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The AFRAMERICAN

WOMAN'S JOURNAL

MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

Vol. I

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From the President—

The National Council of Negro Women takes great pleasure in presenting the Aframerican Woman's Journal to its membership and friends. For a long time there has been the need for a voice expressing the unity of aim and ideal for Negro American women. It is the hope, dream and prayer of the council that this Journal may fill this need.

It shall go to many places, perhaps to far away countries where we, ourselves, may never travel, but even then it will tell our story, and serve to mirror for many people the uneven gradations of the Negro women's progress and the larger progress of the Race achieved through the years. What is even a greater mission—it should deepen our consciousness of the part our own women must play in helping to bring to past America's true Democracy. With such a dream as this, we send our Journal down the years.

—MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE.



It is a matter of considerable pride to the Council that the first issue of the Aframerican Woman's Journal was originated in the office of the Green Printing Company, an establishment owned by a Negro woman—pioneer in this field. Miss Susie B. Green and Mr. Albert A. Burgess, her associate, were the craftsmen who gave long hours of time, energy and imagination to its production.

From the Editor—

It seems that the first concern of those who contributed in this issue to the symposium, "*The Political Scene of 1940*" was that of securing for all American citizens the privilege of franchise. These statements have come from veterans in politics who are unanimously agreed that much should be done this year. The forward look at politics is balanced by the "*Backward Glance at Court Actions*," written by the brilliant young lawyer, member of the Council's Legal Advisers, and National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority—Elsie Austin. Also beginning in this issue is the interesting study of *Propaganda Techniques in Motion Pictures*, by Osceola Adams, the dramatic artist and critic who brings to her long years of study and teaching an unusual record of experience in play-acting on Broadway; and whose judgment we trust as a valuable point of view. Ora Brown Stokes discusses, in her pleasant, informal way of reporting, happenings of consequence at the "*White House Conference on the Child in a Democracy*." We were very happy to use in connection with it the photograph of Mrs. Roosevelt on the White House steps, being presented a May Day basket by a group of Washington children, including the small daughter of our Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, National Grand President of Alpha Kappa Alpha. The brief resume of the council's history was translated into French and Spanish for the convenience of our readers in Haiti and Martinique, and Spanish-American Countries.

Women Artists contributed the cover for this quarter, and the water colors in black and white beginning the "Symphony in Action" Series.

Augusta Savage, the distinguished sculptor of the world's fair model, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," has rendered a "Sermon in Stone" with the three figures of her impressive group giving eloquent testimony to the Negro Woman's opposition to War.

The statue is timely as a coverpiece for the first number of the Aframerican Woman's Journal.

Lois Mailou Jones, the celebrated American painter, will make sixteen heads of Negro Women who have formed a symphony in action for 1939 and 1940. It is the Magazine's hope that these pictures may find place on the walls of the American school and home.

—Sue Bailey Thurman

The National Council of Negro Women of The United States of America, Inc.

A Resume

ON December 5, 1935, the National Council of Negro Women was organized at a luncheon meeting held in the 137th Street Branch YWCA, in New York City. The women of that group had been called together by Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, veteran club leader and president of Bethune Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, for the purpose of forming a unifying organization of all national bodies of Negro Women in America. Mrs. Bethune and the late Dean Lucy Slowe, of Howard University, president and executive secretary, respectively, of the new organization, worked with a representative committee which formed the basis of the constitution later adopted.

During the five-year program of activity outlined for itself and recently brought to a close, this council addressed its energies to the many and varied objectives stated in the resolutions of the annual meeting of 1939. In these years most attention has been given to the effort to integrate the Negro woman into the larger social and economic programs affecting the life of the country as a whole. A study of the participation of Negro women in the planning and administering of such programs lead to the White House Conference of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., held in April, 1938. It was Mrs. Roosevelt who made possible for Mrs. Bethune, the meeting of sixty-five council members in attendance from every section of America, with the heads of various Federal Departments and Bureaus of the government, in the East room of the Executive Mansion. Present were Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, then assistant administrator of W. P. A.; Dr. Louise Stanley of the Department of Agriculture; Miss Mary Anderson of the Women's Bureau; Miss Katherine Lenroot of the Children's Bureau; Miss Mary Dewson of the Social Security Board; and the members of their staffs.

