

**A SPECIAL APPEAL TO
RELIGIOUS, FRATERNAL
AND CIVIC LEADERS
OF FLORIDA**

We have been working earnestly during the past few months, trying to help spread the spirit of the NAACP over the state of Florida. One year ago there were 61 branches of the NAACP in our state. Today Florida has 78 branches of this great organization scattered from Key West to Pensacola. Our success in this work has been due largely to the splendid co-operation that some of you have given, and for this we wish to express our deep appreciation.

Whenever we go into a community in an effort to arouse interest in the NAACP, we always seek your support. We usually go to the ministers first, because they are the recognized leaders of our people, and we feel that their blessing should be on any movement that tends to advance the

cause of colored people. We hold most of our meetings in churches, because we fully realize that the NAACP is rendering a Christian service to our people.

Two thousand years ago Christ went from place to place on this earth, relieving human suffering and teaching a doctrine of love and fair play. Today the NAACP is doing a similar work. Just think of the many helpless, innocent Negroes whose lives have been saved by the legal machinery of the NAACP. Just think how many innocent Negroes have been saved from long prison terms through our fight to secure justice in the courts. Do you remember the four Pompano boys who were saved from the electric chair a few years ago? Do you remember Simon Peter Taylor of Tampa? Do you remember how the Orlando Branch saved the lives of a Negro couple who had to kill a white man in self-defense back in 1943? Do you remember the Columbia, Tennessee, cases? And just three weeks ago the War Department reported that efforts of the NAACP Legal Staff had saved another condemned Negro soldier from being hanged.

Thus for 38 years the NAACP has preached a gospel of justice and equal opportunities for all mankind, without regard to race, creed, or color. This is just a practical application of the Golden Rule proclaimed by Christ: "As ye would that man should do to you, do ye even so to them."

This year the NAACP is trying to register a million members to help support its noble work. Florida's goal for 1947 is 25,000 members. Therefore, we have to get nearly 19,000 members by December 31 in order to reach our

quota for this year. We earnestly solicit your support in our fall membership drive. Please urge the members of your organization to join the NAACP.

We wish to designate November as a special "NAACP Month" in Florida. We ask every minister to take a little time at each service during November to tell his congregation about the good work of the NAACP. We also ask each pastor to appoint a worker in his church to collect NAACP memberships during November. These may be turned over to the local branches. (If there is not a branch in your community, please send your memberships to the executive secretary in Mims). We ask the heads of our religious, fraternal and civic organizations to send special messages to your subordinate units, urging their support of the NAACP membership drive. If you will give us space on programs during your conferences, associations, conventions, etc., we shall be glad to the people.

It is so easy to become a member of the NAACP. You may join for the small fee of \$1.00. However, many people are so anxious to help carry the work on that they take out memberships for \$2.00, \$2.50, \$5.00, \$10.00, \$25.00, and even \$500.00. It might be interesting to note that Dr. D. V. Jemison, president of the National Baptist Convention, recently took out a \$500.00 Life Membership in the NAACP. Young people under 21 years of age take out Youth Memberships for 50c per year. There is a type of membership to fit everybody's pocketbook.

We cannot afford to let Florida fall behind other southern states in this effort. Therefore, let us sacrifice a little time and energy. Let us put our combined strength behind this drive to secure Florida's quota for the support of the organization that is fighting so hard to secure a fuller measure of justice for our race.

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Recent Work Of The NAACP In Florida

Dear Co-Workers:

As we enter the New Year, we pause to express our deep gratitude to the NAACP branches and to the various business and fraternal organizations that have already responded helped us to launch a full-time program in Florida. Among the organizations that have already responded to appeals sent out by the Conference Budget Committee are (1) Central Life Insurance Company \$500.00, (2) Florida State Teachers' Association \$250.00, (3) Lily White Benefit Association \$100.00, (4) Tampa Blks \$50.00 (5) Afro-American Life Insurance Company \$20.00 (6) Cocoa Blks \$10.00 (7) Good Neighbors, Inc. \$5.00 (8) Davis Service Station \$5.00. We also are grateful for the National Office for sending Mr. Rufus W. Smith, one of Florida's native sons, to help work with our branches during the months of November and December. Mr. Smith did much to help of the state.

Our work is growing steadily. The end of 1946 found us with 63 branches in Florida. Among our new branches are Greensboro (Gadsden County), Jackson County, and Crescent City. Plant City and Apopka have reached their quotas for organization. Lakeland and Oakland are near their goals, and Hastings, Sarasota, Apalachicola, and other places are working toward branches. Interest in our youth work also is gradually increasing. Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach have recently organized youth councils. Students at Florida A. & M. College plan to revive their college chapter, and Orlando, Ft. Myers, Tallahassee, Melbourne, and other places are working on councils. We urge all of our branches to give special attention to this phase of the work during the early months of the New Year. Florida should have 25 or 30 youth councils and college chapters by the time of our next state youth meeting in August.

The New Year finds us still fighting the forces of injustice that seem to beset our people on every hand. In our last communication we mentioned the case of police brutality in New Smyrna, where rough handling by a deputy sheriff caused a Negro woman to have a miscarriage and lose her baby. We are pressing for action on this matter in Federal Court. Other cases of police brutality have since been uncovered in Hialeah, City Lake Wales, Apopka, and other places. Unfortunately, there are many peace officers who seem to think that their most sacred duty is to beat and intimidate Negro citizens. This is a situation that demands our best attention.

During the past few weeks W. B. Callaway and Mark O'Quinn, Florida NAACP attorneys, have been busy with the Andrew Lewis Case in Polk County. Lewis was first booked on a charge of "intended rape", but later the charge was changed to "breaking and entering". Evidently nobody saw the face of the person whose hand was pushed through the window screen of the white girl's room. Yet officers broke down the door of the Lewis home and beat Lewis so severely that they found it necessary to carry him to the County Hospital that night. Later they continued to beat Lewis in the Bartow Jail in an effort to make him confess. Through all of this Lewis has declared his innocence. In this case our attorneys also are attacking the systematic exclusion of Negroes from jury service.

Again we must remind you of the urgent need of building up a strong State Conference Legal Fund. All of these cases deserve our attention. The Lewis Case alone is costing \$100.00 for action in the Polk County Circuit Court, and the cost will be greater if an appeal becomes necessary. We solicit the financial assistance of all Florida branches in our efforts to push these cases through. Make check or money order for your contribution to K. S. Johnson, Sanford. Mail the order to the executive secretary at Mims. Remember that freedom is always bought with a price. Let us therefore combine our forces and make a more determined effort to secure for ourselves a fuller enjoyment of our Constitutional rights.

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

Jan 1947

A Special Appeal To The Religious, Civic And Fraternal Leaders Of The State Of Florida

DEAR CO-WORKERS:

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Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore, executive secretary
Florida State Conference, NAACP.

and she was still so weak that she could barely stand alone.

This case is a direct challenge to every Negro and to every liberal-minded white citizens in Florida. The same thing could happen to my wife, or to your wife, sister, or other relatives. So long as such acts of police brutality are permitted to go unchallenged, all of us are in grave danger.

Atty. Callaway has recommended the following legal procedure for this case: (1) A civil suit for damages against the sheriff's office. (2) Criminal action in Federal Court against the offending deputy.

other parts of the South. Let us now give just as freely to help fight police brutality right here in our own state. Please raise a liberal contribution and forward it to the State Conference at the earliest possible date. Make checks, or orders, to K. S. Johnson, Sanford. Mail them to the executive secretary at Mims.

MOORE CALLS 1946 ATTENTION TO POLICE BRUTALITY IN FLA.

By H. T. MOORE

In our report to the NAACP One-Day Emergency Conference in Orlando last month we called your attention to the serious problem of police brutality that now faces Florida Negro citizens. It was the common opinion of the delegates present that positive action must be taken to help curb this evil.

