. Reid - President, Orange County Branch, NAACP
737 V. South St., Orlando
14. Rev. R. H. Johnson - President, The Good Neighbors Cooperative Clubs of America, Inc.
Box 509, Orlando
15. Dr. John L. Tilley - President, Florida Normal College, St. Augustine
16. Theodore L. Redding - President, Jacksonville Branch, NAACP
610 E. Duval St., Jacksonville
17. Calvin B. Adams - Florida Representative, Pittsburgh Courier
618 E. Ashley St., Jacksonville
18. E. W. Edwards - President, Bay County Branch, NAACP - Box 34, Panama City
19. V. D. Hawkins - Board member, Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
Box 241, Panama City
20. Solomon Brookins - Chairman of Executive Committee, Pensacola Branch, NAACP
1012 W. Gadsden St., Pensacola
21. Hilton Turner - Secretary, Washington County Branch, NAACP - Box 281, Chiles
22. L. C. Jenkins
Box 301, Tallahassee

- 25. J. Maxwell Charlton - President, Plant City Branch, NAACP - 507 Laura St., Plant City
- 26. Henry Billie - Chairman of Executive Committee, Taylor Branch, NAACP - 660 - 7th Ave.
- 27. A. N. Robinson - Board member, Progressive Voters League of Florida - Box 927, Ft. Pierce
- 28. Mrs. L. L. Stafford - Vice President, Central County Branch, NAACP - Box 251, Melbourne
- 29. Rev. T. K. Wadsworth - Pastor, Peoples A. M. E. Church - Box 1738, Pompano
- 30. G. P. Youngland - President, 1st City Branch, NAACP - Box 241, Delray Beach
- 31. Mrs. Mayo D. Mayhew - Teacher of Domestic Conditions, West Volusia County Branch, NAACP
 Florida High School, Deland
 Rt. 2, Box 198, Rockledge
- 32. Mrs. A. D. McPherson
 Rt. 2, Box 198, Rockledge
- 33. Mrs. J. J. McPherson
 Rt. 2, Box 198, Rockledge
- 34. Mrs. J. J. McPherson
 Wesleyan M. E. Church, Ft. Pierce

John W. ...
 ...

Henry Y. ...
 Executive Secretary

...

Florida

NAACP Youth Councils

	'46 Membership	'47 Goal
1. Belle Glade	23	75
2. Cocoa (Brevard County)	79	150
3. Jacksonville		200
4. Lake Wales	48	100
5. Mims (Brevard County)	55	150
6. Sanford (Seminole County)	67	150
7. Suwannee County	41	100
8. Tampa		100
9. West Palm Beach	49	200
10. Fort Lauderdale	34	150
11. Bethune-Cookman Chapter		100
12. Florida A. & M. Chapter		100

Note :

The figures above were released by Miss Ruby Hurley, Youth Secretary.

Last month we received a letter from the Florida A. & M. College, stating that their College Chapter has been re-organized.

The Titusville (Brevard County) Youth Council was organized in February, 1947, with 26 members. Application for charter has been sent to National Office. The goal for Titusville should be 100.

Florida's membership goal for 1947 is 25,000. We urge each youth group to put forth every effort to reach, or to exceed, its goal, so that the entire state may be able to "go over the top". We also ask other branches to redouble their efforts to get youth councils organized in their communities this year.

The Third Annual Meeting of the Florida State Conference of Youth Councils and College Chapters will be held in Mims during the month of August. Definite dates will be announced later.

We recommend the following speakers for our youth groups. Each Council and Chapter will please communicate with the speaker desired with regard to transportation expenses, dates, etc.

1. Miss O. B. Melin - English Department, Gibbs High School, St. Petersburg
2. Major C. Leroy Hacker - Director of Public Relations, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach
3. W. E. Combs - President, Florida State Teachers' Assn. - Florida A. & M. College, Tallahassee
4. Mrs. Vanchetta Cowart - Past President, Florida State Conference of Youth Councils 610 W. Duval St., Jacksonville
5. Rev. W. J. H. Black - Vice President, Florida State Conference, NAACP 300 Dorsett Ave., Lake Wales
6. Miss Annie L. Motley - Secretary, West Palm Beach Branch, NAACP 711 - 14th St., West Palm Beach

You also may use speakers listed for senior branches.