A Committee of the council to form a report as a basis of discussion for the East Room session, was composed of Attorney Sadie T. M. Alexander, Philadelphia; Mrs. Bessye J. Bearden, New York; Miss W. Gertrude Brown, Minneapolis; Mrs. Mayme Osby-Brown, New Orleans; Attorney Eunice Hunter Carter, Council Parliamentarian, New York; Dr.

Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, Washington; Mrs. Helen Grossley, Dover, Delaware; Mrs. Bertha Rhodes, Philadelphia; Mrs. Howard Thurman, and Mrs. Blanche Beatty Washington of Washington; and Mrs. Clara B. Bruce, Executive Secretary of the Council, (1937-39) New York, Chairman. The committee report and discussion affirmed the belief in the valuable contribution that capable, well-trained Negro women could make in the planning and carrying out of Federal programs for social betterment.

The council has set itself the task of focusing the attention of the American public conscience on the rural Negro woman of the South who "toils like a slave in house and field to make a home for the majority of the Negro people." Interest in her development has lead to the recent studies, made in behalf of the farm and domestic worker, and the encouragement of training schools for domestic workers in various parts of the country.

The second five-year plan of work emphasizes the support and endorsement of progressive labor movements; Federal Anti-lynching legislation; government effort for conservation of natural resources affecting vast numbers involved in dust bowl calamities, floods and soil erosions; a campaign to secure franchise for all American citizens with special work given to Voters Education through the publication and distribution of primers, directed by the Committee on Citizenship; the establishment of new relations with women of the East, especially India (the All-India Women's Congress), and with Latin America, through tours, seminars and exchange of literature and fraternal delegates; national campaign against propaganda released through press, radio, stage, screen, and school texts attempting actively or subtly to reflect discredit on the Negro; development of a bureau of vocational guidance and counseling for young Negroes; cooperation with Mrs. Mary R. Beard in securing material on women of the past and present for the World Center of Women's Archives; participation in the diverse national program of larger majority group women's bodies in the United States, and as unit member of the International Council of Women.

Le Conseil National Des Femmes Noires Des Etats—Unis D' Amerique

—Résumé—

Le 5 décembre 1935, le Conseil National des Femmes Noires fut organisé au cours d'un déjeuner qui eut lieu à l'Union Chrétienne de Jeunes Filles de la 137ème rue, à New-York. Les membres de ce groupe avaient été convoqués par Mme McLeod Bethune, présidente du College Bethune Cookman de Daytona Beach, en Floride, et, depuis de nombreuses années, militante des clubs féminins, dans l'intention de former une organisation unifiant tous les groupements de caractère national des femmes noires d'Amérique. Mme Bethune et feu Mlle Lucy Slowe, doyenne de l'Université Howard, respectivement présidente et secrétaire exécutive de la nouvelle organisation, collaborèrent avec un comité représentatif qui élaborait les fondements des statuts adoptés plus tard.