On Nov. 19 a very serious case of police brutality in New Smyrna Beach was brought to our attention. We immediately requested Atty. E. E. Callaway, liberal white lawyer of Lakeland, to go up and make an investigation. Atty. Callaway spent two days in Volusia County, talking with the sheriff and other officers, with the doctors who treated the injured person, and with other witnesses. We quote below excerpts from Atty. Callaway's report:

"About 11:30 A. M. on Saturday, Nov. 16 of this year, a Negro by the name of L. R. Rainge, who had come in off his run as a fireman for the Florida East Coast Railroad, was in his home with his wife and children and two other Negroes at New Smyrna in Volusia County, when two deputy sheriffs entered his home where Rainge and his family were sitting at the dining table and said: 'You all are under arrest. Rainge asked: 'What have we done? We are in our home bothering no one. Do you have a warrant for us?' Deputy Galbreath answered: 'We don't have to have a warrant to arrest a black S . . . of B . . . like you—you'll find out later what we want you for.' When Rainge's wife began to protest, Galbreath grabbed her and pushed her back over a chair. In the fall she struck a piece of furniture, injuring her so badly that she had a miscarriage that night and lost her baby."

Dr. Jones, the white doctor who first treated Mrs. Rainge, told Atty. Callaway that he found Mrs. Rainge "in serious condition, very excited and crying, and bleeding profusely." That Sunday Dr. Bartley, Negro physician, was called, and Mrs. Rainge was taken to the Negro hospital in Daytona, where blood transfusions had to be administered.

Nov. 29,

Moore Seeks Support Of Republican Leaders

Mims, Florida
June 14, 1947

Republican Leaders
United States Congress
Washington, D. C.
Dear Sirs:

American Negroes are anxiously waiting to see what steps this Congress will take to protect us from the wave of lynchings, mob violence, and police brutality that seems to be sweeping the South.

Perhaps you understand the situation as well as we do. Members of our race are being lynched and mobbed with alarming regularity. Many police officers show no respect for us as human beings. Some seem to think it is their sacred duty to beat up, torture, or kill their helpless Negro prisoners. We live in an atmosphere of fear. We have very little confidence in the law, as represented by local officers. Too often we find them cooperating with the mobs. And when we seek protection from the Department of Justice, we are told that the Federal Government has no jurisdiction under present laws.

For years Southern Congressmen—some from the North, too—have been howling about "states rights". Whenever an anti-lynching bill is introduced, they brand it as a dangerous encroachment of the sacred rights reserved for the states. But which is more sacred, "states rights", or the lives of black citizens? For years these "states rights" statesmen have argued that the individual states can solve the problem of lynching and mob violence. Recent events tend to prove that the states have been miserable failures in their efforts to reach the root of this great evil.

Our only hope is a strong Federal law against lynching and mob violence. We therefore urge you to work earnestly for the passage of the Wagner-Morse-Case Bill. But we suggest that you first have the rules of the Senate changed so that cloture can be invoked by a majority vote. Past experiences have proven that this is the only way that a strong anti-lynching bill can pass the Senate.

Members in Florida

Since the days of slavery thousands of Negro voters have been Republicans by tradition. And today 13 million colored Americans are looking to this Republican Congress for the passage of legislation that will give us the full protection of the Federal Government against mob rule. The stand that you take on this issue now will determine, in a large measure, how Negro citizens will vote in 1948. We are depending on you. Will you fail us?

Respectfully yours,

HARRY T. MOORE, Executive
Secretary, Florida State Conference, NAACP, Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

State NAACP Head Urges 25,000

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1947

THE PITTSBURGH COURIER

URDAY, FEBRUARY 2 1946

State NAACP Forwards Second Appeal To Florida Delegation In Congress

Orlando Times

Organization Seeks Liberal Legislation

MIMS, Fla.—Again urging the support of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress in Washington, the Florida State Conference of the National Association For Advancement of Colored People through its president, Harry T. Moore, Mims, Fla., forwarded a second letter to the delegation last week.

The previous letter which was mailed on June 20, 1945, had urged the support of bills to create a permanent FEPC and other legislation urgently needed to safeguard the economic gains made by all minority groups during the war.

The NAACP through its president pointed out to the legislators that there was a growing tendency of certain Senators to team up on constructive and liberal legislation in an effort to defeat the will of the majority.

The Letter

Mims, Florida,
January 21, 1946

Florida Delegation,
United States Congress,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

On June 20, 1945, we mailed each of you a letter, in which we urged, among other things your support of bills to create a permanent FEPC.

It is our belief that this legislation is urgently needed to safeguard the economic gains made by minority groups during the war. We feel that there should be no special jobs for Negroes, or special jobs for whites. American citizens of all races, creeds, and colors sacrificed to help win this gigantic struggle for democracy abroad. It is only natural, therefore, that Negroes, and other minority groups, should expect to enjoy a fuller measure of democracy here at home. And the right of fair employment, without regard to color or creed, is a fundamental principle of any true democracy.

9/25/49
A SENTINEL—South's Forem

NEW BRANCH OF NAACP ORGANIZED

PERRINE—A representative group of civic-minded citizens gathered at the First Baptist Church in Perrine on June 8 to organize a new branch of the NAACP.

The key man in working up the new branch was Rev. W. C. Edgar, local pastor, who presented the idea to the people and secured a committee to solicit memberships. Much credit also goes to Don L. Williams and Carey Russell, who reported approximately 60 memberships.

Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Florida State Conference, spoke briefly about the noble work of the NAACP and urged the people to give the organization their full support. He also presided as the following officers were elected: Don L. Williams, president; Arthur Stony, vice president; Mrs. Alma Taylor, secretary; Carey Russell, treasurer; William Mathis, chairman of membership committee.

During his stay in this section the executive secretary also made contacts with leaders in Goulds, Homestead, and Hialeah in an effort to get new branches established in these communities. Florida already has more than 80 branches of this great organization, with approximately 10,000 members.

We note that certain Senators are teaming up to filibuster the FEPC bill that is now before the Senate. We hold that the filibuster is an undemocratic practice, in that it enables a small minority to defeat the will of the majority. We urge, therefore, that those of you who are members of the Senate will do everything possible to help break this filibuster, so that the bill may come up for a vote.

Negro voters of Florida, and the nation, anxiously await favorable action on this progressive legislation.

Respectfully yours,
HARRY T. MOORE, President
Florida State Conference, NAACP

STATE NAACP ADOPTS PURPOSEFUL PROGRAM

I.—Florida's 78 branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People heartily endorse the policy of our National Office in its determined stand against all types of segregation based on race, color, or creed and against all forms of discrimination directed against minority groups in our country. We renew our pledge to continue the fight for equality of opportunities for all American citizens and for all the rights of citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution.

II.—We endorse the recent report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, and we suggest that NAACP branches, churches, schools, civic and fraternal organizations get copies of this report and help to disseminate this important information to the public. We are grateful to President Truman for taking this forward step, and we commend the members of the Committee for their splendid work. We urge the Florida delegation in Congress to work earnestly for the passage of the liberal legislation recommended in this report, and we ask our Governor and other state and county officials to make fuller use of their powers to protect the civil rights of Negroes and other minority groups in Florida.

III.—We do not favor the proposed plan to establish regional universities for Negroes in the South. We feel that this plan will not satisfy the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of *Gaines vs. University of Missouri*, which clearly indicates that each state should provide within its own borders equal educational opportunities for its citizens. We oppose any attempt to circumvent the *Gaines* Decision, and we ask that present facilities in the state for graduate and professional study be made available now for Florida Negro citizens.