Chester S. Satterwhite, Jr.	President	610 W. Duval St., Jacksonville
Clifford Davis	Vice President	Box 401, Lake Wales
Estelle Mathews	Secretary	1039 Julia St., Jacksonville
Hinnie Anderson	Asst. Secretary	Box 307, Live Oak
Evangelina Moore	Treasurer	Box 4, Mims
Annie Laurie Jones	Chairman, Program Com.	531 Magnolia St., Cocoa

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Florida State Conference, NAACP
Mims, Florida - April 5, 1947

Harry T. Moore

Florida State Conference, NAACP

Mims, Florida
February 28, 1947

Dear Co-Workers :

A. Financial Support for State Conference :

With the help of contributions from a few of our business and fraternal organizations, the Florida State Conference of the NAACP was able to launch a full-time program last year. These liberal business and fraternal organizations were asked to help start our full-time program. The responsibility of maintaining and expanding this program rests with the NAACP branches in Florida.

The NAACP in Florida is growing steadily, and we have a splendid opportunity to help spread this good work all over the state. But our current expenses are heavy. We do not want our work to lag, and we therefore urge our branches to put forth every effort to support the state work according to the 3-point plan adopted at the Annual Meeting in Panama City.

This 3-point plan was explained in our letter dated Dec. 2, 1946, but for your convenience we again give the explanations below. Please check the three points below to see how your branch stands. We shall appreciate your immediate attention to the obligations that have not been met.

Point I

Branches were asked to make initial contributions according to membership, as follows :

Under 100 members	\$10.00
100 - 300 members	25.00
Over 300 members	50.00

This also applies to newly organized branches. Make money order to K. S. Johnson, Sanford. Mail the order to Harry T. Moore, Mims, Fla.

Point II

Each branch is asked to pay to the State Conference 50¢ per member every six months. The first six-month period for old branches was July - December, 1946. Each old branch, therefore, should report to the Conference 50¢ per member, according to the number of members on roll Dec. 31, 1946. The first six-month period for branches recently organized is January - June, 1947. Make money order to K. S. Johnson, Sanford. Mail the order to Harry T. Moore, Mims, Fla.

Point III

Each branch, youth council, and college chapter is asked to pay 5¢ for each membership collected. Send this in to New York with your regular membership reports. The National Office will match this and will return 10¢ per member to the State Conference. (Amounts coming from youth councils and college chapters will be turned over to the Florida State Conference of Youth Councils And College Chapters). Thus, when you report a dollar membership to New York, you should send 55¢. When you report a Crisis membership (\$2.50), you should send in \$2.05. In each case the extra nickel is for the State Conference.

B. Regional Training Conference in Charleston, S. C., March 29 - 30 :

You probably already have received notice of the Regional Training Conference, which will be held in Charleston, S. C., March 29 - 30. This Conference will be in charge of members of the National Staff, and it is designed primarily for the training of branch officers.

It is possible that many Florida branches will send delegates to this Conference, and we are thinking that the Florida delegation might enjoy going on in a group. If you are interested in this

unusually large, the Atlantic Coast Line will provide a special air-conditioned coach with reclining seats. This coach could be run on the Havana Special, leaving Jacksonville March 28, at 7:30 A. M., and reaching Charleston at 1:00 P. M. the same day. This schedule would give us time to rest and be fresh for the opening session March 29, at 9:00 A. M. If this plan meets your approval, we can easily get together in Jacksonville. Please take this matter up with your branch, and at your earliest convenience send me the names and addresses of your delegates. (If any new branches have not received notice of this conference, you may write Mr. Closter B. Conant, 30 E. 40th St., New York 18, N. Y., and ask for detailed information).

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary

Florida's Membership Card for 1937

27,100

Dear Co-workers:

Just a few months ago we submitted a detailed report of our activities to the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Florida NAACP State Conference, which was held in Panama City, June 7 - 9. Our report for the intervening period, therefore, will be brief.

The program adopted in Panama City marks the beginning of a new era for the NAACP in Florida. Under this program Florida becomes one of the first, if not the first state, to employ a full time executive secretary. The Conference approved a budget of \$7000 to launch this program and to finance the work for the first year. Mr. L. E. Broughton, Mrs. Viola T. Hill, Mr. Edward D. Davis, Mr. G. D. Rogers, and Rev. R. H. Johnson are members of the Budget Committee, whose task it is to help raise this fund.

The time between the Panama City Meeting and our meeting to-day has been a period of transition. From June 9 to Aug. 31 we continued to operate on a part-time basis, as we had done prior to that time. On Sept. 1 we began full-time work as executive secretary. On that same date Mr. Edward D. Davis of Ocala, who had unanimously been named president-elect at Panama City, assumed his new duties as the third president of the Florida State Conference. Thus, paraphrasing the words of the Apostle Paul, we may say: W. V. Griffin planted, Harry T. Moore watered, and now may Edward D. Davis help to produce the increase.

