

# State NAACP and Fla. Progressive Voters' League Coordinate With Sponsors of Winter Park Conference

Straight-thinking white citizens also oppose the Mathews Bill. These liberal-minded white citizens fully realize the fact that we shall have a true democracy in this country only when American citizens of all races, creeds, and colors are made secure in the full enjoyment of their Constitutional rights. These white citizens know that if one group of citizens can be disfranchised, the same thing can easily happen to another group. They realize also that private primaries, as advocated by the Mathews Bill, would open Florida politics to the worst form of fraud and corruption.

Straight-thinking white and Negro citizens plan positive action to save Florida from this threat of Fascism. A state-wide Conference to Help Defend Democracy in Florida will be held at the Congregational Church in Winter Park, Saturday, March 22, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Formal action will be taken to urge defeat of the Mathews "White Primary" Bill by the State Legislature, which convenes on April 8. Included on the list of sponsors are many of the leading white and Negro citizens of Florida.

The Winter Park conference is being coordinated by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. The Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches and the Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc., are working in full cooperation. Representatives from NAACP branches and Voters' League units, ministers, teachers, business and fraternal leaders, and other interested citizens are cordially invited to attend this Conference.

It is also suggested that you get in touch with your state senators and representatives and urge them to opposed the Mathews Bill.

## Inter-racial Atmosphere To Prevail

MIMS, Fla. — The State-wide Conference which is scheduled for Winter Park Saturday for the main purpose of protesting the Mathews Bill will have the full cooperation of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP and the Progressive Voters' League.

No doubt you have been hearing and reading much about the so-called "White Primary" Bill that is to be presented to the Florida Legislature when it convenes next month. This bill, which is being sponsored by Senator John E. Mathews of Duval County, is similar to the Talmadge-sponsored "White Primary" Bill that passed the Georgia Legislature a few days ago. It seeks to divorce the Democratic Primary from State control and thus make the Democratic Party in Florida a private club. In this way Negroes and other minority groups can be barred from voting in the Democratic Primary, which is the main election in Florida.

The immediate purpose of the Mathews Bill is to disfranchise Florida Negro citizens. It is only natural, therefore, that every thinking Negro would bitterly oppose this bill. Inasmuch as we are citizens and taxpayers of Florida, we should cherish all the rights of citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution. Chief among these is the right to vote—the right to help select those officials who are to have direct control of our everyday affairs.

# Florida Negroes Will Not Accept Jim Crow Vote Booth, Editor Says

By HAROLD PREECHÉ  
Feature Writer for Houston Informer, California Eagle and other papers in America.

TAMPA, Fla.—It happened in the office of the Florida Sentinel, Tampa Negro newspaper, last Tuesday, January 22, the day after the State Democratic Executive Committee had grudgingly passed a resolution accepting the Texas primary decision and saying that Negroes could vote in the Florida primaries.

I was talking with C. Blythe Andrews, publisher of the paper and one of the leaders of the seven-year battle to open the ballot boxes to colored Americans in this state which began its history as a free commonwealth of runaway Seminole Indians from Alabama and runaway Negro slaves from Georgia. Mr. Andrews was telling me that Negroes still had half of the victory to win—that they would not accept another proposition passed by the committee to set up Jim Crow voting precincts for Negroes.

The telephone rang and Mr. Andrews excused himself. The man on the other end of the line was a representative of ex-Governor Spessard L. Holland, currently a candidate for the U. S. Senatorial nomination in the May primaries.

The white man was talking with Mr. Andrews about the possibility of candidate Holland making a speech to the local lodge delegates of a Negro lodge association, number 12,000, men-

Groes have to go hat in hand to ask lordly Confederate politicians to appropriate a few dollars for rural education or for a Negro tuberculosis sanitarium. Swifly and surely as the lighted crosses of the Ku Klux Klan burn out never to be rekindled on our mountain tops and in our creek bottoms, the white office-seekers are having to come to the people breaking loose from the plow lines and the cotton sacks. Swiftly and surely, the day is coming when Negroes will again take their places as representatives of all the Southern people in the state legislatures and in the Congress at Washington.

One of those home-soaking Florida rains had blown up from the Gulf and was beating against the window panes when Mr. Andrews began telling me about the seven-year battle for democracy in Florida.

"We realized," Mr. Andrews said, "that the only hope for the Negro to improve his economic conditions lay in getting the ballot. And the ballot in Florida must mean the Democratic ballot since all the officials are chosen in the Democratic primary with the general-electing being just a formality."

Then Mr. Andrews told me about the courageous Negro school teacher, Professor Harry T. Moore, down in the little Florida East Coast town of Mims, who struck out his neck for his people and organized them to fight for the right to vote. Prof. Moore, now state president of the NAACP, organized the Progressive Voters League of Flori-

first fight for equalization of teachers' salaries. Leaders in this fight included Prof. Noah Griffin, now with the NAACP in San Francisco, Calif., and Prof. Edward D. Davis, of Ocala, Fla., with Attorney S. D. McGill of Jacksonville acting as our lawyer. "Miss Hilda D. Turner, a Negro teacher in Tampa, brought the first equalization suit. Then teacher after teacher filed suit and some very fine people were fired from our schools for going into court and demanding justice not only for Negro faculty members but also for Negro children."

## WIN BATTLE

In the end, the teachers won their battle without a final court decision since federal courts throughout the South were ruling that Negroes employed in the Dixie school systems must have equal pay for equal work. Florida Negroes were aroused by the suits to fight for their rights as they had not been since the days of Reconstruction when colored and poor white legislators, sitting in the state capital at Tallahassee, passed bills establishing the first public schools in this state.

While the iron was still hot, the Negro leaders struck. Rev. R. A. Cromwell, colored Baptist minister in Pensacola, went into Escambia County Circuit court, shortly after the U. S. Supreme Court decision in the Texas primary case on April 18, 1943, and sued for the right to vote in the Florida Democratic primaries under the terms of that decision. A similar suit was filed in Duval County by Rev. Dallas Graham,

assured by white leaders of local CIO Political Action Committee in Miami, last week that the organization would concentrate by leaflets, by announcements in union meetings, or getting Dade County colored citizens to register as Democrats.

"A word of caution, however, Mr. Reporter," James Nimmo, Miami Negro civic leader, told me in the big city which is the hub of Florida, "the fact that Florida Negroes will probably switch en masse from the Republican to the Democratic Party in order to have some say in the only elections that count, does not mean that we are giving any mortgage on ourselves to the Democratic Party and its present weakening leader, Harry Truman.

"We were blindly loyal to the Republican Party for generations even after it sold us out in 1876 and let the plantation owners, who had been whipped in the Civil War, take power through the Hays Compromise. We have no such feeling of blind loyalty when we register as Democrats—we will support the Democratic Party only so long as we are able to fight for our interests through it. If the still beginning movement for a people's third party should become nation-wide, Florida Negroes, to say the least, would be interested."

All but one Negro leader, Rev. Rhodes, to whom I talked, told me that they would insist that Florida commissioners ignore advice of the Democratic State Committee to "establish" separate voting places for Negroes.

# Voters League Names Candidates It Supports

MIMS.—Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Progressive Voters League has sent to all local leagues the names of the various candidates endorsed by the recent board of directors meeting which was held in Orlando.