Durant le programme quinquennal d'activité qu'il s'était proposé et qui vient d'être mené à bonne fin, le Conseil dirigea ses forces sur les buts, aussi nombreux que variés, qui figurent dans les résolutions prises à la réunion annuelle de 1939. Pendant ces cinq années, le meilleur de l'attention du Conseil a été porté sur l'effort destiné à faire accepter la Femme Noire comme partie intégrante des projets économiques et sociaux plus étendus qui portent sur la vie de la nation toute entière. L'étude de la participation des Femmes Noires à la conception et à la direction de ces projets a eu pour résultat la Conférence du Conseil National des Femmes Noires à la Maison-Blanche, en avril 1938. Ce fut Mme Roosevelt qui facilita à Mme Bethune l'organisation de cette réunion des 65 membres du Conseil, venant de tous les coins de l'Amérique, avec les chefs de divers départements et bureaux du gouvernement fédéral, dans le Salon de l'Est du Palais Exécutif. Étaient présentes à cette réunion: Mme Ellen S. Woodward, à cette époque sous-administrateur de l'Administration du Développement du Travail (Works Progress Administration); le Dr. Louise Stanley, du Ministère de l'Agriculture; Mlle Mary Anderson, du Bureau de la Femme; Mlle Katherine Lenroot, du Bureau de l'Enfance; Mlle Mary Dewson, des Assurances Sociales; et le personnel de leurs administrations respectives.

La Commission du Conseil chargée de préparer un rapport devant servir de base aux pourparlers de la Conférence du Salon de l'Est, se composait de Mme Sadie T. M. Alexander, de Philadelphie; Mme Bessye J. Bearden, de New-York; Mlle W. Gertrude Brown, de Minneapolis; Mme Mayme Osby-Brown, de la Nouvelle-Orléans; Mme Eunice Hunton Carter, conseillère parlementaire, de New-York; le Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, de Washington; Mme Helen Grossley, de Dover, dans l'Etat du Delaware; Mme Bertha Rhodes, de Philadelphie; Mmes Howard Thurman et Blanche Beatty Washington, de Washington; et Mme Clara B. Bruce, de New-York, secrétaire exécutive du Conseil pour 1937-1938, et présidente de la Commission. Le rapport de la Commission et les pourparlers consolidèrent la foi en l'aide précieuse que pourraient apporter des femmes noires bien préparées, à la conception et à l'exécution des projets fédéraux de progrès social.

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El Concilio Nacional de Mujeres de Color de los Estados Unidos de America, Inc.

Resumen

El 5 de diciembre de 1935, fué organizado en una reunión que tuvo lugar en los salones del "Young Women's Christian Association," en la ciudad de Nueva York, el Concilio Nacional de Mujeres de Color. La reunión fué convocada por la Señora Mary McLeod Bethune, Presidenta del Colegio Bethune Cookman en Daytona Beach Florida, con el propósito de unir todos los grupos Nacionales de Mujeres de Color en los Estados Unidos de America. La Señora Bethune junto con la ya difunta Deana Lucy Slowe de la Universidad de Howard, elegidas presidenta y secretaria ejecutiva, respectivamente, en comité representativo formaron la base para la constitución más tarde adoptada.

El Concilio, durante sus primeros cinco años de actividad ha dirigido sus energías a los muchos y variados objetivos ahora expuestos en las resoluciones de la reunión anual de 1939. En estos años se había prestado atención anual de integrar a la mujer de color, en el programa social y económico que afecta la vida del país. Un estudio de la participación de Mujeres de Color en la preparación y administración de tales programas, resultó en la conferencia del Concilio, convocada en Le Casa Blanca en el mes de abril de 1938. Fué debido al interés de la Sra. Roosevelt que pudo celebrarse en el "East Room" de la Mansión ejecutiva, la reunión a la cual asistieron 65 miembros del concilio junto con los jefes de varios Departamentos Federales y Oficinas del Gobierno. Presentes en dicha reunión podemos mencionar, a la Señora Ellen S. Woodward, en esa época administradora auxiliar de "The Works Progress Administration"; Dra. Louise Stanley del Departamento de Agricultura; Dra. Louise Stanley del Division de Mujeres; Srta. Mary Dewson de la Junta de Seguridad Social; Srta. Katherine Lenroot de la División de Niños; y miembros de sus cuerpos administrativos.