During this period of transition our work in Florida has continued its steady growth. At the time of our Panama City Meeting there were 53 branches in Florida. To-day it is our pleasure to report 60, or more, branches scattered from Pensacola to Key West. Among these new branches are Hamilton County, Sulphur Springs, Clowiston, Walton County, Hallandale, Clay County, and Deersfield. As we have often said, such progress is not the result of action by any one individual. It is the result of the operations of a well-oiled machine, in which all parts are clicking smoothly. Among our co-workers who have helped to produce this increase are Messrs. E. K. Bass and R. A. Reddick of the Suwannee County Branch, Mr. Milton Turner of Washington County, Mr. R. C. Davis and Mrs. Claudia W. Holland of Ft. Lauderdale, Rev. J. R. Thompson of Pompano, and Mr. W. S. Feinell of Orange Park. Other workers are helping us to plant seeds in various sections of the state, and it is our hope that these will soon sprout and eventually bring forth much fruit.

Again the Grim Reaper has visited our ranks and cut down two of our veteran warriors. Since we left Panama City Mr. James Green of Pompano and Dr. E. D. Strickland of Sanford have passed to their reward. Mr. Green has labored for the NAACP since some of us were little boys, and for a number of years he was president of the Pompano Branch. Dr. Strickland was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Seminole County Branch, a Gold Certificate holder, and one of our most loyal supporters. The Florida State Conference mourns the passing of these two workers.

We are still deeply concerned about the wave of lynching, mob violence, and police brutality that is threatening to engulf our Southland. Our hearts have been filled with horror as we read about the terrible crimes in Monroe, Ga., in Batesburg, S. C., in Minden, La., and in other places where the life of a Negro citizen is still a very cheap article.

And our own state is no exception. No positive action has yet been taken in the case of Leroy Bradwell, Negro veteran of Midway, who disappeared on Jan. 7 while in the custody of Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Maple of Gadsden County. Through the co-operation of Pres. E. V. Davis and other members of the Ft. Lauderdale Branch we were able to get a personal interview with the other and the sister of Leroy Bradwell. We have submitted copies of their affidavits to Gov. Caldwell, to the Department of Justice, and to our Legal Staff. It is our opinion that Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Maple should be held responsible for the disappearance of Bradwell. If this charge cannot be found safe and sound, these two officers should be suspended from office. We recommend that the various religious, civic, and fraternal organizations in Florida be asked to petition Gov. Caldwell for such action.

the past few months several of our branches have employed lawyers to work on cases of brutality and "legal lynchings", and the Ft. Lauderdale Branch is raising money to help the convictions of Joe Ferguson and James Andrew Maxwell, accused of rape in Broward. We also have been corresponding with lawyers with regard to the many cases of police brutality in Polk County, and we wish to discuss this matter with delegates from Polk County as during this meeting.

community in Florida is exposed to the dangers mentioned above. Sooner or later your may be called upon to help fight such cases. You should be ready with some money already. We recommend, therefore, that each branch raise a legal fund to be held in reserve these emergencies arise. Our people must be trained to realize that one dollar per year each member cannot finance the full program of the NAACP. Members should make additional contributions, so that we can build up a "war chest" to help fight the many battles that are to confront us.

matter that we have taken up during this period is the question of graduate and professional study for Florida Negro students. Several months ago the State Board of Control established a scholarship fund for the benefit of Negro students who have to leave Florida to obtain college and professional courses that white students are now getting at the University of Florida. Unfortunately, the Scholarship Fund was exhausted before the opening of summer schools this year and many teachers were not able to get the benefit. This Fund has recently been replenished \$10,000, and we urge that all eligible Negro students who had to leave Florida earlier than to do graduate work, now make application for scholarship aid to Dr. William H. Gray, Florida A. & M. College. As you know, the NAACP upholds the principle that each state provide within its own borders equal educational opportunities for all citizens from elementary grades to the graduate and professional level, and we have reminded our State Councils that we regard the Out-of-State Scholarship Program only as a temporary measure.

We wish to remind you of the great importance of our youth work. Let us train our young people to love, and to work for, the NAACP. We urge every branch to help organize a youth council. Let us get our young people ready for the Eighth Annual Youth Conference of the NAACP in New York, Nov. 21 - 24, and for the Third Annual Meeting of the Florida State Conference of Councils, which will be held in Miami next year.

We wish to express our deep appreciation for the many words of encouragement that have come to us from various members and friends over the state. Among these is a recent letter from Fred Tombs of the Florida State Teachers' Association, pledging the full support of that organization to the program of the NAACP. We also are very grateful for the splendid co-operation we have received from our many branches, and we solicit your continued support in the years that lie ahead.