This is his letter to all leagues:

On April 12 we mailed letters to candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for important federal and state offices, in which we asked them to make clear their stand on certain issues vital to the welfare of our group. Favorable replies have been received from several candidates. We have gotten in touch with others through personal contact.

On April 20 the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters League met in Orlando to consider the records of various candidates. After careful deliberation, the Board voted to recommend the following candidates:

1. For United States Senator, Spessard L. Holland.
2. For Representative in Congress, First District, Herbert Wentworth; Second District, Ca-

- mills M. Geneau, Third District,
- Carl R. Gray, Fourth District,
- George A. Smathers, Fifth District,
- Thomas S. Voss, Sixth District,
- Dwight L. Rogers, (Group 2), Paul D. Barns.
- For Railroad Commissioner (Group 2), Carl M. Taylor.

The most difficult decision for the Board to make was the choice of a candidate for United Senator. Many members of the Board expressed the opinion that Mrs. Polly Rose Balfe was the most liberal of the four candidates in the field. However, it was the general opinion of the Board that the real race would probably be between Holland and Green. And since Lex Green has publicly announced his intention to "champion the cause of the White Democratic Primary and of the noble traditions of the white South," the Board voted to endorse the candidacy of Holland.

We suggest that you consider carefully the records of your local candidates and make recommendations to your voters on the basis of such records.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO FLORIDA VOTERS

Dear Co-workers:  
As most of you know, the State Democratic Committee has adopted a resolution which provides for the participation of Negro voters in the Democratic primaries in May. This of course, is in keeping with recent rulings by the U. S. Supreme Court and the Florida Supreme Court. It also is in line an opinion submitted last October by Attorney General Tom Watson.

It now appears that we stand on the threshold of golden political opportunities. For the first time Negro voters of Florida are recognized as members of the Democratic party. Thus, if we are properly registered, we may now vote with the party that has held a virtual monopoly on the election of state and county officials during the past 50 years. In this way we may help to select those officials who have direct control of our everyday affairs.

In order to consider additional plans necessary to get our people prepared for the May primaries, the Progressive Voters League of Florida will hold a state meeting at Mt. Pleasant Baptist church, S. Parramore St., Orlando, on February 16. Members of the board of directors are asked to meet at 10:30 a. m. A public mass meeting will be held at 1:00 p. m.—Mr. E. E. Broughton, chairman of our board of directors, attended the recent meeting of the State Democratic Committee, and he will make a report of his observations. Heads of organizations, professional and lay leaders from over the state are urged to attend this meeting. Let us get our heads together and take full advantage of this great opportunity that now presents itself.

Sincerely yours,  
HARRY T. MOORE,  
Executive Secretary, Progressive Voters League of Florida, Mims, Fla., Feb. 1, 1946.

P. S.—Lawson J. Thomas, noted Negro attorney of Miami, will speak for us at the mass meeting.

IDA SENTINEL—PHONE 38

**Lawyer Thomas To Address Voters At Orlando**

MIMS—Attorney L. E. Thomas of Miami has been selected to deliver the main address at the Voters League rally in Orlando, February 16, according to Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Progressive Voters League of Florida.

Mr. Moore in his letter to the Negro voters of Florida said: As most of you know, the State Democratic Committee has adopted a resolution which provides for the participation of Negro voters in the Democratic primaries in May. This of course, is in keeping with recent rulings by the U. S. Supreme Court and the Florida Supreme Court. It also is in line with an opinion submitted last October by Attorney General Tom Watson.

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THE 1948 GENERAL ELECTION  
AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO NEGRO VOTERS

*W. B. B. Bulletin* By Harry T. Moore

8/28/48

Because of our one-party system, general elections in the "Solid South" usually arouse less interest than Democratic primaries. In most cases the winner in a Democratic primary is considered a sure winner in the general election. The primary is usually "The Election" in the South.

But the general election facing us on November 2nd is a most unusual one. Not since 1860 has this country been so divided in a presidential election. In fact, the presidential elections of 1860 and 1948 are similar in many respects. In 1860 the slavery question was the burning issue. The Democratic Party split over this issue and eventually offered two candidates for president. The Constitutional Union Party tried to "soft-pedal" the slavery question and adopted a platform that emphasized the importance of upholding the Constitution and preserving the Union. The new Republican Party opposed the extension of slavery into the territories and nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. Lincoln was elected, and when the smoke of the Civil War cleared five years later, chattel slavery had been abolished.

In 1948, as in 1860, we find our nation again divided on the race question. In 1860 it was called the slavery question. In 1948 it is called the question of Civil Rights. But the fundamental issue is the same in both cases. The basic question is this: Shall America continue to treat Negroes as slaves, inferior beings, and second-class citizens, or shall Negroes be treated as free human beings, with all of the rights and privileges of full citizenship? When this question was raised at the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia this year, the reaction was about the same as it was at the Democratic Convention in Charleston and Baltimore in 1860. The reactionary "States Rights" slave holders walked out in 1860, held another convention in Richmond, and nominated Breckinridge of Kentucky. The reactionary Dixiecrats walked out again in 1948, journeyed to Birmingham, and nominated Thurmond of South Carolina.

The Dixiecrats' "walkout" in Philadelphia was perhaps the best thing that could have happened. The line was then clearly drawn, and liberal forces gained control of the regular Democratic Party. The party adopted a strong race plank that fully endorsed Truman's civil rights program and dedicated the Democratic Party to the liberal principles of "human rights" instead of the old reactionary doctrine of states' rights.

American Negroes have much at stake in the general election of 1948. In advocating the Civil Rights program Mr. Truman has stuck his neck out farther for the Negro race than any president—perhaps even farther than did Abraham Lincoln. Truman has risked the loss of support from many of his own party. The Dixiecrats are trying hard to defeat Truman just because he is advocating full citizenship for Negroes.

Negro citizens of Florida and other Southern states must get ready to play an important part in the election on November 2nd. The "Solid South" is not so solid this year. The South is not "in the bag" for the Democratic Party in 1948. Votes for President will be split four ways, and in some Southern states the race may be very close. Negroes should realize that we are a very important issue in this campaign. The outcome of this election may have as much effect on our future welfare as did the election of 1860.

Registration books are now open. Every adult Negro in Florida should be registered to vote in November. We hereby urge NAACP Branches, local units of the Voters' League, and other civic, fraternal, and religious organizations to put on intensive drives for registration of Negro voters. Let us double the 80,000 Negro voters that we had for the primaries. Fellow citizens, the Negro vote may prove to be the balance of power in the presidential race in Florida this year. We are the ones who need civil rights. Therefore, let us get prepared to throw a strong vote for the liberal forces that are trying to secure the complete emancipation of our race.

In order to consider additional plans necessary to get our people prepared for the May primaries, the Progressive Voters League of Florida will hold a state meeting at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, South Parramore St., Orlando, on Feb. 16. Members of the Board of Directors are asked to meet at 10:30 A. M. A public mass meeting will be held at 1 P. M. Mr. E. E. Broughton, chairman of our Board of Directors, attended the recent meeting of the State Democratic Committee, and he will make a report of his observations. Heads of organizations, professional and lay leaders from over the state are urged to attend this meeting. Let us get our heads together and take full advantage of this great opportunity that now presents itself.