IV.—We deplore the crowded conditions that necessitate double sessions in many public schools for Negroes, and we urge that our state and county officials immediately take the steps necessary to relieve these conditions. We also are reminded that some Florida counties still do not provide bus service for their Negro students, and we ask that said counties take immediate steps to remedy this

ties. We therefore ask our state, county, and city authorities to take vigorous action in cases of intimidation or violence against citizens by the Ku Klux Klan and other Fascist groups.

VIII.—We have heard many unpleasant remarks about the disgusting "slavery-time" signs put up by the Lewis Plantation near Brooksville. We feel that such signs are entirely out of place in this enlightened age, and that they are an insult to the better-thinking citizens of Florida, both white and colored. We ask that steps be taken by the proper authorities to have these signs removed from our highways.

IX.—We believe that racial segregation is one of the greatest enemies to progress in the South today. Negroes suffer more from the evils of segregation than any other group, and we should be the last ones to encourage it. Much criticism has been directed against officials of our State College for Negroes for putting up jim-crow signs at football games and for reserving seats for white at other college activities. We feel that this is a serious mistake, and we ask the College officials to make necessary corrections in policy.

X.—Great political opportunities are now facing us. As a result of legal action by the NAACP over a period of 20 years, Florida Negro citizens now enjoy the right to vote in Democratic primaries, as well as in general elections. We must make the best use of this opportunity. Every branch should put on a campaign for registration of voters, and special committees should be appointed to teach and guide our people in the process of registering and voting.

XI.—Through the efforts of the NAACP, Negroes all over Florida are now enjoying greater opportunities and fuller citizenship rights. Therefore, Florida Negroes of all classes and ages should become active members of

this great organization. We particularly seek the support of all ministers, teachers, and other leaders of our group. It is encouraging to note the splendid support that we are receiving from white people, and we urge all who believe in the true principles of democracy.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL AWARDED MEMBERS OF 24TH INFANTRY

With the Eighth Army in Gifu, Japan—Sixteen officers and enlisted men of the 24th Infantry Regiment were recently presented the Bronze Star Medal. The decorations were presented during a Regimental review held on the parade ground at Camp Gifu, Japan.

Colonel Michael E. Halloran, Oconto, Wisconsin, commanding officer, 24th Infantry Regiment, presented the medals "for exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy" during World War II.

V.—Although our Federal courts have ruled repeatedly that the use of discriminatory salary schedules for white and Negro teachers with the same qualifications is unconstitutional, many Florida counties still use this undemocratic system. This situation is causing us much concern, and we hereby urge all Florida counties to make training and experience the sole basis for determining the pay of teachers.

VI.—We recognize the need of increased library facilities for our people, and we ask that all libraries supported by public funds be made available for Negro citizens.

VII.—The existence of

7/29/48

Florida Sentinel

A PAPER FOR THINKING NEGROES

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President and Editor

MRS. JOHNA BELLE ANDREWS

Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

MRS. MARY BALLARD

Business Manager

W. H. TURNER, Sr.

Mechanical Supt.

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NEGROES NEED TO USE POLITICS FOR CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

Now that the Negro people have been given the ballot, long overdue, there should be some plans constantly in the oven cooking for the purpose of teaching our people how to use the ballot for civic improvements.

It is natural that we should have quacks who would seek to use us for selfish purposes, and some who would be tools of machines for petty pay.

It is also understandable that we should have white persons, masquerading as friends, who would use us for their ignoble ends, and who would try to "boss" us as so many robots, or vote us as so many cattle. It has been ever thus, and probably will remain until the end of time.

But we must not be so used—neither by selfish Negroes, nor scheming whites, nor by debased interests which seek merely personal aggrandizement.

We have been kept from the political trough for so many generations. We have been forced into hovels, into unpaved streets, into unsanitary districts, into lightless and parkless sections. We can improve our sections and lift up our people by proper use of the ballot.

What the black man needs to learn, and learn quickly, is how to use the ballot, and use it wisely. We act now in many cases like thoughtless people, like leaderless people, like people in dire need of political education. We have too many "lead-mules" who want to run the show and be the only pebbles on the beach, and not enough who wish to be part of a team.

We have too many folks who seek MONEY for their services—not enough who would plan a long-range program for civic improvements.

Our teachers in most counties need better pay. Our schools need many improvements, and in many cases new buildings. Our streets need pavement, and almost everywhere we need parks and playgrounds. We need beaches for recreation, and political jobs for our prepared people.

To get some of these things, we must vote for men and measures, for the best interests of the Negro people and not for the picked candidates of some gambling syndicate, or the suggested candidates of some selfish interests.

We believe firmly that the Negro people, for the next few years, must concentrate entirely on candidates who are willing to give them a reasonable and just share of public funds for civic improvements, and some jobs which go with political victories.

We should begin now an educational program that has for its purpose the training of our people in the proper use of the ballot. Our people should be "wised up" about the evil influences which lurk in our districts seeking to control us for their own selfish ends. We should be taught how to evaluate candidates and study their backgrounds. Above all, we should be constantly reminded that we could be forced back into political slavery if we are not intelligent enough to act as people, rather than as so many cattle who can be bought for a drink of whiskey, or a free ride to the polls, or a few paltry dollars.

CITIZENS ELECT C. BLYTHE ANDREWS POLITICAL LEADER

C. Blythe Andrews, editor and fraternal leader, was unanimously elected city-wide chairman of the Progressive Voters League Monday night at a largely attended and enthusiastic rally held at Bethiah Baptist Church.

What was expected to be a stormy session turned out to be a love feast. A challenge had been handed two weeks before at St. Paul Church at the ministers and they were castigated because they sought to say something about who would lead the Negroes in politics. The St. Paul session was stormy and disorderly, though the ministers said they did not want to lead politics, but simply wanted to help select a capable layman, and prevent another reaction on the race like the recent Grand case which made the whole race look bad.

The preachers accepted the challenge and the battle was slated to have been joined Monday night in a conflict to determine whether the man drafted by the ministers to serve as political leader or the opposition candidate should be the choice of the people.

The ministers brought their folks to let the Negroes know

who in the Negro race still has the faith; and who still can carry the flag. The opposition, probably sensing defeat, withdrew from the conflict because they would have been overwhelmed 100 to one.

Rev. R. D. Dawson, president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, presided, with devotions being conducted by Rev. W. M. Scott, and the scripture read by Rev. W. H. A. Dixon.

Musical numbers were rendered by the groups of Bethiah, Mt. Zion, New Salem and St. Matthews. Practically all of the pastors and presiding elders in Tampa sat somewhere in the church.

Rev. Dawson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to elect a political leader for Tampa Negroes—man the people would not be ashamed to represent them anyway—and one who could be depended on to do his best. He said no minister would be allowed, but every person would be given a reasonable chance to state his position.

JONES MAKES SPEECH
When he called for nominations for the office of city-wide chairman of the Progressive Voters League Eugene Jones, head of

the railroad brotherhood labor organization, got the floor and in a short but stirring speech played the name of C. Blythe Andrews in nomination. Dr. R. H. White, pastor of Mt. Zion, seconded the nomination. Dr. Dawson waited for other nominations but none came, and he asked all who favored the election of Andrews to stand. Practically everybody in the crowded church stood when he called for those who opposed to stand, there was none.

THINGS TO BE DONE
Dr. Dawson then called Andrews to the chair and amidst applause he went to the rostrum and spoke briefly, expressing thanks for the great honor and soliciting cooperation to the end that the job might be well done. He urged all Negroes to close ranks.

"There are some," Andrews said, "who think we are going home and sit down. They don't think we are going to do a job. They don't think we are going to stick together and see things through. Let's feel something together. Let's feel something together. Let's feel something together."

Turning to the community needs Andrews said Negroes must work for civil improvements, for parks and playgrounds, for a swimming pool for Negroes to be dignified, electricians and contractors for paved streets.