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary
Florida State Conference, NAACP
Orlando -- Nov. 1, 1946

The Florida NAACP Branch and State Conference

Co-workers :

Few months ago we submitted a detailed report of our activities to the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Florida NAACP State Conference, which was held in Panama City, June 7 - 9. Our report for the intervening period, therefore, will be brief.

The program adopted in Panama City marks the beginning of a new era for the NAACP in Florida. Under this program Florida becomes one of the first, if not the first state, to employ a full time executive secretary. The Conference approved a budget of \$1000 to launch this program and to finance the work for the first year. Mr. H. H. Drayton, Mrs. Flora W. Hill, Mr. Edward P. Davis, Mr. G. D. Rogers, and Rev. T. M. Johnson are members of the Budget Committee, whose task it is to help raise this fund.

The time between the Panama City Meeting and our meeting today has been a period of transition. From June 9 to Aug. 31 we continued to operate on a part-time basis, as we had done prior to that time. On Sept. 1 we began full-time work as executive secretary. On that same date Mr. J. H. Harris of Ocala, who had unobtrusively been named president-elect at Panama City and was acting as the third president of the Florida State Conference. Thus, paraphrasing the words of the Apostle Paul, we may say: "H. H. Griffin planted, Harry T. Moore watered, and now Edward P. Davis help to produce the increase."

During this period of transition our work in Florida has continued its steady growth. At the time of our Panama City Meeting there were 53 branches in Florida. To-day it is our pleasure to report 60, or more, branches scattered from Pensacola to Key West. Among these new branches are Milton County, Sulphur Springs, Claxton, Walton County, Hallandale, Clay County, and Deerfield. As we have often said, such progress is not the result of action by any one individual. It is the result of the operations of a well-oiled machine, in which all parts are clicking smoothly. Our co-workers who have helped to produce this increase are Messrs. J. P. Bass and P. A. Smith of the Duval County Branch; Mr. Milton Turner of Washington County; Mr. S. V. Davis of Ft. Claudia; Mr. H. H. Hill of Ft. Lauderdale; Rev. J. R. Thompson of Pompano; and Mr. H. S. Howell of Orange Park. Other workers are helping us to plant seeds in various sections of the State, and it is our hope that these will soon sprout and eventually bring forth much fruit.

The Grim Reaper has visited our ranks and cut down two of our veteran workers. Since we met in Panama City Mr. James Green of Pompano and Dr. D. D. Strickland of Sanford have passed to their reward. Mr. Green has labored for the NAACP since some of us were little boys, and for a number of years he was president of the Pompano Branch. Dr. Strickland was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Seminole County Branch, a Gold Certificate holder, and one of our most loyal supporters. The Florida State Conference mourns the passing of these two workers.

We are still deeply concerned about the wave of lynching, mob violence, and police brutality that is threatening to engulf our Southland. Our hearts have been filled with horror as we read about the terrible crimes in Monroe, La., in Tallahassee, Fla., in Mound, La., and in other places where the life of a Negro citizen is still a very cheap article.

Our own state is no exception. No positive action has yet been taken in the case of Leroy Rodwell, Negro veteran of Oklawaha, who disappeared on Jan. 7 while in the custody of Sheriff Brads and Deputy Maple of Gadsden County. Through the co-operation of Dr. H. H. Davis and other members of the Ft. Lauderdale Branch we were able to get a personal interview with the Sheriff and the sister of Leroy Rodwell. We have submitted copies of their affidavits to Gov. F. W. Lane, to the Department of Justice, and to our Legal Staff. It is our opinion that Sheriff Brads and Deputy Maple should be held responsible for the disappearance of Rodwell. If this cannot be found safe and sound, these two officers should be suspended from office. We would like to see the various religious, civic, and fraternal organizations in Florida be asked to petition Gov. Lane for such action.

During the past few months several of our branches have employed lawyers to work on cases of police brutality and "legal lynching", and the Ft. Lauderdale branch is raising money to help appeal the convictions of Joe Ferguson and Jimmy Andrew Maxwell, accused of rape in Broward County. We also have been corresponding with lawyers with regard to the many cases of police brutality in Polk County, and we wish to discuss this matter with delegates from Polk County branches during this meeting.

Every community in Florida is exposed to the dangers mentioned above. Sooner or later your branch may be called upon to help fight such cases. You should be ready with some money already on hand. We recommend, therefore, that each branch raise a legal fund to be held in reserve until these emergencies arise. Our people must be trained to realize that one dollar per year from each member cannot finance the full program of the NAACP. Members should make additional contributions, so that we can build up a "war chest" to help fight the many battles that are sure to confront us.