## Despite Complacency and Weak Leadership

# Negro's Political Hopes Are Greatest in Tampa

By LEON LEWIS

TAMPA, Fla.—The Tampa Negro's lack of interest concerning political initiative is no indication that hope for him in the avenue of public endeavor is an illusion. Close observation of political trends in race relations gives a very hopeful future for the Tampa Negro in politics and affairs of State. Tuesday's primary election was quite a day

in the Negro section. Those in the upper brackets didn't even know who was running for office. The masses' vote was scant, with no former instruction except probably a word from their boss that this or that man was all right.

Tampa is peculiarly liberal—more so than the average Southern city—and this liberality keeps the Negro in a satisfied vein of reaction.

A scrutinizing look into the situation gives a picture of a group of people who are so satisfied with public officials elected by other groups that they don't feel the urge to help keep these officials in office.

### ACCEPTS COMPLACENCY

Being ultra-conservative in his thinking and action with no threatening upset in race relations on the public horizon, the Tampa Negro has become dominantly complacent when a political question is adroit.

White political aspirants speak frequently of this and some of them have openly expressed a desire for an aroused interest in politics by Negroes. They would like to see Negroes play the role of ward boss and precinct captains in their districts. They would like to see them take an interest in who is running for what office.

### LEADERSHIP LACKING

With no designated leadership within the Negro population, it is very likely that political exploitation will befall the masses.

There was a rumor sometime ago that some of Tampa members of the Progressive Voters League had sold out the Negro vote on a jim-crow deal, but this was denied. Further investigation revealed that there was no deal.

The rumor grew out of the complacency of Tampa Negroes and their virtual acceptance of the jim-crow vote plan suggested by the State Democratic Committee in a Tampa meeting several months ago.

Ministers and legitimate business persons are little concerned with the attempt of underworld figures to wrest leadership controls and become spokesmen for the group. However, this is unlikely because of the individual greed of these persons.

It was indicated this week that the Twentieth Century Club would possibly take the lead in arousing political consciousness among Negroes of this section. The club is composed of a group of energetic young men who have been noted for their civic interest over the past five years.

## Should Negroes Become Democrats

By HARRY T. MOORE

As we go about trying to help organize local units of the Progressive Voters League, this important question often arises: "Should Negroes register as Republicans or Democrats?" This question sometimes precipitates heated arguments, because in practically every community you will find some staunch Republicans and some loyal Democrats.

In our attempt to clarify this question, we should like to ask a few other questions. Are Negro citizens of Florida suffering more from the discriminatory practices of local officials or of national officials who are more directly responsible for the inequalities in educational opportunities, the lynchings, the police brutality, and other injustices suffered by Negroes, our state and county officials or the Administration in Washington? All of these evils can be traced directly to the prejudiced attitude of local officials. Negro teachers are paid less than white teachers with the same qualifications because the county superintendents and school boards have so arranged it. Jesse James Payne was lynched on Oct. 10 because the Madison County Sheriff permitted it. Who controls the election of these state and county officials, the Republicans or the Democrats? Regardless to our party beliefs, we must now face facts. And the fact is that practically every city, county, and state official in Florida is selected in the Democratic Primaries. Every Senator and Congressman from Florida now serving in Washington was selected

in Democratic Primaries. In order to help select these officials, Negroes must vote in Democratic Primaries. In order to vote in Democratic Primaries, Negroes must register as Democrats.

It is because of the great importance of the Democratic Primaries that the NAACP has spent thousands of dollars to get them opened up for Negro voters in the South. We still are waging a determined fight to win for Negro citizens the right to register as Democrats and vote in these primaries, and thus help to select those who are to have direct control over us. The prospects are bright. The Florida Supreme Court has handed down a unanimous decision that Negroes have a right to vote in Democratic Primaries. And Attorney General Tom Watson has ruled that Negroes can register as Democrats.

If we are to reap the full benefit of these opportunities, we must forget our old party affiliations and register to vote in the election that really counts—the Democratic Primary. Then when the General Election comes, we can vote for the candidates of our choice. Let us remember the words of the poet Lowell:

"New occasions teach new duties,  
Time makes ancient good uncouth,  
They must upward still and onward  
Who would keep abreast of Truth."

12/11/45

## An Open Letter To Florida Negro Citizens

Mims, Florida, October 25, 1947

We take this opportunity to remind you of the many important elections that are now facing us. Nearly every time you pick up a newspaper there is a notice of some city election, bond election, or school trustee election. And next spring the all-important state and county primaries will be held.

All of these elections are of vital importance to Florida Negro citizens. Don't be misled by those of our own race who say, "Voting is the white man's business; it doesn't concern us." This country is run by politics from top to bottom. The only way for any group of citizens to secure much consideration is through an intelligent use of the ballot. Practically all of the evils and injustices suffered by Negroes in the South can be traced to the fact that we have not been voting in sufficient numbers to exert much influence in the political field.

Florida Negro citizens now face a bright political future. Our successful fight against the "white primary" has opened up the ballot boxes in most counties and cities of Florida. There are still a few "tough spots," but with a little more initiative on the part of local Negro citizens, these can soon be cleared up. The important question now facing us is this:

How shall we use this opportunity to vote that has been won at a cost of thousands of dollars? Shall we get together and vote for the best interest of our community, or shall we loosely cast our votes for candidates who are not favorable to our cause? Fellow citizens, if we would get the best results from our votes, we must get together. There must be greater political unity among us. We must forget our past petty differences and consolidate our political strength. "Big" Negroes and "little" Negroes must learn to work together for the common good. All cannot be leaders; some must be good followers.

The urgent need among Florida Negro citizens today is political organization. If we are to reap the greatest benefits from our new political opportunities, the masses of our people must be organized under one banner. This must be done from a local level up to a state level.

For more than 30 years the NAACP has led this fight for the unrestricted use of the ballot, and the fight still goes on in those communities that seek to restrict Negro suffrage. Ordinarily, it would seem logical for Negro citizens to organize their political strength under this great organization. But the NAACP is not a political organization. Its constitution forbids the endorsement of candidates by its branches.

Fully realizing the need of state-wide political unity among our people, we organized the Progressive Voters League of Florida back in 1944. The League is now chartered under the laws of Florida. It is our hope that the Progressive Voters League will provide the political unity and the honest political leadership so badly needed at this time. We must now work hard to get local units of the Voters' League organized in the various communities. There is a small annual membership fee of \$1.00 to help finance the activities of the League. Membership cards are issued to members as they pay this annual fee, which is divided equally between the local units and the State League.

Better-thinking Negroes must act now. Do not sit around and wait until some selfish, dishonest Negro has grabbed the political leadership in your community. Take steps now to get a unit of the Progressive Voters League organized in your community. For additional information write Harry T. Moore, executive secretary, Mims, Florida.

Sincerely yours,  
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc.

## National Office To Be Present

Lake Wales—The seventh annual meeting of the Florida State Conference, NAACP, will be held 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, instructor 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, and Attorney Lawson E. Thomas, brilliant Negro lawyer of Miami.

Miss Black is coming to Florida in an effort to help stimulate the fall membership campaign. Although Florida has a large number of 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.