El comité del Concilio que presentó el informe que sirvió de base para discusión en la sesión del "East Room," consistió de los siguientes: Licenciada. Sadie T. M. Alexander, de Filadelfia; Sra. Bessye J. Bearden, de Nueva York; Srta. W. Gertrude Brown, de Minneapolis; Sra. Mayme Osby-Brown de Nueva Orleans; Licenciada Eunice Hunton Carter, de Nueva York; Dra Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, de Washington; Sra. Helen Grossley, de Dover, Delaware; Sra. Bertha Rhodes, de Filadelfia; Sra. Howard Thurman y Sra. Blanche Beatty Washington, de Washington. La Senora Clara B. Bruce, Secretaria Ejecutiva del Concilio (1937-39) de Nueva York, presidió. El informe del Comité afirmó creencia en la significativa contribucion que educadas y competentes mujeres de color, podrían aportar en la preparación y administración de Programas Federales para el mejoramiento social.

El Concilio se ha designado la labor de fijar la atencion del pueblo Americano en el problema de la mujer rural de color que "trabaja como una esclava en casa y en campo para el sostenimiento de su hogar." Interes en su desarrollo ha resultado en los recientes estudios hechos en nombre de las trabajadoras agricolas y domesticas y en el fomento de escuelas prácticas para dichas trabajadoras en varias partes del país.

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PERSONNEL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE.

Dr. Sadie T. M. Alexander
 Mrs. Anita T. Anderson
 Miss Alida P. Banks
 Mrs. Bessie J. Bearden
 Miss Artimisia Bowden
 Mrs. Margaret Davis Bowen
 Miss Mary Branch
 Mrs. Elizabeth C. Brooks
 Mrs. Mamie Osby Brown
 Dr. Sarah Brown
 Miss W. Gertrude Brown
 Mrs. Clara B. Bruce
 Mrs. Marion D. Butler
 Dr. Eunice Hunton Carter

Mrs. Jeanette Carter
 Miss Valerie Chase
 Mrs. Maud Coleman
 Mrs. Vivian J. Cook
 Mrs. Mayme L. Copeland
 Mrs. John W. Davis
 Mrs. Caroline Bond Day
 Mrs. Addie W. Dickerson
 Mrs. Crystal Byrd Fauset
 Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee
 Mrs. Lethia C. Fleming
 Mrs. Sarah Lee Fleming
 Mrs. Nellie Francis
 Mrs. Richard S. Grossley

Mrs. Julia West Hamilton
 Miss Mae C. Hawes
 Mrs. John Hope
 Mrs. Addie W. Hunton
 Mrs. S. W. Layten
 Mrs. H. L. McCrorey
 Mrs. Virginia R. McGuire
 Miss Arenia C. Mallory
 Mrs. Sadie G. Mays
 Mrs. F. K. Norman
 Mrs. Mamie L. Anderson Prett
 Mrs. Bertha Perry Rhodes
 Mrs. Carita V. Roane
 Mrs. Julia Coleman Robinson

Miss Tessie Lee Robinson
 Mrs. Nannie Reed
 Mrs. Cecelia C. Smith
 Mrs. Christine S. Smith
 Mrs. Mable Keaton Staupers
 Mrs. Ora Brown Stokes
 Mrs. Rebecca Styles Taylor
 Mrs. Mary Church Terrell
 Mrs. Howard Thurman
 Mrs. William J. Valentine
 Mrs. Blanche Beatty Washington
 Miss Barbara Watson
 Mrs. Eartha M. M. White
 Miss Mary Williams

A Backward Glance at Court Actions

By Elsie Austin

ONE of the most important factors in the Negro's long and difficult battle for the enforcement and protection of civil rights through the years has been his effort to achieve the goal of full civil rights through the processes afforded by law. This has meant legislation, representation in administrative organization of the government, and programs of law enforcement involving court actions. The battle for civil rights through court cases has not been an easy matter, for in many instances of jurisdictions the courts, even as the legislatures, reflect the pressures and influences of hostile forces.

The battle from this angle has gone on for many decades, however, within the past four years (since 1936) several outstanding victories occurring in all regions of the nation have been the source of renewed effort and inspiration.