"The day is over," Andrews went on, "when individuals must seek selfish honors, or personal glory. We must work through the organization, and not a few shining dowrymen, trying to get something for themselves."

MUST STICK TOGETHER
"We must remember that we are all black and as black people we must work together because we are in the same boat and will sink or swim together."

He was often interrupted with applause, but the loudest ovation came when he declared that we must work for some jobs for our prepared people.

"We ought to have some sanitary inspectors and some water meter inspectors," he shouted and some day it will be a common thing for prepared black suits to sit behind the desks and use the best typewriters, sending the best service. Our white friends will have no objection in that new day if we are able to

PAGE THIRTEEN

OF TAMPA

do a good job, provided we had elected them."

Dr. Dawson said that if Mr. Andrews didn't do right or render efficient service, they would come again and put him out and elect somebody else. He said the ministers drafted him because they had confidence in him but he must do his job, be fair and faithful, or else look out. The house laughed heartily at the young president's admonition.

The investigation committee, consisting of C. Blythe Andrews, Rev. M. C. Strachan and D. H. Broughton, made its report on the candidates for county trustee. The report was read by Dr. Strachan and recommended that Negroes support Dr. Karl Eychaner, Dr. J. A. Coleman and Julian Lane for trustees. Upon motion of Rev. W. M. Davis and seconded by many the report was adopted.

Rev. Davis moved that the investigation committee remain in fact and continue its work. This motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

Rev. Davis moved that the meeting adjourn subject to the call of the chairman. It was carried with benediction by Rev. Scott.

5/20/49

Local Branch NAACP Goes To Friendship Baptist Church, Sunday, May 29th

Chairmen Of Various Membership Committees To Make Final Report

The fifth of a series of mass meetings being sponsored by the West Palm Beach Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in interest of the annual Membership Drive will take place Sunday, May 29, 3:00 o'clock p. m. at Friendship Baptist Church, third Street and Division Avenue, Rev. William Hall, Jr., pastor. Despite all efforts put forth by the program committee during the four previous meetings, this one points to be the most successful in membership results, because of the splendid cooperation the organization is receiving by leading figures, men and women, racially interested in the program.

Featured on the program will be musical numbers by the Sons of King Solomon, one of Florida's foremost spiritual singers and the Rising Star Gospel Singers, an "all male" ensemble of Boynton Beach. Included will be Choir Number Two of Friendship Baptist Church. Aside from these able singers the public will be favored with echoes from the various Chairmen now active in the Membership Drive.

Other musical numbers will be rendered by The Pleasant City Gospel Singers and the Golden Echo Ensemble. With all these outstanding local singing aggregations, the program committee feels that their patrons and the public in general will enjoy one of the biggest afternoons ever witnessed here.

These persons who made up the special membership Drive Committees consented to serve after a special racial conference with Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of Florida State Conference, NAACP. Mr. Moore is an outstanding character in the life of the Negro Peoples, especially those in the State of Florida. He was made an honorary member of the Vanguard Club, Inc., several months ago, because of his stalwart meritorious service in racial interest and welfare of the Negro.

The Committees expected to report Sunday, May 29, are as follows: Mr. George P. Coleman, assigned to the churches; Prof. W. B. Stewart and Mr. L. B. Kinsey on Schools; Mr. Leroy Alexander, militant leader, president of the Vanguard Club, Inc., on clubs and fraternal organizations. He will be assisted by Mr. Ollis James and Mrs. Melba J. Cambric-James, Chair lady of business places committee. Each of the chairmen has been augmented with other assistants, and it is expected that results from their efforts will be the most fruitful ever rendered the NAACP in this community.

The annual membership fee is \$2.00 and each person not already connected

2/14/48
Florida Sentinel

A PAPER FOR THINKING NEGROES

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A GRIFFIN DAY FOR FLORIDA

Prof. M. P. Rooks, state president of the
Florida Progressive Voters League, has sug-
gested a NOAH GRIFFIN DAY for Florida.

Mr. Griffin, as most of us know, was
born in Florida, educated at Fisk, and made
a substantial contribution to the educational
and civic progress of our state.

His most notable contribution was the
ceaseless and successful fight he waged so
many bitter years for the equalization of sal-
aries for Negro teachers. He lived a sacrific-
ial life to see this job well done.

It would be an act of appreciation to
bring Mr. Griffin, now located in San Fran-
cisco as regional secretary of the NAACP, to
Florida, defray all of his expenses and demon-
strate our love for a man who gave so much
at his own expense for the elevation of our
state.

We would add that this statewide dem-
onstration should be held at a time when the
Progressive Voters League is in the midst of
its political work for the advancement and
development of our race.

THE KLAN MONSTER RISES AGAIN

The Klan showed its tentacles the other
night in Georgia. It burned a cross in front
of the home of a white coach who was out of
town. His wife, about to have a baby, kicked
the cross down.

The Klan threatened to tar and feather
the coach if he did not leave town. The coach
said he was going nowhere, and is still there.

All of this because the coach had knocked
down a bully who sought to meddle in af-
fairs of the coach and his team.

It has long been demonstrated that the
Klan, working by night and under hoods, is
not composed of really brave men. It is also
well known that it set out to browbeat and
bulldoze the Negro, the Jew and Catholic, but
ended up running roughshod over anybody
that did not measure up to the moral, political
or social requirements of its members and
friends.

and will work out the plan and tell us what
it is.

Florida must not let the NAACP program
die. It is too vital to our civil liberties and
to our legal progress. By all means we must
hold it high and keep it alive.

Most good citizens would be glad to give
\$1 a year just to support the executive secre-
tary. This is a small fee for the protection
we get from his alert and understanding
service.

The Klan is a good racket for its organi-
zers and officers. The suckers should stop
feeding these parasites and let them find jobs
and go to work.

WE MUST SUPPORT THE NAACP NOW

The NAACP undertook two years ago to
support a state Executive Secretary. It se-
lected Harry T. Moore, the tireless and cour-
ageous leader of Mims, to do the job. He
accepted the work at a personal sacrifice be-
cause his heart is in it, and he has done an
outstanding job.

But the contributions to his meagre salary
are slow and piece-meal. Enough is not reach-
ing the state treasury to pay him.

This is a shame on the people of Florida.
But they can hardly be blamed because they
have not been told about it, nor kept posted
as to what is needed to keep the movement
alive. Mr. Moore himself could not be ex-
pected to press his salary claims to the various
branches, or in his public reports. That is the
duty of the State President and executive
board. In this respect they have been dere-
lict in the performance of their duty and we
urge them to immediate action.

There are enough good citizens of Florida
to raise within ten days a fund of \$5,000 to
support the office of Executive Secretary of
the NAACP. We would be glad to do it be-
cause we know the fine service Mr. Moore
is rendering to our people. All we need is
leadership which has its heart in the program

Fl. GOP Heads Weeping Over Desertion Of Party By Negroes

By HAROLD PREECE
NEW SOUTH FEATURES

MIAMI.—On the 137th anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, Miami's Negro Republican leaders were making frantic efforts to hold Florida's newly enfranchised Negroes, registering by the thousands for the Democratic primaries, within the fold of the GOP which has since abandoned everything of Lincoln but his name.

The sheep found a pasture with greener grass and they're leaping toward it, one Negro Republican told me sadly. "There's nothing we can do but cuss since the Florida Democratic Executive Committee said that Negroes could vote in the primaries even if they laid down a rule about Jim Crow booths. And cussing won't change a single mark on a registration slip."

Slated for eclipse in the new day which is dawning for Florida, Negroes are many of the state's conservative Negro leadership who went along with the Republican Party because it meant a few minor jobs during GOP national administrations and a few delegate's badges at the party's nominating conventions. Fighting to keep a toehold in the state's political life was Publisher Sam B. Solomon of the Miami Whip, whose violent attack on Negro Democratic leaders like Publisher C. Blythe Andrews of the Florida Sentinel are now equalled only by his attacks on organized labor and his praise of open-shop industrialists like Andrew J. Higgins of New Orleans.