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 needs of local branches, and methods by which branches can go on a more active and a more important NAACP program in their respective communities.

The Lake Wales Branch, under the energetic leadership of Rev. W. L. Black, is making elaborate preparations for this meeting. 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 visitors and friends will come to witness the scenery and to enjoy the interesting programs that will be offered during the meeting. A hearty welcome is extended to all.

# Lake Wales Host to NAACP Conference

# Voters League Asks Candidates To Tell Stand Towards Negroes

MIMS—Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Progressive Voters League, sent out to various candidates a letter asking them to make clear their stand towards the Negro. He said the Voters League was holding a meeting in Orlando last Saturday and he would like to present their claims to the board of directors. His letter follows:

Dear Candidate:

This year for the first time hundreds of Negro citizens will vote in the Democratic Primaries. This is a privilege for which we have fought long and hard, and we hope to use it wisely.

Ever since the thirteen colonies declared their independence from England American Negroes have proven their loyalty to this country. All through the years we have shared its burdens and responsibilities. Our forefathers helped to make the South what it is today. They helped to clear the land and till the soil. In reviewing the Negro's contribution to the development of the South, one writer has well said: "I see him laboring for two centuries and a half in unrequited toil, making the hillsides of our Southland to glow with the snow-white fleece of cotton and the valley to glisten with the golden sheaves of grain."

As we have shared freely our country's burdens and responsibilities, we desire to share just as freely its benefits and blessings. As a group, we ask no special favors. Neither do we cater to any foreign aims. We seek merely the fundamental rights of American citizenship—equality of opportunities, equal protection of the law, justice in the courts, and participation in the affairs of our government.

Early concerned about the lynchings and police brutality that have plagued our state during the past few months. We therefore are interested in anti-lynching legislation and firm action against peace officers who permit lynchings or mistreat prisoners. We are concerned about equal job opportunities for Negroes and, therefore, the ultimate fate of FEPC legislation. We are concerned about equal educational opportunities—equal buildings and equipment, equal bus accommodations, and equal pay for teachers based solely on training and experience.

If you will send us an expression of your views on these fundamental issues, we can more intelligently advise our voters throughout the state. We shall appreciate an early reply, as our Board of Directors will meet in Orlando on April 20th.

## DEAL MADE TO HAVE D. C. JIM CROW

By JAMES L. HICKS  
WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — Broad hints of a deal whereby the United States Employment Service adopted a policy of race segregation in the District of Columbia were made last Thursday by Henry E. Treide, white, whose resignation as chief of programs and methods of the Fourth USES Region becomes effective April 30.

If Treide is to be believed the deal was made with the House Appropriations Committee in 1943 and involved colored persons. The more acceptable version is that if a deal was made, it was between members of the House appropriations subcommittee which handled USES appropriations and USES officials.

## Attorney Thomas To Speak At Youth Meet

One of the main features of the Florida NAACP Youth Conference in Orlando will be an address by Lawson E. Thomas, noted Negro attorney of Miami. Attorney Thomas will be the principal speaker at the closing mass meeting, which will be held at the American Legion Home on Carter and Westmoreland streets Sunday, September 5, at 3:00 P.M.

The Conference will be conducted as a workshop, with discussions centering around the Civil Rights Program. The selection of Attorney Thomas as the principal speaker, therefore, seems to be very appropriate. Inasmuch as Attorney Thomas is one of the leading NAACP lawyers in Florida, he has been in the thick of this struggle for civil rights. Many will recall his activities in teachers' salary cases and his able defense of Aaron Quince in Volusia County last summer. As a result of his brilliant arguments in the Quince case, Judge Jackson quashed the original indictment on the grounds that Negroes had been systematically excluded from jury service. Judge Jackson then ordered the jury box to be emptied and refilled "according to law".

It is expected that a large audience from Orlando and neighboring communities will gather at the American Legion Home on September 5th to hear this brilliant Negro lawyer.

# LACEY

## HAN CLAIMS LE TO WORK BICKERING

The Tampa branch of the NAACP, torn with dissension for many months, held a mass meeting of members Monday night at the Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist church, Rev. J. B. Bryant, pastor, and voted to oust E. Norman Lacey and his cohorts on the executive committee who were claimed to have been the causes of constant bickering.

The meeting, attended by more than 300 members of the Tampa branch, was opened by President M. C. Strachan who gave in a short address the reason for the meeting by relating incidents from January to August which had kept the branch in turmoil and confusion. He charged E. Norman Lacey with being the leader of a small clique which had made up its mind to rule the branch or destroy it. He also claimed that the branch had thus been prevented from serving its rightful purposes.

### Rev. Jackson is Chairman

The body elected Rev. Paul H. Jackson, pastor of New Salem Missionary Baptist church, as chairman, and he pointed out that the branch belongs to the members—not to a few officers who seek to conduct it like it is their private business, and ignore the wishes of the people. "We are the owners," Dr. Jackson declared, as he stated that the pastors and churches had raised the money and made possible the organization. He also claimed that many church leaders had been prevented from attending meetings because they were held on Sunday and urged the body to select another time. The first and third Monday nights were chosen as the regular meeting nights.

### Dr. Davis is Floor Leader

Dr. W. M. Davis, pastor of Beulah Baptist church, took the floor and explained that by the constitution the president of the body had a right to call this special meeting, and therefore this meeting was regular and legal and what we do would be within the law. He served throughout the meeting as sort of floor leader for the forces which sought to straighten out the Tampa branch. He was ably assisted by Rev. J. B. Bryant, pastor of Mt. Moriah. There were many pastors present and all of them were interested in getting the body in working order again and to eliminate the further possibility of dissension and bickering.

### Adams Says Some Is Old

Walter Adams, former NAACP officer, spoke at length on conditions that had prevailed in the branch for several years and claimed that he had asked for help to clean them out, but had been ignored, and the people were unconcerned until the toes of certain people were pinched, then everybody got aroused. He said that his wife, when secretary, had been mistreated by several of the officers who had run wild with the affairs and did just about as they pleased.

### Ouster Resolution is Read

C. Blythe Andrews introduced a resolution and moved for its adoption, citing the conditions in the branch and recommending that all offices be declared vacant and the body proceed to elect new officers and notify the National Office of its action. This resolution passed unanimously.

### New Officers Elected

The body elected the following officers to carry out the term: Rev. M. C. Strachan, president; Rev. Paul H. Jackson, first vice president; E. E. Broughton, second vice president; Mrs. Myra Adams, secretary; Mrs. Edna Nottage, assistant secretary; H. W. Joseph, treasurer; Mathew Gregory, chairman of program committee; Dr. J. C. Hodges, chairman of health committee; C. Blythe Andrews, chairman of legal redress; R. A. Jones, chairman of labor; Mrs. M. F. Gargins, chairman of membership; Mrs. Ida Stevens, chairman of ladies auxiliary; Miss Nealis James, chairman of Youth Council; Rev. J. W. Rhodes, chairman of education.

### Names of Ousted Officers

The officers ousted were: E. Norman Lacey, vice president, whom Dr. Strachan claimed tried to "boss" the branch; Dan Malloy, Gilbert Patterson, Mrs. Addie Hudson, H. Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Tillman, all members of the executive committee.

The president stated that he went to the branch office and sought to get the card file index to mail notices to members of the special meeting.