Another matter that we have taken up during this period is the question of graduate and professional study for Florida Negro students. Several months ago the State Board of Control established a scholarship fund for the benefit of Negro students who have to leave Florida to obtain graduate and professional courses that white students are now getting at the University of Florida. Unfortunately, the Scholarship Fund was exhausted before the opening of current school year, and many teachers were not able to get the benefit. This fund has recently been replenished with \$10,000, and we urge that all eligible Negro students who had to leave Florida earlier this year to do graduate work, now make application for scholarship aid to Dr. William H. Crow, Jr., Florida A. & M. College. As you know, the NAACP upholds the principle that each state should provide within its own borders equal educational opportunities for all citizens from the elementary grades to the graduate and professional level, and we have reminded our State officials that we regard the Out-of-State Scholarship Program only as a temporary measure.

Again we wish to remind you of the great importance of our youth work. Let us train our young people to love, and to work for, the NAACP. We urge every branch to help organize a youth council. Let us get our young people ready for the Eighth Annual Youth Conference of the NAACP in New Orleans, Nov. 31 - 34, and for the Third Annual Meeting of the Florida State Conference of Youth Councils, which will be held in Miami next year.

We wish to express our deep appreciation for the many words of encouragement that have come to us from various members and friends over the state. Among those in a recent letter from Prof. E. Combs of the Florida State Teachers' Association, pledging the full support of that organization to the program of the NAACP. We also are very grateful for the splendid co-operation that we have received from our many branches, and we solicit your continued support in the work that lies ahead.

Harry T. Hoars
Harry T. Hoars
Executive Secretary
Florida State Conference, NAACP
Orlando — Nov. 1, 1946

Florida State NAACP Meeting

In Lake Wales

Florida Branches of the NAACP will hold their Seventh Annual Meeting in Lake Wales Nov. 28 - 30. Sessions will be held in the First Baptist Institutional Church, of which the Rev. Wm. Smith is pastor.

Registration will begin Friday, Nov. 28, at 11:00 A. M., and the opening session will be held at 1:30 P. M. At 4:00 P. M., Friday, Nov. 28, there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters' League of Florida at this same church. The Lake Wales Branch is presenting a local program at 7:30 P. M. Friday, at which time Major C. Leroy Hacker, director of public relations at Bethune Cookman College, will be the principal speaker. Business sessions will be held Saturday, and the Conference will close with a mammoth mass meeting Sunday, Nov. 30, at 3:00 P. M. The speakers for this occasion will be Miss Lucille Black, membership secretary from the National Office in New York, and Attorney L. E. Thomas, brilliant Negro lawyer of Miami.

Miss Black is coming to Florida in an effort to help stimulate our fall membership campaign. Although Florida has a large number of NAACP branches, we are far below our membership goal for 1947. Miss Black will be with us throughout the Conference, and branch workers are urged to come and get the benefit of her rich experience in conducting membership campaigns.

Attorney L. E. Thomas is one of Florida's most outstanding criminal and constitutional lawyers. He is a graduate of the Michigan Law School, and he did his early practicing under the guiding influence of that master legal mind, Attorney S. D. McGill of Jacksonville. During the past three months Attorney Thomas has been leading a determined defense of Aaron Quince, Daytona Beach Negro, who is charged with the murder of a white woman near Holly Hill last summer. Because of Attorney Thomas's brilliant attack against the lily-white jury system of Volusia County, Circuit Judge Jackson-recently ordered the County Commission to empty the entire jury box and refill it "according to law". A large crowd is expected to gather in Lake Wales on the Fifth Sunday afternoon to see and hear this famous Negro lawyer of our own state.

The general theme of the Conference will be "An Active Branch Of The NAACP In Every Community". Much time will be devoted to a discussion of the problems of local branches and of methods by which branches can carry on a more active and a more militant NAACP program in their respective communities. Delegates are urged to bring their branch problems to the Conference, so that helpful suggestions can be given.

The Lake Wales Branch, under the energetic leadership of Rev. W. J. H. Black, is making elaborate preparations for our entertainment. In view of the fact that there is a large number of branches in Central Florida, a heavy delegation is anticipated. And since Lake Wales is located in the most beautiful part of Florida's Citrus Belt, only a short distance from the famous Bok Tower, it is expected that a host of visiting friends will come to view the scenery and to enjoy the interesting programs that will be offered during this meeting.

Come to Lake Wales Thanksgiving week-end. A hearty welcome is extended to all.

Edward D. Davis, President
601 W. Broadway, Ocala

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 4, Miami

Florida State Conference, NAACP

Our Goal

25,000 Members

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the various individuals and organizations that have given us such strong support. The Baptist women of Florida, under the leadership of Mrs. Viola T. Hill, recently contributed \$50.00 to help finance the work of the NAACP and the Veterans' League. They also invited President Milton P. Hooks of the Veterans' League to speak to them in St. Petersburg. Much credit is also due the Negro papers of Florida for giving us such splendid publicity.