It is these cases that we shall discuss in this article. They are significant not only because of the victories involved but also because they reveal that new fronts of attack have developed against unjust racial discrimination and the denial of civil rights. To the resistance against denial of privileges in inns, restaurants, theaters and places of public accommodation has been added a resistance to the discrimination and denial rising out of educational inequalities, unjust procedures against Negro offenders by law officers, and salary differentials arbitrarily based on racial differences. Not every effort has meant victory, of course, but on the whole the advance in morale and the success of those victories obtained will serve to make a new and encouraging chapter in any study of the Negro's struggle for full recognition and protection as an American citizen.

The limits of space for this assignment will not permit a full or detailed account of all cases which belong to this period. At best there can be included only a report and review of the outstanding cases, and a discussion of the effect such cases have had in remedying the conditions of enforced segregation, discrimination and denial of equal status which have so handicapped the development of the Negro as a real citizen.

In the order named, the two sections of this treatment will take up the following outstanding cases of the period between 1936 and 1940.

1. The celebrated school cases which involved the right of Negro students to enter state universities in those states where separate systems afforded no colored schools offering professional training of a certain kind. Here will be included the Gaines case of Missouri; the Murray case of Maryland and the Blueford case of Maryland.

2. Those cases presenting an attack upon the practice of state Boards of Education which permit salary differentials based upon race. The Gibbs case of Maryland and the Alston case of Norfolk, Virginia, will be discussed under this heading.

3. The case of the New Negro Alliance of Washington, D. C., in which the right to picket stores in Negro districts that refuse to hire Negro clerks, was upheld.

4. The residential restriction cases where an effort has been made to challenge the practice of restrictive covenants based on race prejudice. Selected examples of this will be the recent Hensbury case of Chicago, Illinois, and the Cockburn case of White Plains, New York.

5. The Love case of Oklahoma where the right to register for suffrage was defended.

6. The recent Supreme Court case which struck at the confessions to crime obtained by brutal third degree methods and duress in Florida, and the two cases from Alabama and Texas where confessions of this nature were thrown out on the basis of the Supreme Court decision in the Florida case.

The citations and titles of the cases herein above referred to have been purposely omitted in order to avoid unnecessary duplication as full details on the jurisdictions and facts involved will be given in the article to follow.

In discussing these outstanding cases, Negroes should remember with pride that in almost every instance the counsel representing our claims have been Negro counsel, and that the skill, wisdom and courage they have displayed constitute one of the most distinguished services rendered the country during this period by any legal group.

(Concluded in Next Issue)



The Negro Woman in the Magazine Press

By Sue Bailey Thurman

THE Aframerican Woman's Journal has gone some distance in its study of Negro Women in relation to the popular woman's magazine of today. Even a precursory perusal of any one of the half dozen journals of widest circulation will reveal the carelessness with which this subject has been treated in its pages. Whether this practice is devised to please large groups of readers who must feed on such magazine content, we do not know, but there has long been the question in the minds of thousands of readers as to how long the magazines written especially for home consumption will continue to make this special concession to bad taste.

Going back a few years, the most objectionable material of recent time has come through the "Mammy February" Story series by Clara Hood Rugel, presented in Good Housekeeping Magazine in 1937. The student interested in the casual use of ugly epithets will find a mass of material here, for this authoress in one story alone refers to the characters she has created as "darkies" and "niggahs," putting the latter word on the lips of "Mammy February's" friends more often than a dozen times. Beyond this, it was a story like many another found in present day literature, tending in effect to disparage the humble and most defenseless Negro woman caught in a web of economic circumstances absolutely merciless to her and her kind. It is a dangerous venture for the story writer of less than infinite gifts to attempt any portrayal of the intimate life of another racial group especially when the effort is to reveal the "mind" of the other group and how it works. The majority of magazine articles purport to do this thing. "Mammy February" and all like her unfortunate enough to get into paper or book become a "Charlie" for their creators' utterances having as little chance to speak for themselves as the various Negro characters in the screen and book versions of "Gone with the Wind." Moreover, poor "February" is made to serve as great propagandist, and this without benefit of subtlety or finesse, as in the conversation with the youngster in "Gospel Birds," reporting the fortune teller's meeting:

"Peckawood say Madam Muldoon fin's bumps on de head and tells whut you is bawn to do.