(Continued on page eight)

## Tampa NAACP Ousts—

(Continued from page one)

but the clerk refused to let him have it, stating that Mr. Lacey had forbidden it. He also stated that this group had withdraw the branch from the State Conference of Branches, and that it had also selected another delegate to the national when the body had already named a delegate, Lacey asserting that the executive committee was superior to the body.

### To Re-enter State Conference

Upon motion of Rev. W. M. Davis, seconded by C. Blythe Andrews, the body voted to re-enter the state conference of branches.



*Florida Open 4/16/48*

# AN OPEN LETTER

Mims, Florida  
April 10, 1948

## Florida Negro Citizens:

Florida Negro citizens are now approaching a momentous date in our political history. On May 4, 1948, thousands of Negro voters will enjoy their first opportunity to vote in a Democratic primary for the election of a governor and other major State officers. On this same date, we shall help to elect many important County officers, as well as our representatives in Congress.

Since Negroes now have the privilege of helping to elect somebody, we shall be approached by numerous politicians seeking our support. Some will offer us money or a few drinks of liquor in an effort to get our votes. Some will come to us with soothing words and vain promises, while others will try to reach us through their Negro henchmen. But we must not be too easily swayed. We cannot afford to sell our votes for a few dollars or a few drinks. We must be concerned about the general welfare of the masses of our people.

For many years Negro citizens have been the unhappy victims of lynching, police brutality, and injustice in the courts. In many instances our school buildings and facilities have been poor, and our teachers have been overloaded and forced to work under discriminatory salary schedules. Some Florida counties still do not provide bus service for their Negro children. Our roads and streets have been neglected, and we have had very few—if any—of the jobs that our tax money helps to maintain.

For example, Negro citizens in some Florida counties have had serious cases of police brutality during the past four years. Volusia County Negroes should remember the case of James Fuller, Pierson Negro, who was shot in the back by a deputy sheriff about two years ago. They also should remember the L. R. Rainge case in New Smyrna, in which rough handling by a deputy sheriff caused a Negro woman to lose her unborn child, and eventually to lose her own life. In each of these cases, the offending deputy was permitted to hold his job. We have had reports of similar cases in Gadsden Lake and other counties. Can Negro voters in any county afford to endorse the re-election of a sheriff who permits his deputies to practice such brutality against defenseless Negro citizens? Can Negro voters afford to support county school officials who have lavished money on white schools but have failed to provide Negro schools with many of the bare necessities?

Fellow citizens, this is our opportunity to help remove some of those evils. Let us consider carefully the records and attitudes of our candidates, and let us help to put in office people who are inclined to give Negroes a fair deal. The Progressive Voters' League is now "sounding out" candidates who are running in State and district races, and later this month we shall release to you certain recommendations relative to these candidates. In the meantime, Negro voters in the various counties should get their heads together and try to decide which county candidates will give us the best consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

## Democratic Committee Opens Florida State Primaries

TAMPA, Fla. — (ANP) — For the first time in Florida's history, Negroes will be allowed to vote in the May primaries following an unprecedented action by the state Democratic committee recently when it omitted the word "white" from the resolution setting up eligibility for the voting.

This action, which comes as result of a ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court giving Negroes the right to vote in Texas Democratic primaries, and the Florida Supreme Court similar ruling, also emphasizes the provision of separate polling places. The resolution reads:

"Whereas, the supreme court of the United States has ruled that Negroes are entitled to participate

in primary elections in the state of Texas; and

"Whereas laws governing primary elections in the state of Florida are similar to those of the state of Texas; and

"Whereas the supreme court of the state of Florida has ruled Negroes are entitled to participate in primary elections in such state

"Now therefore be it resolved that the county commissioner of the several counties of the state of Florida be, and they are hereby requested to provide separate polling places for such Negro citizens who qualify as members of the Democratic party and are entitled to participate in the primary elections to be held in May, 1948

The first primary will be held on May 7 and the second on May 28.

# MASS MEETING SUNDAY AT PINEY GROVE

3/12/48



Harry T. Moore and R. W. Davis

Harry T. Moore, State President of NAACP, and Executive Secretary of the Progressive Voters League will be principal speaker at a mass meeting Sunday afternoon at the Piney Grove Baptist Church.

The mass meeting is sponsored by the local NAACP of which R. W. Davis is president, and is being conducted to spur vote registration among Negroes.

Mr. Davis stated that every Negro in the city should attend this meet and hear the encouraging and informative talks by a select group of Negro leaders headed by Harry T. Moore.

A SENTINEL—South's Forem

## MOORE PRAISES PRES. TRUMAN

3/27/48

President Harry S. Truman  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to you and to other liberal leaders of the Democratic Party for your firm stand on the civil rights program. No other president has spoken out so forcibly against the evils of segregation and discrimination based on race, color, or creed.

Your position on this question is a very practical one. It is quite evident that America cannot effectively teach democracy to other nations unless she is willing to grant the fundamental principles of democracy to all people living within her own borders.

It is disgusting to note the loud protests coming from many of our southern officials. These officials argue that your civil rights program is designed to destroy southern civilization and the sacred institutions of the south. They also claim that some of the legislation recommended in your message to Congress would injure the good relationship between the races in the south and would impede progress now being made toward better racial understanding.

Such arguments will not hold water. If lynching is a southern institution, it certainly needs to be abolished. If police brutality, racial discrimination in employment and artificial restrictions on voting are southern customs, the south has no cause to feel proud of them. Perhaps some of the customs and "cherished traditions" of the south need to be destroyed, so that we can come abreast of other sections of the country in our march toward an ideal democracy.

Florida Negro citizens heartily endorse your civil rights program, and we hope that you will continue to press for the passage of the liberal legislation recommended therein.

Respectfully yours,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary, Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc.

Hon. J. Howard McGrath,  
Chr. Democratic National Com.  
Hon. Joe Hill Williams,  
Chr. Fla. State Democratic Com.

SENTINEL—South's Foremos

## HARRY T. MOORE SPEAKS IN OKEECHOBEE

OKEECHOBEE — Recently at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, the citizens and friends were honored to have with them Mr. Harry T. Moore, executive secretary and representative of the NAACP of the state.

Mr. Moore spoke in behalf of the Negro Voters' League and the great work that is being done by the NAACP throughout the United States. Mr. Moore urged all persons who are not members of the NAACP to pay their membership fee and become members, because we never can tell when someone will have to call upon the NAACP for aid. He also cited several instances in which the NAACP has functioned successfully in the state and elsewhere.

The choir of First Baptist rendered a very nice program for this occasion. Several speakers participated on the program. Among those who spoke very favorably in behalf of the Voters' League and NAACP were: Rev. T. H. Pittman, pastor of St. Paul AME Church; Rev. F. Mayes of the Holiness Church; Rev. Montgomery, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church; Mr. R. E. Allen, principal of Douglas-Brown High School; Mr. W. J. Butler of the Afro Ins. Co., and Mr. R. Cooley, past president of NAACP.

During this meeting the election of new officers took place. Those elected were: Mr. W. J. Butler, pres.; Mr. Walter Berry, vice pres.; Mrs. I. E. Allen, sec.; Mrs. Lettie Butler, asst. sec.; Mrs. Irene Berry, treas.; Mr. R. E. Allen, chr. of membership committee along with Mrs. Pearl Butler and Mrs. Bertha Jackson; Mrs. Bernice S. Henderson, acting reporter.