And now, fellow workers, let us "finish the fight". Let us intensify our efforts to win a fuller measure of that democracy which American soldiers of all races, creeds, and colors defended on foreign fields. Let us continue to move forward, as Kelly Miller said, with our faces "fixed upon that light which shineth brighter and brighter into the perfect day."

Dear Co-workers :

We approach our Annual Meeting this year with a mixed feeling of joy and sorrow. Even as we were mentally reviewing the various activities of the Florida State Conference during the past few months, a message came to inform us of the death of Mr. F. L. Bryant of Old Town, president of the Dixie County Branch. Mr. Bryant will long be remembered as a man with vision and backbone - one who helped to establish the NAACP in a section of Florida where race relations are not always up to par. The Florida State Conference has suffered a severe loss in his passing.

Although we have not held a state meeting since October, 1944, our work has not lagged. That the spirit of the NAACP is still growing in Florida is evidenced by the fact that we now have 53 branches, as compared with thirty-three at the time of our last annual meeting. Among the branches organized since we last met are : Bartow, Winter Haven, Daytona Beach, Fruitland Park, Punta Gorda, Perry, McClenny, Alachua County, Winter Park, Okechobee, Gulf Hammock, Lee County, St. Augustine, Charlotte County, Sebring, Washington County, Avon Park, Dunnellon, Palatka and Wilton. The spirit of the NAACP seems to be on the upward swing in Florida, and prospects for continued growth are bright.

Much of our energy during the past few months has been devoted to the various cases that have been brought to the attention of the State Conference. Among these were the Joseph Palmer case of St. Augustine, the William H. Anderson case of Deland, the Lorey Bradswell case in Gadsden County, and the lynching of Jesse James Payne near Madison. We also have tried to give our Branches advise on the various problems that have confronted them from time to time.

The Anderson and Palmer cases were in our report to the Conference Board of Directors early this year, and we merely mention them now to show how persecution sometimes prompts people to noble deeds. When these cases originated, neither Ft. Lauderdale nor St. Augustine had a branch of the NAACP. But when we went into these cases and made a serious effort to secure justice for these men, the people of both communities were inspired to the extent that they took immediate steps to affiliate themselves with the work of this great organization.

No doubt the most outstanding matter handled by the State Conference during this period was our investigation of the lynching of Jesse James Payne last October. All of our Branches have the pamphlet containing mimeographed copies of our correspondence on this matter, and you will agree that we spared no pains in our efforts to reveal the facts. Frankly, we were disappointed at the attitude of our Governor in this matter. Either he was not particularly concerned about the murder of a Negro, or he was unable to fully appreciate the seriousness of the situation. For example, when we informed the Governor that we were having the relatives to prepare affidavits, he immediately suggested that we advise the relatives to return to Madison and personally present their evidence to the Grand Jury. Yet, when we asked the Governor to guarantee ample protection for these relatives, he was silent.

It has been our pleasure to send copies of our pamphlet on lynchings to many influential people, both black and white. The attorney for Collier's Magazine was fortunate to get the first copy. We also submitted to Collier's other information that they desired to defend themselves against the damage suit filed by the Governor of our state. We have received several interesting letters concerning the pamphlet on lynchings. Mr. F. B. Eleazer of the Methodist Board of Education thanked us for his copy and informed us that he had reported the Payne case as a lynching, notwithstanding Governor Caldwell's strong denial. Mr. Edwin L. Clark,

professor of Sociology at Rollins College, wrote us that he plans to use his copy in his classes. On the other hand, Congressman Joe Hendricks wrote us a lengthy letter, trying to explain why he could not support the Anti-Lynching Bill.

During the month of February we were called to Deland to confer with Branch officials about the fatal shooting of James Fuller, Pierson Negro, by deputy sheriffs of Volusia County. We wrote Governor Caldwell and asked that he call for a special investigation of this matter. About the same time we wrote the Governor about the case of Lorey Bradswell, Negro veteran of Midway, who was reported to have disappeared while in the custody of Gadsden County officials. Governor Caldwell's reply stated that he was writing the Sheriff for a full report on this case. This week we wrote the Governor again and asked him to give us the facts about Bradswell. We intend to push this case to the limit.

These cases plainly illustrate that kind of justice that is typical of most southern communities. White officials have charge of every governmental agency. These officials have been responsible solely to the white voters of their respective communities. Thus when the Governor calls for an "investigation" by these local officials, the entire procedure is just a farce. These officials value their jobs too highly to do much contrary to the wishes of their voting constituents. But as larger numbers of Negro voters participate in Democratic primaries, we can expect a fuller measure of justice for our people.