In a desperate effort to hold enough Negroes to constitute a base for further patronage and favors if and when the Republican Party returns to power, leaders of the Negro Republican Club are circulating 45,000 copies of a pamphlet supposedly to give information about registration and the primaries—but meant actual-

ly as a last minute effort to hold Negroes to the party which honors Lincoln's ghost but not his spirit.

But acting quickly to set up a political organization which could line up Negroes to cinch the victory that they won with the state committee decision, Miami Negro leaders who fought for the right to vote in the primaries have set up an association of Negro Democrats. This organization is led by Dr. E. A. Ward and an executive committee of 15 outstanding Miami citizens out to mobilize the Negro vote which may reach 20,000 here in Dade County for a maximum vote in the coming May primaries.

This organization has its feet on the ground and is giving no mortgage on the Negro's future to the Democratic Party as such. Its leaders emphasize that much of the Negro's trouble in the past was due to his blind allegiance to the name "Republican" and that the Democratic Party is worthy of support only so long as the Negro can make really democratic gains through it.

Its philosophy is expressed pretty well in a letter sent by Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Progressive Voters League of Florida, key organization in the seven-year fight against the white primary, to the state's Negro citizens and voters. The letter said in part:

"It now appears that we stand on the threshold of golden political opportunities. For the first time, Negro voters of Fla. 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."

"Help to select those officials"—these are the magic words with which the newly arising Florida Negro leadership is able to persuade the state's Negro population that registering Democratic

is the best strategy for colored citizens. Thousands of Negroes are learning for the first time that they can register as anything but Republican; thousands of them bound to the Republican Party for traditional reasons are realizing that a Republican ballot in one-party Florida is necessarily a Jim Crow ballot.

"I like the Republican Party because I was born in it," Willie Smith, 28-year-old Negro seaman and member of the National Maritime Union, CIO, told me at the NMU hall in Tampa. "But I'm registering as a Democrat."

"When we Florida Negroes go into the Democratic primaries, we can help vote out sheriffs like Lonnie Davis over in Madison County who left the jail door open for the men who came in and lynched one of our people, Jesse James Payne, on October 1. We'll be able to cast our vote for school trustees, maybe some of our own people, who will back us up in getting better schools for our children. We'll be able to vote for city councilmen whom we can influence to give our communities better streets and better sanitary conditions."

"We can help vote out the Florida congressmen who helped kill the FEPC because the big Florida citrus and other agricultural interests want cheap Negro labor. We can make our voices heard in Tallahassee, the state capital and in Washington."

Meanwhile, the CIO, of which Smith is a proud member, was concentrating through its political action committees in Miami and Jacksonville on getting a full turn out of voters of both races in the primaries and of helping to register Negroes as Democrats.

"How long we'll keep on being Democrats nobody can tell," said Seaman Smith in Tampa. "I was talking politics to some friends in the barber shop the other night. They were saying that there'll never be another Republican like Lincoln or another Democrat like Roosevelt."

Miami Politician Hits at Organizers of Democratic Club

MIAMI.—Otis Mundy, former president of the Citizens Service League and one ally of Sam B. Solomon in Republican circles, took a crack at Dr. E. A. Ward, Dr. J. E. Culmer and other outstanding Negro leaders for organizing the the Dade County Democratic Club.

Mundy signed himself as a director of the Progressive Voters League which this Saturday meets in Orlando. For quite some time last year he waged a war against the police charging they permitted open gambling. He was jailed several times for his outspoken charges, giving names and places. He is widely known for his militancy.

His statement to the press is as follows:

The masses of the Negro population of Dade county are laboring under the suspense of probable reaction to their participation in Democratic primaries.

A disheartening approach to the participation of Negroes in Democratic primary elections was evidenced in a recent luncheon meeting sponsored by a select group of Negro leaders, and echoes of this meeting have not only muddled the concepts of the masses but have cast a discouraging reflection upon the logical purpose of voting.

There are some of us who lament any plan to wedge our way into Democratic ranks for the purpose of upsetting or

disrupting something. We feel that if the Negro can not be an asset to the Democratic party in the state he should stay out; if our vote can not contribute to fostering the Democratic ideals for the best interests of the state and its people, we have no right to participate therein.

The thrill of being able to vote in Democratic primaries should not be a hysteria with Negroes; it should and must be visualized as an opportunity to contribute more to the progress and development of his state, thereby enhancing his way of life.

He should not feel, as was the spirit of this meeting referred to—"getting into the camp of the enemy"—but an opportunity to prove that he is an American citizen who can and will shoulder the responsibility of erstwhile citizenship, that he can vote an honest conviction without prejudice, without an inkling of revengeful animosity and in cooperation with those who have been responsible for the gains Florida has made.

We want the leaders of the Democratic party to know that the masses of Negroes are open for advice and instruction as to how they can contribute to the party's development. They want to and they will help, even in the face of an attempt to set up strife between the races as perpetrated by some of the leaders out here.

Moore Urges Action in Open Letter to Voters

MIMS — "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 in your community," declared Harry T. Moore in an open letter to the citizens of the State last week.

The militant political leader, who serves as executive secretary of the Progressive Voters League reminded all citizens that his open letter was to keep them aware of the "many important" elections now taking place and those of next spring.

BEWARE OF FALSE LEADERS

"All of those 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," asserts Mr. Moore.

He further tells of the bright political future which faces the race in Florida, due to the breaking of the "white primary" tradition which has long reigned. However, Moore admits there are still some "tough spots" which can and will be broken "with a little more initiative of the part of local Negro citizens."

WE MUST WORK TOGETHER

According to the veteran political leader, the following important questions are facing us: "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?"

"If we are to get 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," is Moore's solution to the problems.

LAUDS NAACP

The executive secretary spoke of the great work which has been done by the NAACP in the fight for unrestricted use of the ballot. He points out that the NAACP is not a political organization and the

logical thing should be the assuming of suffrage responsibilities by the communities.

"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," said the writer as he neared the end of his letter.

—END JIM CROW IN WASHINGTON—

'Miss BTW' Contest Nets Over \$2,000

MIAMI — After the counting, cheering and excitement of the "Miss BTW Contest" ended, Mary Frances Blue emerged victorious with \$205.25 to claim the crown worn last year by Helen Higgs.

Coming into the limelight in her own right to capture the Junior High School honors, Ethel Davis, a ninth grade pupil will reign as Miss Junior BTW. More than forty-six contestants participated.

Continuing the precedent set by the contest committee last year, the winners will receive a trip with all expenses paid. "Miss Senior BTW" has the choice of visiting any Eastern or Northern city, while "Miss Junior BTW" has the choice of touring Florida, or taking a trip to Nassau.

From the \$2,000 raised in the contest, most of the money will be allotted to the departments of the school for installing facilities not given by the School Board or donated by civic organizations.

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★
Office:

233 N. W. Ninth Street
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★

JOHN A. DIAZ
Editor and Manager

NAACP-Voters' League Directors Hold Joint Meeting

V 19/46
Meeting held
1/13/46

At Church of God



Elder W. R. Nesbitt, Overseer of the Western Florida Church of God in Christ, who is in the city for an indefinite stay.

Governor Names City Officials

WINSTONVILLE, Miss. — (ANP) — The all-Negro town of Winstonville had a temporary set of officials last week, but its government troubles apparently were not over.

Gov. Thomas L. Bailey named a slate of officials to succeed those recalled in an election Dec. 15 and to serve until another election can be held. Both the

Ninety Percent of State Branches Represented

Asserting that the object of the National Association for the advancement of Colored People was not to condone lawlessness or to prohibit the application of the law to anyone who is guilty of any misconduct, President Harry T. Moore, state President, opened the meeting of the directors of the NAACP and the Progressive Voters League here Sunday morning with representatives from more than 90 percent of the 49 state branches present.