The president made it known that regular meeting nights will be the third Friday night of each month at Primitive Baptist Church. Several persons paid their membership fee. Total amount collected in this meeting was \$24.05. Bernice S. Henderson, reporter.

Miami Whip 3/2/46

# DISCLOSE TAMPA 'DEAL' WITH FLORIDA DEMOCRATS ON JIMCRO VOTE PLAN

ORLANDO, Fla.—Repercussions of a stormy session held by the Progressive Voters' League here last week included overtures made prior to the Florida Democratic committee meeting in Tampa some weeks ago.

It was reliably reported that President Milton Rooks of the league and Earl E. Broughton of Tampa made a deal with the state Democrats to accept the jimcro vote plan to placate a possible fight against Negro participation in State Democratic primaries.

Confidential information also lies C. Blythe Andrews in on the deal that would sell Negroes down the political ladder.

The deal was partially exposed at the session of the League here last week when efforts were made by a Miami representative to force adoption of a resolution rebuking the jimcro vote plan as unconstitutional.

Acceptors of the jimcro plan attempted to thwart vote on a resolution of condemnation and responsibility for the jimcro deal be-

tween Negroes and whites was leveled at Rooks and Broughton. The session ended with no official action taken.

There is also an undercurrent rumor that the West Palm Beach faction of the league feels this deal was responsible for court action against Negroes' participation in the first city primary election. A West Palm Beach court ruled that Negroes could not participate in the nomination caucus which is actually the first primary.

There was sharp indication that public rebuke against the league's action would influence the West Palm Beach representatives to resign from the league.

Similar placating and pussyfooting with reference to the jimcro vote plan was taken by the Miami Democratic Association upon the occasion of their organization. They hooted down attempts to bring to the floor a vote to offer stiff objection to the plan to have separate voting booths for Negroes and whites.

Symbols of public indignation are adrift throughout the state, but principally in West Palm Beach where some 3,000 Negroes are registered and in Miami where a little over a hundred have qualified to vote, while no other plan is on foot to swing Negro support to the CIO's Political Action Committee, which has taken action against the jimcro vote plan. The probability that ministerial support is forthcoming in the PAC move has caused an uneasy stir within designated circles of Negro Democrat leadership which has been ineffective in fostering mass registration in some circles.

Especially in Miami have Negroes ignored the plea of Democratic Association leaders under the chairmanship of E. A. Ward, to register. Surprise was evidenced over this trend in Miami because of the past interest manifested in voting. However, the ineffectiveness of "new" leadership is charged as being responsible for lack of mass interest.

## NAACP HEAD WRITES COM. STRONG A LETTER

Mims, Florida

December 27, 1947

Hon. Millard F. Caldwell  
Capitol Building  
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Governor:

We have been reading with increased interest recent newspaper articles relative to your libel suit against Collier's Magazine. We note that you claim damages in the amount of \$500,000 because of an editorial in which Collier criticized your activities and statements in connection with the lynching of Jesse James Payne, near Madison, Florida, in 1945. This editorial compared your statements in the Jesse Payne lynching with the stand taken by Gov. R. G. Cherry of North Carolina in commuting the death sentence of Ernest Brooks, Negro youth, who was charged with rape.

We do not know the legal tech-

nicalities involved in this matter, but we do reaffirm the opinion expressed in our communications to you shortly after the Payne lynching. We feel that the question of "mob action", or the absence of it, is not the paramount issue in this case. The established truth is that this Negro was taken from the unguarded jail and shot to death. Apparently, the lynchers were able to accomplish the same result without the help of "mob action". The life of Jesse Payne was taken without the "due process of law" guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution. You have admitted that there was no excuse for the Sheriff's negligence in permitting this lynching, but you have refused to remove him from office. This is our main point of criticism.

In your statement you said: "Although Sheriff Davis has in this case proved his unfitness for the

# Miamians Show Little Interest In Becoming Qualified Voters

MIAMI—(ANP)—A check with Dade County's supervisor of registration disclosed that only 669 Negroes, representing an approximately even number of Republicans and Democrats, registered in the 92 precincts up in Dade County up to Monday night, February 26, just two days prior to the closing of registration in the precincts. Beginning March 1, registration will continue at the county courthouse.

This lag is believed to be caused by the vigorous Republican programing and the present efforts of the Voter's League to stem jimcrow vote plans set up by the Democratic party which has resulted in a general confusion.

The Voter's League, a non-partisan organization, has made grave efforts to stem the tide of political influence so far as the Negro is concerned in the state Democratic party.

Last week a resolution was drawn up by the Voter's League in the form of a protest to the jimcrow plan, calling for court action if necessary to defeat this unconstitutional proposal.

Thousands of Negroes have become politically conscious by virtue of this two-party programing, and are expected to swell the registration books as they open in the courthouse.

Saturday, March 9, 1946.

## Watson Sends Letter To Registrars On Negroes

MIMS.—Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Progressive Voters League, releases a letter from Attorney General J. Tom Watson to all Supervisors of Registration, calling their attention to the law governing the admission of Negroes to the Democratic primary.

The letters are as follows:

Office of The  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
State Of Florida  
Tallahassee  
February 26, 1946

Mr. Harry T. Moore  
Executive Secretary  
Progressive Voters League of Fla.  
Mims, Florida

Dear Moore:

In enclose herewith a copy of letter being sent to all Supervisors of Registration in this State, together with the opinion from this office referred to therein.

Sincerely yours,  
J. TOM WATSON  
Attorney General

Tallahassee, Florida  
February 26, 1946

TO: All Supervisors of Registration of the Counties of Florida.

Certain information has come to me, which may or may not be accurate, but which if accurate, indicates that in some sections to the State, persons in charge of registration books or Supervisors thereof may be engaged in efforts to thwart the registration for the Democratic Primary by Negroes.

It is not my business to protect registration on the part of any voter as a personal or individual right of such voter and in the light of this letter I do not so undertake to do. However, I am sending to every Supervisor of Registration in the State a copy of the attached legal opinion relating to the right of Negroes to register for the coming Democratic Primary.

Sincerely yours,  
J. TOM WATSON  
Attorney General

The NAACP has been quite active in Florida during 1945. The Pensacola and Jacksonville Branches have been successful in their efforts to gain for Negro citizens the right to register and vote in Democratic primaries. The Tampa Branch also won a mandamus suit against the City Registrar; and this Branch is now seeking the prosecution of Tampa election officials who barred Negroes for the City Primary, even after they had been properly registered. Other branches are preparing similar action against those who have denied Negro citizens the right to vote in primaries. The Progressive Voters League of Florida, under the energetic leadership of Earl D. Broughton, and Milton P. Rooks, is lending splendid cooperation in this campaign to gain for Negro citizens the unrestricted use of the ballot.