Undoubtedly, the most momentous development in Florida this year was the participation of Negro voters in Democratic primaries. In winning this right we have struck at the very core of our evils. Negro organizations in Pensacola, Jacksonville, and West Palm Beach deserve much credit for spearheading this important drive. The Progressive Voters' League of Florida, in co-operation with the NAACP branches of Florida, is rendering an invaluable service in helping to increase and co-ordinate the voting power of Negroes in this state. We feel confident that the next two years will show a marked improvement over our efforts this year.

Incomplete reports from various counties of Florida reveal varying degrees of success in the voting effort this year. Negro voters in Duval, Marion, Palm Beach, and Seminole Counties made their votes felt in the May primaries. In other counties Negroes voted unhampered, but a lack of interest kept the vote down. In some counties, however, Negro voters were barred from voting. The Brevard County Branch of the NAACP is bringing legal action against officials who refused to register Negroes as Democrats in that county. In Taylor and Suwannee Counties properly registered Negroes were not permitted to vote. We have been communicating with Atty. Thurgood Marshall, NAACP Special Counsel, with regard to bringing the necessary action in these cases. Thus we see that our victory is not yet complete. We must "Finish the Fight".

The past 18 months have been extremely busy ones for your state president. As the NAACP gradually spreads over Florida, our responsibilities naturally increase. Whereas a few months ago the State Conference was a "small town" business with only 15 or 20 branches, it is now a big "chain" concern with over 50 branches. Although we have worked early and late in an effort to hold the organization together, it has become almost physically impossible to take care of this work on a part-time basis. We must recommend, therefore, that the Conference take immediate steps to place a full-time worker in the field. A committee has been appointed to formulate plans for this project.

-2-

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the various individuals and organizations that have given us such strong support. The Baptist women of Florida, under the leadership of Mrs. Viola T. Hill, recently contributed \$50.00 to help finance the work of the NAACP and the Veterans' League. They also invited President Milton P. Hooks of the Veterans' League to speak to them in St. Petersburg. Much credit is also due the Negro papers of Florida for giving us such splendid publicity.

And now, fellow workers, let us "finish the fight". Let us intensify our efforts to win a fuller measure of that democracy which American soldiers of all races, creeds, and colors defended on foreign fields. Let us continue to move forward, as Kelly Miller said, with our faces "fixed upon that light which shineth brighter and brighter into the perfect day."

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE
To NAACP STATE CONFERENCE
Panama City, Florida

Dear Co-workers:

We approach our Annual Meeting this year with a mixed feeling of joy and sorrow. Even as we were mentally reviewing the various activities of the Florida State Conference during the past few months, a message came to inform us of the death of Mr. F. L. Bryant of Old Town, president of the Dixie county branch. Mr. Bryant will long be remembered as a man with vision and backbone - one who helped to establish the NAACP in a section of Florida where race relations are not always up to par. The Florida State Conference has suffered a severe loss in his passing.

Although we have not held a state meeting since October, 1944, our work has not lagged. That the spirit of the NAACP is still growing in Florida is evidenced by the fact that we now have 53 branches, as compared with thirty-three at the time of our last annual meeting. Among the branches organized since we last met are: Bartow, Winter Haven, Alachua County, Winter Park, Okeechobee, Gulf Hammock, Lee County, St. Augustine, Charlotte County, Sebring, Washington County, Avon Park, Dunnellon, Palatka and Milton. The spirit of the NAACP seems to be on the upward swing in Florida, and prospects for continued growth are bright.

Much of our energy during the past few months has been devoted to the various cases that have been brought to the attention of the State Conference. Among these are the Joseph Palmer case of St. Augustine, The William E. Anderson case of Ft. Lauderdale, the James Fuller case of DeLand, the Leroy Bradswell case in Gadsden County, and the lynching of Jesse James Payne near Madison. We also have tried to give our Branches advice on the various problems that have confronted them from time to time.

The Anderson and Palmer cases were covered in our report to the Conference Board of Directors earlier this year, and we merely mention them now to show how persecution sometimes prompts people to noble deeds. When these cases originated, neither Ft. Lauderdale nor St. Augustine had a branch of the NAACP. But when we went into these cases and made a serious effort to secure justice for these men, the people of both communities were inspired to the extent that they took immediate steps to affiliate themselves with the work of this great organization.