In his report to the directors President Moore reviewed the progress of the organization over the past five years and pointed out that the number of chapters had increased from nine to forty-nine. Fort Lauderdale was pointed out as evidence that the NAACP is gaining widespread recognition by its endeavors. The chapter was the outcome of the work done by the organization which enlightened the citizens of that community that unity was needed in any community if it hoped to receive the benefits of democracy.

The matter of setting up chapters in small communities was discussed and the president suggested that since the previous amendment to grant charters to groups of 25 had not been approved by the national body, it is advisable for the

MUST DEFEAT MATHEWS PRIMARY BILL SAYS NAACP

Mims, Florida
April 16, 1947

The Mathews Primary Bill has been introduced in the Florida State Senate and has been referred to the Senate Elections Committee. The members of his Committee are:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Senator G. Warren Sanchez | Live Oak | Suwannee County |
| 2. Senator John E. Mathews | Jacksonville | Duval County |
| 3. Senator William J. Ray | Bradenton | Manatee County |
| 4. Senator Harry King | Winter Haven | Polk County |
| 5. Senator Harry P. Johnson | Tavares | Lake County |
| 6. Senator James A. Franklin | Ft. Myers | Lee County |
| 7. Senator Evans Crary | Stuart | Martin County |

As you perhaps know, this "White Primary" Bill is sponsored jointly by Senators Mathews and Sanchez. It seeks to divorce the primary elections from State control and thus make the Democratic Party in Florida a private club. In this way Negro citizens can be barred from voting in the Democratic Primary, which is the main election in Florida.

All clear-thinking people will agree that the Mathews Bill is unfair, undemocratic, and unconstitutional. It is contrary to the fundamental principles of Christianity. Why should any loyal group of citizens be disfranchised just because of their race or creed? Can Florida boast of a true democracy if one third of its citizens and tax payers are denied the fundamental right to vote?

The United States Supreme Court made a clear ruling on this question in April, 1944, when it said: "The United States is a constitutional democracy. Its organic law grants to all citizens a right to participate in the choice of elected officials without restriction by any state because of race. This grant to the people of the opportunity for choice is not to be nullified by a state through casting its electoral process in a form which permits a private organization to practice racial discrimination in the election. Constitutional rights would be of little value if they could be thus indirectly denied."

We must do everything possible to help defeat this undemocratic measure. You can do these things:

1. Urge individuals to send telegrams, letters, or cards to the various members of the Senate Elections Committee, asking them to kill the Mathews Bill in that Committee.
2. Urge individuals to send telegrams, letters, or cards to the senator from their district, asking him to vote against the Mathews Bill.
3. Urge individuals to send telegrams, letters, or cards to the representatives from their county, asking them to vote against the Mathews Bill.
4. Urge churches, associations, conferences, conventions, lodges, clubs, and other organizations to draft resolutions expressing opposition to the Mathews Bill. Copies of these resolutions should be sent to the various members of the Senate Elections Committee, to your senator, to your representatives, and to the Governor. State and district organizations may have copies of resolutions mimeographed and sent to all members of the Legislature and to the Governor.

Yours for democracy in Florida,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary

1. Florida State Conference, NAACP

2. Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

Eatonville Gets NAACP Charter

NEW YORK, June 11—An indication of the scope of the current NAACP membership drive was given at the June 9th meeting of the NAACP National Board of Directors in New York City when it was announced that charters had been granted thirty-one new branches, youth councils and college chapters. Association officials attributed the response to membership appeals to a growing awareness on the part of Negroes, to organize in the face of growing anti-Negro feeling.

Branches were chartered in Selma, Alabama; Indio, California; Eatonville, Florida; Whiteville, North Carolina; Wright City, Oklahoma; Isle of Wight County, Virginia; Amonate, Virginia; Columbia, Tennessee; Garland, Texas; Charles Town, West Virginia and Corona, New York. Youth Councils were chartered in Bay County, (Panama City) Florida; Orlando, Fla.; Suwannee County (Live Oak) Fla.; Tri-Cities (Fruitland Park) Florida; Macon, Georgia; Boston Junior Youth Council; Flushing, New York; Rochester, New York; Bridgeport, Oklahoma; Clearview, Oklahoma; Allentown, Pa.; Ridgeland, S. C.; Nashville, Tenn.; St. Petersburg, Fla.; Tucson, Arizona; Bay City, Texas; Pompano, Florida; Lincoln Parish, Ruston, La.; Lincoln Parish, Ruston, La.; Junior Youth Council. A college chapter was chartered on the campus of Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma.

The Board also announced winners of the Thalheimer Awards for outstanding work performed during the past year. The Camden, New Jersey, and Baltimore, Maryland, NAACP branches and the Virginia State Conference of Branches will receive the Thalheimer Award at the annual conference during the session on branch activities. The awards were voted by the National Board of Directors at its June 9th meeting in New York.

The Thalheimer Award is given each year to branches throughout the Association through a grant made possible by Dr. Ross Thalheimer of Baltimore.

A LETTER TO FLORIDA'S SENATORS

Mims, Florida, Feb. 22, 1947.

Florida Members United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:—Florida's 65 branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are deeply concerned about two matters now pending in the United States Senate.

The first of these is the question of seating Theodore G. Bilbo, senator-elect from Mississippi. We feel that the evidence presented to the investigating committees last year is sufficient to substantiate the claim that Senator Bilbo's behavior has made him unfit to occupy a seat in such an honorable body as the United States Senate. His dealings with certain war contractors are questionable, to say the least. And his open appeal to racial prejudice in an effort to keep Negroes from voting in the primaries last summer was contrary to all decent principles of democratic government. How can Senator Bilbo take the oath of office—the oath to uphold the Constitution—when he has publicly urged that certain qualified citizens be denied their Constitutional right to vote. An oath under such circumstances would be little more than "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal". We urge, therefore, that you firmly oppose the seating of Mr. Bilbo. We suggest also that action be initiated to remove such a character from the payroll and thus eliminate this waste of tax money.

We also are intensely interested in the resolutions designed to eliminate the practice of unlimited debate in the United States Senate. The filibuster is undemocratic. In any truly democratic body the will of the majority should prevail. If a small minority can block a vote on important measures and thus defeat the will of the majority, then we have no true democracy. So long as a small minority in the United States Senate can veto the will of the majority, we cannot justly criticize Russia for her exercise of veto powers in the United Nations Security Council. By all means, let us have democratic procedure in the Senate. We solicit your active support of this movement to outlaw the filibuster. We urge that you help to pass a resolution that will make it possible to limit debate by a majority vote, and thus enable the highest legislative body in our country to dispose of measures according to the will of the majority.

Respectfully yours,

HARRY T. MOORE,
Executive Secretary,
Florida State Conference, NAACP.

A Message From the Executive Secretary to
The Florida NAACP One-Day Conference

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 \$7,000 to launch this program and to finance the work for the first year. Mr. E. E. Broughton, Mrs. Viola T. Hill, Mr. Edward D. Davis, Mr. G. D. Rogers, and Rev. R. H. Johnson are members of the Bud-

get 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. 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, N. W. Griffin planted, Harry T. Moore watered, and now may Edward D. Davis help to produce the increase.

(Continued On Page 7)

FLORIDA CONFERENCE,
NAACP CALLS FOUR
DISTRICT MEETINGS

By HARRY T. MOORE

MIMS—In an effort to stimulate the drive for 25,000 members, the Florida State Conference of the NAACP has arranged to hold four district meetings early in May. For the convenience of the 70 branches in Florida, these meetings will be held in different sections of the state.