The Florida State Conference, in cooperation with the various branches, has been busy investigating rape cases and seeking action against lynchings. In January, at the request of the Palm Beach and Pompano Branches, we investigated the conviction of Henry Spraks on a charge of rape. Atty. L. E. Thomas, member of the Conference Legal Committee, reported that the circumstances surrounding this case were of such a nature that further action by the NAACP was not advisable. Later we engaged Atty. Thomas to investigate the conviction of William H. Anderson, Ft. Lauderdale, on a charge

*Sentinel*

*4/2/46*

## AN OPEN LETTER

From The Executive Secretary To  
The Florida NAACP One-Day  
Meeting In Lake Wales

Dear Co-Workers:

Eight months have passed since we submitted our last formal report to the One-Day Emergency Conference in Orlando on Nov. 1, 1946. At that time we had just begun our work as a full-time executive secretary for the Florida State Conference of the NAACP.

Our work in Florida has continued to grow during these eight months. Whereas on Nov. 1 there were 61 branches in Florida, we now have 71 branches in this state. Among the branches recently organized are Apopka, Oakland, Crescent City, Plant City, Crystal River, Lakeland, Sarasota, Greenville (Madison County), and Eatonville. Inverness now has its quota of 50 members, and we hope to complete the organization of the branch there next week. Seeds have been planted in several other communities and it is our hope that these will soon develop favorably.

Our youth work is also taking on new life. The Florida A & M and the Bethune-Cookman College Chapters have been revived, and several new youth councils have been organized. Among these are West Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Titusville, Pompano, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Fruitland Park, and Panama City. Florida now has 18 chartered youth groups, and we hope that others will be organized by the time of our Third Annual Youth Meeting, which will be held in Mims, Aug. 29-31.

We cannot over-emphasize the importance of our youth work. The future success of this great organization will depend in a large measure upon the young people whom we can train now to carry on when we have passed off the stage of action. Every branch should organize a youth council. You need only 25 young people under 25 years of age to get a charter for a youth council or college chapter. We suggest that you appoint a committee now to work on this project.

Again we must pay tribute to our many branch workers over the state who have helped us to realize this increase in the number of senior branches and youth councils. Among these are Mrs. Maggie Hayward, Julia Wooden, Rebecca Lindsey, Bernice Williams, Mary Groom, Goldie Lamb, Misses Annie L. Motley, O. B. Lin, Rev. R. H. Johnson, M. Strachan, A. L. Russell, W. J. Black, Messrs. R. A. Reddick, E. Bass, Edward Brown, J. Maxey Charlow, Neil Humphrey, Harry Burney, T. R. Reid, L. E. Hall, William Burton Lester, V. Baker, and C. Washington.

Perhaps our major effort during the past few months has been the fight against the white primary. Realizing the fundamental importance of this issue we put everything that we had into the fight to maintain free and unfettered elections in Florida. Because of our efforts in this direction the Florida State Conference received an award of honor at the 38th Annual Conference of the NAACP, held recently in Washington, D. C. We also have kept up the fight against lynching, mob violence, and police brutality.

Our main handicap during these eight months has been the lack of regular financial support from many of our branches. It seems that some of our branches did not realize that we have been operating on a full-time basis since Sept. 1, 1946, and they have been slow in sending financial support to the State Conference according to the plan adopted in Panama City last year. Some branches, especially those in the larger cities, seem to find it difficult to collect 50c per member every six weeks for the support of the State Conference. In such cases we suggest that the branches put on some project to raise their quota for the Conference. In the meantime, we must keep reminding our people that \$1.00 per year from each member will not finance all the work of the NAACP. The National Office needs more money, the State Conference must be supported, and the individual branches need money for their local activities. Our people must be led to realize that freedom never descends upon a people. It is always bought with a price.

We wish to thank the Florida Baptist women, led by Mrs. Viola T. Hill, and the Committee at the Florida A & M College, under the leadership of Dr. Gray, for their generous financial contributions to the State Conference. We also are grateful to those branches that have been quick to respond to our urgent appeal of May 21, and we hope the plans can be worked out at this meeting whereby the Conference will receive the necessary financial support at regular intervals.

We also are deeply concerned about the success of our membership drive. Some branches seem to be lagging a bit. Florida cannot afford to fall under its quota of 25,000 members for 1947. Surely 25,000 Florida citizens are willing to endorse the great work of the NAACP by taking out a membership this year. We therefore urge our branches to redouble their efforts to reach, or surpass, their quotas for 1947. Let us not relax now, but let us keep on "driving" until Christmas, if necessary.

It has been our privilege to visit many of the branches during the past few months, and we are very grateful for the many courtesies shown us. The spirit has been good, and it has been a pleasure to work with you. We pray that this spirit of co-operation will continue and that our strength will be blended more and more in this great struggle to secure for our people a fuller enjoyment of their Constitutional rights and privileges.

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary,  
Florida State Conference, NAACP

office, he was, nevertheless, the choice of the people of Madison County". Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that Sheriff Davis was the choice of the white voters of Madison County. According to figures released in 1946 by the Secretary of State, not one Negro was registered to vote in Madison County, although Negroes comprise more than a third of the population of that county.

It is very difficult for us to think of damages in connection with this case without thinking of the irreparable damages suffered by the family of Jesse Payne. Payne left a wife, an infant daughter, and a mother without means of support. Because of "mob action" in July, 1945—when Payne was arrested—these relatives were forced to rush away from Madison County and leave most of their earthly possessions on the farm of D. L. Goodwin, the white man for whom Payne was share-cropping. Payne's share of the tobacco and other crops was left there. These material losses, of course, could be estimated in terms of dollars, but no amount of money could be considered compensation in full for the loss of a son, a husband, and a father. Neither could money pay in full for the grave miscarriage of justice in this case.

However, we feel that a gesture should be made toward correcting the great injustice done in the Payne lynching. At least two things can be done: (1) Sheriff Davis can be suspended from office for his negligence in permitting this loss of life, and (2) the State can appropriate a liberal sum to help support the relatives mentioned above. Favorable action on these two suggestions would help to ease the criticism that has been directed at you, and it would do much to help erase the stain of this lynching from the record of our fair state.

Respectfully yours,  
Harry T. Moore, Executive  
Secretary Florida State Conference, NAACP.