No doubt the most outstanding matter handled by the State Conference during this period was our investigation of the lynching of Jesse James Payne last October. All of our branches have the pamphlet containing mimeographed copies of our correspondence on this matter, and you will agree that we spared no pains in our efforts to reveal the facts. Frankly, we were disappointed at the attitude of our Governor in this matter. Either he was not particularly concerned about the murder of a Negro, or he was unable to fully appreciate the seriousness of the situation. For example, when we informed the Governor that we were having the relatives prepare affidavits, he immediately suggested that we advise the relatives to return to Madison and personally present their evidence to the Grand Jury. Yet, when we asked the Governor to guarantee ample protection for these relatives, he was silent.

It has been our pleasure to send out copies of our pamphlet on lynchings to many influential people, both black and white. The attorney for Collier's

Magazine was fortunate to get the first copy. We also submitted to Collier's other information that they desired to defend themselves against the damage suit filed by the Governor of our state. We have received several interesting letters concerning the pamphlets on lynchings. Mr. R. B. Fleazer of the Methodist Board of Education thanked us for his copy and informed us that he had reported the Payne case as a lynching, notwithstanding Governor Caldwell's strong denial. Mr. Edwin L. Clark, professor of Sociology at Rollins College, wrote us that he plans to use his copy in his classes. On the other hand, Congressman Joe Hendricks wrote us a lengthy letter, trying to explain why he could not support the Anti-Lynching Bill.

During the month of February we were called to DeLand to confer with Branch officials about the fatal shooting of James Fuller, Floridian Negro, by deputy sheriffs of Volusia County. We wrote Governor Caldwell and asked that he call for a special investigation of this matter. About the same time we wrote the Governor about the case of Leroy Bradswell, Negro veteran of Midway, who was reported to have disappeared while in the custody of Gadsden County officials. Governor Caldwell's reply stated that he was writing the Sheriff for a full report on this case. This week we wrote the Governor again and asked him to give us the facts about Bradswell. We intend to push this case to the limit.

These cases plainly illustrate that kind of justice that is typical of most southern communities. White officials have charge of every governmental agency. These officials have been responsible solely to the white voters of their respective communities. Thus when the Governor calls for an "investigation" by these local officials, the entire procedure is just a farce. These officials value their jobs too highly to do much contrary to the wishes of their voting constituents. But as larger numbers of Negro voters participate in Democratic primaries, we can expect a fuller measure of justice for our people.

Undoubtedly, the most momentous development in Florida this year was the participation of Negro voters in Democratic primaries. In winning this right we have struck at the very core of our evils. Negro organizations in Pensacola, Jacksonville, and West Palm Beach deserve much credit for spearheading this important drive. The Progressive Voters' League of Florida, in co-operation with the NAACP branches of Florida, is rendering an invaluable service in helping to increase and co-ordinate the voting power of Negroes in this state. We feel confident that the next two years will show a marked improvement over our efforts this year.

Incomplete reports from various counties of Florida reveal varying degrees of success in voting effort this year. Negro voters in Duval, Marion, Palm Beach, Pinellas and Seminole Counties made their votes felt in the May Primaries. In other counties Negroes voted unhampered, but a lack of interest kept the vote down. In some counties, however, Negro voters were barred from voting. The Brevard County Branch of the NAACP is bringing legal action against officials who refused to register Negroes as Democrats in that county. In Taylor and Suwannee Counties properly registered Negroes were not permitted to vote. We have been communicating with Attorney Thurgood Marshall, NAACP Special Counsel, with regard to bringing the necessary action in these cases. Thus we see that our victory is not yet complete. We must "finish the fight."

The past 18 months have been extremely busy ones for your state president. As the NAACP gradually spreads over Florida, our responsibilities naturally increase. Whereas a few months ago the State Conference was a "small town" business with only 15 or 20 branches, it is now a big chain concern with over 50 branches. Although we have worked early and late in an effort to hold the organization together, it has become almost physically impossible to take care

of this work on a part-time basis. We must recommend, therefore, that the conference take immediate steps to place a full-time worker in the field. A committee has been appointed to formulate plans for this project.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the various individuals and organizations that have given us such strong support. The Baptist women of Florida, under the leadership of Mrs. Viola T. Hill, recently contributed \$50 to help finance the work of the NAACP and the Voters' League. They also invited President Milton P. Rooks of the Voters' League to speak to them in St. Petersburg. Much credit is also due the Negro papers of Florida for giving us such splendid publicity.

And now, fellow-workers, let us "finish the fight." Let us intensify our efforts to win a fuller measure of that democracy which American soldiers of all races, creeds and colors defended on foreign fields. Let us continue to move forward, as Kelly Miller said, with our faces "fixed upon that light which shineth brighter and brighter into the perfect day."

Harry T. Moore
June 6, 1946