Schedule of District Meetings

May 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, Ocala; May 5, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa; May 7, Tabernacle (8th St. and Division), West Palm Beach; May 10, McLane Community Center, Marianna.

The main feature at each of these meetings will be an address by Mr. Daniel E. Byrd of New Orleans, membership coordinator of the Fifth District. Mr. Byrd has charge of the NAACP Membership Campaign in the several southeastern states. He is also executive secretary of the New Orleans Branch of the NAACP and president of the Louisiana State Conference.

Each district meeting will begin at 2 P. M. The Tampa Branch is also sponsoring a big mass meeting and membership rally at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church on the night of May 5, and the West Palm Beach Branch is sponsoring a similar mass meeting at Tabernacle on the night of May 7. Mr. Byrd and visiting branch officers will speak at these night meetings. Mr. Byrd also will speak for several other branches during his stay in Florida.

Membership chairman of Florida branches are especially urged to attend these district meetings. Other officers, members and friends also are cordially invited.

We solicit the full cooperation of Florida Negro citizens in this drive for 25,000 members. Let us build up a stronger Association to carry on this fight against injustice and racial discrimination. Join your local branch. Urge your friends to join. If there is not a branch in your community, we shall be glad to help you organize one. Just notify Harry T. Moore, executive secretary, Mims. Only 50 members are needed to get a chartered branch of the NAACP in any community. A chartered youth council can be set up with 25 young people.

FLORIDA NAACP YOUTH COUNCILS HOLD THIRD ANNUAL MEETING 9/13/47

Approximately 35 youth delegates and senior advisors, representing 14 of Florida's 20 youth councils and college chapters, gathered at St. James Baptist Church in Mims on August 29th to register for the Third Annual Meeting of the Florida State Conference of NAACP Youth Councils and College Chapters.

Registration of delegates began at 9:30 A. M. At 10:30 A. M. the opening session was held, with devotional services being conducted by Revs. W. Burne and I. Fayson. After the delegates and visitors had been introduced and introductory remarks had been made by several advisors, a brief musical interlude was presented by Mrs. Jocille Daughtry and members of the Mims Council.

The regular afternoon session was opened at 3:00 P. M. with Josie Mae Seigler, vice president of the Mims Council, presiding. Delegates and visitors were divided into three groups for the following seminar discussions: (1) "Youth In Society", led by W. Van Daughtry, adjutant of American Legion Post No. 198-C; (2) "Youth In The Economic World", led by Rev. R. H. Johnson, president of Good Neighbors, Inc.; and (3) "Our Fight For The Ballot," led by Harry T. Moore, NAACP state secretary. Among the visitors presented to this session were Rev. C. S. Feller of Titusville and Rev. J. R. Thompson of Pompano.

At 8:00 P. M. a very interesting local program was presented by the Mims Council, assisted by the other two councils in Brevard County. Among the most outstanding members on this program were Miss Dorothy Strickland's rendition of "Fifty Years," by James Weldon Johnson, vocal solos by W. Van Daughtry and Levi Grant, and a piano duet by Mrs. Jocille Daughtry and Juanita Grant. An inspiring address was delivered by Dave P. Johnson, an instructor in the Cocoa High School.

The regular business opened at 9:30 A. M. Saturday, with Chester S. Satterwhite, Jr., state president, presiding. The delegates joined in a lively discussion of the topic: "How To Vitalize Our Youth Work." All seemed to agree that one of the best ways to maintain an active council is to keep the young people busy doing things worth while. The various delegates related how their councils have helped to conduct campaigns for

registration of Negro voters, membership campaigns, school surveys, etc. Among those who rendered interesting reports relative to the activities of their local councils were Virginia McGreen of Orlando, Henry Finley of West Palm Beach, Freddie Coward of Panama City, Harvey Hill of Fruitland Park, Edgar Gibbous of Sarasota, Johnnie Bryant of Ft. Lauderdale, Agnes White of St. Petersburg, Albert Young of Mims, and Elder J. C. Lester of Live Oak. Rev. T. R. Griffin of Titusville praised the young people highly for the manner in which their business session was conducted.

The Conference adopted strong resolutions calling for early enactment of anti-lynching, anti-poll tax, and FEPC legislation. Florida Congressmen also were urged to support bills to provide federal aid for education and a liberal minimum wage law. It was voted to hold the Fourth Annual Meeting in Orlando.

Near the close of the mass meeting Rev. W. E. Sloan was presented to install the newly elected officers: Albert Young, Mims, president; George Nixon, Orlando, vice-president; Chester S. Satterwhite, Jr., Jacksonville, vice president; Theresa Jones, Orlando, secretary; Leona Holmes, Live Oak, Assistant secretary; Evangeline Moore, Mims, treasurer; Johnnie K. Bryant, Ft. Lauderdale, chaplain; Edgar Gibbous, Sarasota, reporter.

The Conference closed with a big mass meeting Sunday afternoon at which time the principal address was delivered by Miss O. B. McLin,

Harry T. Moore

New NMA President



FLA. NAACP HITS BILBO AND FILIBUSTER

MIMS—Harry T. Moore, secretary of Fla. NAACP, sent the following letter to Senators Pepper and Holland:

Florida's 65 branches of the NAACP are deeply concerned about two matters now pending in the United States Senate.

The first of these is the question of seating Theodore G. Bilbo, senator-elect from Mississippi. We feel that the evidence presented to the investigating committees last year is sufficient to substantiate the claim that Senator Bilbo's behavior has made him unfit to occupy a seat in such an honorable body as the United States Senate. His dealings with certain war contractors are questionable, to say the least. And his open appeal to racial prejudice in an effort to keep Negroes from voting in the primaries last summer was contrary to all decent principles of Democratic government. How can Senator Bilbo take the oath of office—the oath to uphold the Constitution—when he has publicly urged that certain qualified citizens be denied their Constitutional right to vote. An oath under such circumstances would be little more than "sounding brass or tinkling cymbal." We urge, therefore, that you firmly oppose the seating of Mr. Bilbo. We suggest also that action be initiated to remove such a character from the payroll and thus eliminate this waste of tax money.

We also are intensely interested in the resolutions designed to eliminate the practice of unlimited debate in the United States Senate. The filibuster is undemocratic. In any truly democratic body the will of the majority should prevail. If a small minority can block a vote on important measures and thus defeat the will of the majority, then we have no true democracy. So long as a small minority in the United States Senate can veto the will of the majority, we cannot justly criticize Russia for her exercise of veto powers in the United Nations Security Council. By all means, let us have democratic procedure in the Senate. We solicit your active support of this movement to outlaw the filibuster. We urge that you help to pass a resolution that will make it possible to limit debate by a majority vote, and thus enable the highest legislative body in our country to dispose of measures according to the will of the majority.

NAACP JOTTINGS

6/2/45 — 46

On January 1, 1936, at the close of the annual program of the Emancipation Celebration, held at the Allen Temple AME church on Scott St., the Tampa Branch of the NAACP was duly organized, with the following named persons chosen for officers: Rev. M. D. Potter, president; Dr. J. A. Davis, vice president; Mrs. Bessie Barfield, second vice president; C. Blythe Andrews, secretary; Miss Bernice Miller, assistant secretary; Rev. J. C. Robinson, treasurer.

The enrollment of charter members lists only eighteen adult persons, living in Tampa and the vicinity. The Rev. W. M. Davis of Beulah Baptist church presided at this initial meeting. Fifteen dollars and twenty-five cents was the first money laid on the table later to be turned over to the treasurer as an operating fund. From that humble starting point the organization has today grown to the astonishing figure of over fifteen hundred members; collectoin and spending on legal defense over \$3500 annually.

It is also interesting to note, that the City of Tampa and the Allen Temple church are the spot where the State Conference of Branches was born four or five years ago. Principal Harry T. Moore, of the public school system, at Mims headed up the state organization, supported by forty some odd branches.