## Development And Activities Of NAACP In Florida During 1945

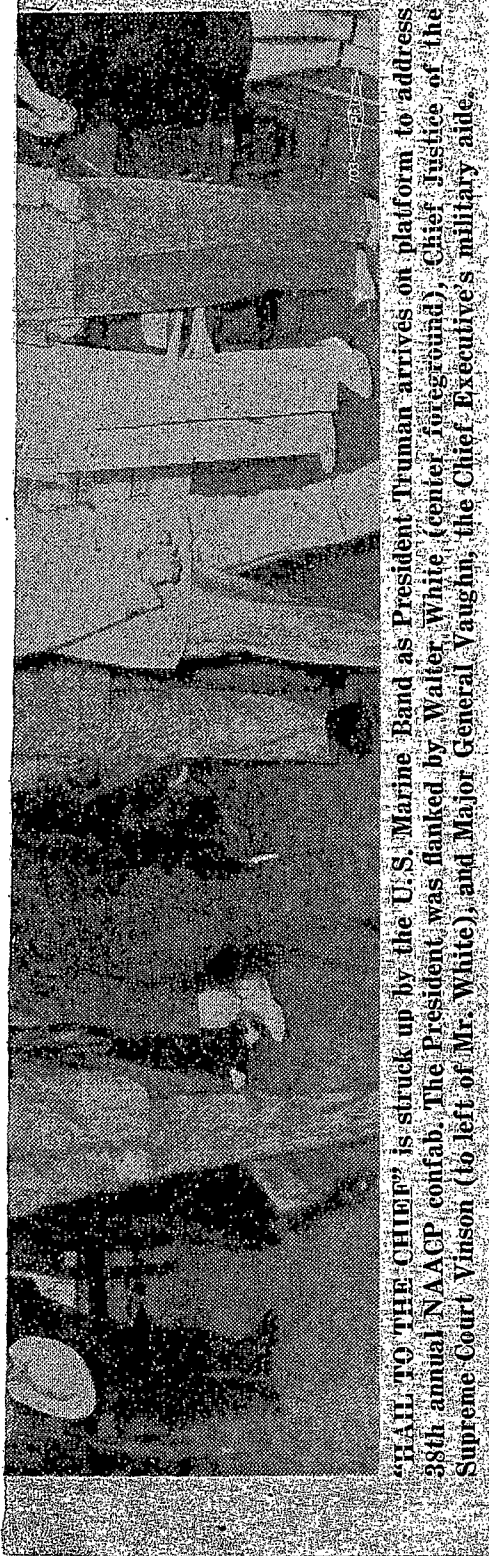
By HARRY T. MOORE, President

The year 1945 witnessed the steady growth of the NAACP in Florida. At the close of 1944 there were about 34 branches in the state. During 1945 this number of branches that existed in Florida in 1941. Among the new branches organized in 1945 are Daytona Beach, Winter Haven, Lee County, Perry, Punta Gorda, Winter Park, Alachua County, Sebring, St. Augustine, Ft. Lauderdale Okeechobee, and Gulf Hammock. This commendable increase is largely the result of the hearty cooperation that we have received from our officers and workers in various sections of the state. Among those deserving honorable mention in this respect are E. L. Bryant, Old Town; Rev. T. C. Cook, Gainesville; Rev. G. C. Clayton, Perry; Rev. J. W. Williams, Ft. Pierce; Rev. W. J. H. Black, Lake Wales; Mrs. Leona Stockton, Orlando; J. Green, Pompano; R. W. Davis, Ft. Lauderdale; and Bert Rizer, St. Augustine. Preliminary efforts have been made to get branches organized in Ormond, Athorne, Crescent City, Lake City, Haines City and other places; and it is our hope that these efforts will soon develop favorably.

It is particularly encouraging to note that the spirit of the N. A. A. C. P. has moved into such places as Perry, Gulf Hammock, Chapley, Dixie County and Suwannee County. We all know that Negro citizens in some of these communities do not enjoy quite as much democracy as we do in other sections of Florida. Negro citizens in Dixie County, for example, were not even permitted to register and vote in the 1944 General Election. Negroes in these more restricted areas deserve special praise for their determination to organize themselves and support the NAACP in its heroic fight for the complete emancipation of the American Negro.

of rape. Atty. Thomas carried this case to the Pardon Board in an effort to have Anderson's death sentence commuted to life imprisonment, but he reports that Anderson's reluctance to furnish certain testimony in his own behalf made it impossible to carry up a strong case. About the same time Atty. S. D. McGill was retained to appeal the conviction and 15-year sentence of Joseph Palmer, St. Augustine, on a charge of attempted rape. This case is still pending. We also made strong appeals to Gov. Caldwell and Attorney General Watson for positive action against those responsible for the lynching of Jesse James Payne in Madison County. We secured affidavits from the relatives of Payne and forwarded them to Tallahassee. We particularly urged the suspension of Sheriff Davis for his apparent carelessness in this matter. The St. Augustine Branch also retained McGill to investigate the murder of George Floyd, who was beaten to death in the jail there on Oct. 20.

There should be a branch of the NAACP in every community of some size in Florida. You need only 50 members to get a chartered branch. Drop us a card; we shall be glad to help you.



**'HAIL TO THE CHIEF' is struck up by the U.S. Marine Band as President Truman arrives on platform to address 38th annual NAACP confab. The President was flanked by Walter White (center foreground), Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Vinson (to left of Mr. White), and Major General Vaughn, the Chief Executive's military aide.**

# Resolutions Adopted By The 38th Conference

## STATEMENT OF POLICY

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reaffirms its adherence to democracy as a system of government and as a means by which to attain the Association's goal—the recognition of full citizenship rights for all people. We believe that this goal can be attained under the Constitution of the United States and within the American democratic system. In our effort to achieve this objective we have carried on a consistent fight against all phases of racial discrimination and compulsory segregation in the civic, economic and political life of the nation. The day to day fight for our goal must be conducted on local, state and national levels. As always, we invite the aid of all likeminded persons and organizations. While welcoming such aid, the Association rejects the attempts of any organized clique, political party or religious group to seize control of the branches or national office for the purpose of undermining the program to which the Association is dedicated. To achieve our goal, we believe our efforts must be concentrated in the following areas of action:

- I. General
- II. Racial and Religious Intensions
- III. Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs
- IV. Political Action
- V. Welfare and Housing
- VI. Labor and Employment
- VII. Colonial Peoples
- VIII. Internal Organization Affairs

### I. GENERAL

District of Columbia: The District of Columbia, as the seat of Government for the United States, should present to the nation and to the world democracy at its best. For this reason, therefore, the 38th Annual Conference of the NAACP urges the Congress of these United States, and the President to take all necessary steps immediately to eliminate segregation in all phases of life in the nation's capital and to extend the franchise to its residents.

Education: Complete equality of American citizens is impossible without equality of educational opportunities. Complete equality of educational opportunities cannot be obtained in a dual system of education. There has been some question raised as to the position

of the NAACP on this question. Therefore we re-emphasize our position as being opposed to all types of segregation, including public education as being unconstitutional, unlawful and immoral and call upon the National Office and all of our branches to take all steps to remove all semblances of segregation in public education in Southern states while at the same time opposing all subtle attempts to establish segregation in public facilities in the North.

Civil Rights: Civil Rights of Negro Americans have never been protected by either state or federal government. The President of the United States and the Attorney General have recognized that our present federal civil rights statutes are wholly inadequate. The President has appointed a committee to recommend adequate civil rights legislation. We therefore, call upon Congress and the majority party to pass legislation adequate to protect the civil rights of our Negro Americans throughout our country. At the same time we insist that the United States Department of Justice enforce with vigor all the provisions of the existing federal cr-

vil rights statutes and call upon the Attorney General of the United States to take the necessary steps leading to the removal from the office of all U. S. attorneys and other officials of his department who fail to enforce vigorously these statutes.

We condemn the indiscriminate persecution and condemnation of sincere liberals and their organizations fighting for democratic principles by the so-called House Un-American Affairs Committee. This Committee has consistently failed to investigate undemocratic organizations. The abuse of Congressional investigatory power by the committee, including its failure to provide a hearing for persons and organizations which are the subject of its reports, is undemocratic. We call for the abolition of the Committee.

Anti-Lynching Bill: Lynching is a Fascist instrument designed to subjugate the Negro people. We call upon the members of Congress to pass the Anti-Lynching Bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Wagner and Morse and in the House by Representatives Case and Douglas.

(Continued on page 3)