The state organization has also built up a strong voting machine, known as the Florida Progressive State Voters League; and this League is prepared to make effective, all over Florida, the recent action of the United States Supreme Court dealing with Democratic Primary Elections. Already a signal victory has been won over local city and county elections at Pensacola.

Up to this hour, no word has yet been received from Tallahassee on the case of Simon Peter Taylor.

N. A. A. C. P. JOTTINGS

7/7/45

The Tampa Branch of the NAACP met the past Monday night, and reports were made to the body by the president, the secretary, the treasurer and Legal Redress Committee, also the executive board. All the reports were adopted as read and recommended.

In order that money be raised quickly to support the work of the organization, it was voted to ask each of the 1600 members of the organization to donate at least a dollar right now to help create a strong treasury. It was also voted to ask the program committee to make arrangements at an early date for a quartet contest. The funds realized therefrom to go to swell the treasury.

A special table collection of \$12.00 was taken up to send to the state president, Prof. Harry T. Moore at Mims, to be applied on the defense of Joseph Palmer, at St. Augustine, and William H. Anderson at Ft. Lauderdale. These two men are now the victims of court injustice at the two cities mentioned.

Steps were also taken to immediately enter a suit against the Tampa City Election officials for refusing to register Tampa Negroes as Democrats. Attorneys working for the branch will prepare papers for this suit this week.

The body also voted to ask the Tampa Ministerial Alliance to use his good powers to curb some of the rowdism and killing now going on in Tampa between Negroes and Negroes.

The Branch also appointed a committee to gather all the available information, and to report to the body at its next sitting about the Oak Park swimming pool on 29th street.

The State Supreme Court has at last handed down a decision in the case of Simon Peter Taylor, but Taylor's lawyers will continue the fight for his release entirely.

High Court Reverses Death Sentence Given For Deputy's Slaying

TALLAHASSEE, June 29. (AP)—The death sentence which Simon Peter Taylor received for killing Hillsborough County Deputy Sheriff Robert Max Saurez was reversed today by the Supreme Court, and the Circuit Court was directed to enter a second degree murder conviction.

In a 6-1 decision, the Supreme Court held that "the essential element of premeditation was absent, hence there could be no finding of murder in the first degree.

"We are satisfied that the homicide was unlawful; that the evidence was sufficient to justify a conviction of murder in the second degree."

Saurez was shot to death last September 2 during an altercation which arose when he went to the negro's store to serve a writ in court action to recover furniture.

The court said testimony showed that during the fight, the deputy sheriff was cut by a knife and shot Taylor through the arm. The negro then took Saurez' pistol and fired the fatal shots.

Justice Alton Adams, who wrote the majority opinion, said it was not clearly shown that the officer "was actually in the act of executing any writ" because it already had been read and delivered. "Neither does it appear that the officer had had legal reason to lay hands" on Taylor.

"In this case, the deceased was a white man and appellant a colored man. As to relative rights and duties, the law makes no distinction. When the two meet in combat, it is usually violent."

Justice Elwyn Thomas, dissenting, said he felt the evidence was sufficient to substantiate the first degree murder conviction.

Branford 9/13/47

A new branch of the NAACP in Suwanee county was set up at Branford by the president of the Live Oak branch, Brother E. K. Bass and the secretary, Brother R. A. Reddick, Sept. 1. Brother R. A. Wilson is President and Sister Ola Gill, secretary. There are 52 charter members. Meeting nights will be the Monday after the first Sunday in each month.

Florida Sentinel

A PAPER FOR THINKING NEGROES

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TEACHERS SHOULD ALWAYS STAND WITH NAACP

The Florida Branches of the NAACP have undertaken a major and far-reaching program. They have employed Harry T. Moore, one of our brightest lights, as executive secretary, and put him on a full time salary.

It takes money to roster this type of program and there is no Negro with sound sense who could deny its value.

The NAACP has done more than any other group, even the teachers themselves, to secure equalization of teacher salaries. Therefore the NAACP program should have the fullest cooperation of the State Teachers Association.

The president of the State Teachers Association, Prof. W. E. Combs, formerly of Palmetto, now registrar at the Florida A. and M. College.

It is well known that Dr. W. H. Gray, Jr., president of Pameco, is not in accord with the NAACP program. At a program in Tampa he denounced the NAACP. We wonder if his control over the president of the State Teachers Association will affect the loyalty and cooperation of that association with the program of the NAACP.

The State Teachers should contribute through their association a major portion of the first year budget of the new program of the NAACP.

We know Prof. Combs as a fine and up-standing young man. We hope his new job will not affect his balance towards the most needed and most worthwhile program among Negroes of Florida today. If he fails to show the enthusiasm or cooperation which all of us expect of him, it might be well for the teachers to look around for another president. Surely we don't want Dr. Gray with his hos-

10/24/47

November Designed As Special NAACP Month

We have been working earnestly during the past few months, trying to help spread the spirit of the NAACP over the state of Florida. One year ago there were 61 branches of the NAACP in our state. Today Florida has 78 branches of this great organization scattered from Key West to Pensacola. Our success in this work has been due largely to the splendid cooperation that some of you have given, and for this we wish to express our deep appreciation.

Whenever we go into a community in an effort to arouse interest in the NAACP, we always seek your support. We usually go to the ministers first; because they are the recognized leaders of our people, and we feel that their blessing should be on any movement that tends to advance the cause of colored people. We hold most of our meetings in churches, because we fully realize that the NAACP is rendering a Christian service to our people.

Thus for 38 years the NAACP has preached a gospel of justice and equal opportunities for all mankind, without regard to race, creed, or color. This is just a practical application of the Golden Rule proclaimed by Christ: "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

This year the NAACP is trying to register a million members to help support its noble work. Florida's goal for 1947 is 25,000 members. Therefore, we need to get nearly 19,000 members by December 31 in order to reach our quota for this year. We earnestly solicit your support in our fall membership drive. Please urge the members of your organization to join the NAACP.

We wish to designate November as a special "NAACP Month" in Florida. We ask every minister to

take a little time at each service during November to tell his congregation about the good work of the NAACP. We also ask each pastor to appoint a worker in his church to collect NAACP memberships during November. These may be turned over to the local branches. (If there is not a branch in your community, please send your memberships to the executive secretary in Mims). We ask the heads of our religious, fraternal and civic organizations to send special messages to your subordinate units, urging their support of the NAACP membership drive. If you will give us space on your program during your conferences, associations, conventions, etc., we shall be able to send representatives to speak to the people.

It is so easy to become a member of the NAACP. You may join for the small fee of \$1.00. However, many people are so anxious to help carry the work on that they take out memberships for \$2.00, \$2.50, \$5.00, \$10.00, \$25.00, and even \$50.00.

Young people under 21 years of age may take out Youth Memberships for 50c per year. There is a type of membership to fit every-

NAACP To Meet In City Point

Cocoa — The Brevard County Branch of the NAACP is scheduled to meet Sunday, Oct. 26th at the A.M.E. Church in City Point, Fla., beginning at 3:30 p.m. According to the executive secretary, Mr. H. T. Moore of Mims, Fla., a membership goal of 1000 members for 1947 is in the making and he, along with other executives, is urging a large attendance from each community in this county, and they are urged to bring new members.

Other discussions of vital importance will be held. The importance of voting on the school bond and trustee elections will also be stressed at this meeting. The public is invited.



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, Daytona Beach, Fruitland Park, Punta Gorda, Perry, McClenny, 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

(Continued on page 7)

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Conference. Among these were the Joseph Palmer Case of St. Augustine, the William H. Anderson case of Ft. Lauderdale, 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 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 organization.

No doubt the most outstanding matter handed 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. R. 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 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 Negroes 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 cooperation with the NAACP branches