(Mammy) "Hump! Ev'ybody knows what a niggah is bawn to do without findin' no bumps. What she say Peckawod bawn to do?

"She proclaim he bawn to be a cawnductah of a banjo awchustra. She say he ought to go to Ha'lem.

Mammy drew a deep purposeful breath. "Ifen I evah heahs bout a Granville niggah being in Ha'lem, I goes up and beats him wid mah two fists till he bees proud to come back wheah he belong. Bumps! Anybody whut looks at Peckawood's pickin' fin-gahs can tell bout de banjo business. He got cawns to de bone on dem pickin' fingahs."

"I is got cawns, too." Old March lifted two black hands, palms turned up.

Mammy) "But, fool, dey ain't on the pickin' fin-gahs. Day is on the pa'm patches. Muldoon boun' to tell you dat you is bawn to de hoe handle."

Again "Goodhousekeeping" presents its readers with "A Dull Day in Dixie," by Ruth Burr Sanborn, January, 1938. Here the leading character sets down in diary fashion her innermost thoughts:

"So here I am. Here's the plantation house. It has eight white pillars and a library full of Trollope and Jan Austen, and ballroom done up in bandages. I took them off, but Zinnia put them back, the next morning. Zinnia is the dear old family servant. She has a so-called husband named Peele IV. She's a sullen, impudent nigger and about as devoted as a dose of arsenic. I hate nigger servants. This loyalty is just a gag. They don't know the meaning of the word. Zinnia steals food out of this house every day of her life . . . She had to look scared then. Honestly when they're scared they're funny as a blind man in traffic."

The \$10,000 "prize" story "Candy," by L. M. Alexander, which appeared as a serial in 1935 in Pictorial Review with scene laid in South Carolina was little better than the "Mammy February" series with its scene in Texas. Nor does the feature writer improve on the magazine tradition. The report of Maxine Davis on her travels through the south given to McCall readers in October, 1935, refers to "willing colored cooks" who, "happy with minute wages, make homes orderly and often luxurious even for those with the slimmed incomes," in the service of the white south.

This article was an account of interviews with individuals who had given to Miss Davis the materials she sought. There is no record of having interviewed one of these people who works so "willingly" for a pittance. The article might have contained heroic stories of women known to thousands of Negroes, who toil at every sort of work in order to put their children through school—sometimes to give a daughter an education in arts or to send a son to medical school. But these facts are not considered pertinent to the average surveyor of the southern scene, so no effort is made to go deeper than surface indications.

It is pleasant at last in a study like this to come to the graciousness of the feature writer, Ann Batchelder, who pays tribute in March, 1940, Ladies Home Journal, to the young soprano, Dorothy Maynor,

"A few notes on the piano, a run, a trill, and out over the stillness that is characteristic of musical audiences here, the voice. Pure and true, as the song of the lark, it floated to the sky and lost itself in stillness. It soared to the distant heaven and found, I believe, an answer in a star. "O sleep, why dost thou leave me?" Handel's immortal song breathed its final rapturous note and the singer was gone" . . . "I hope she comes your way. And if she should not, I hope you will go where she happens to be to hear her. Listen to Mozart's aria from The Magic Flute. Hear her sing Schuman's Liebeslied and dream that you are in love again with life in a magic garden."

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Propaganda Techniques in Motion Pictures

By Osceola Adams

THE term "propaganda theatre" to the average individual connotes a theatre which is concerned more or less with extreme "leftist" doctrines. The prevalence of this association in the minds of many people speaks well for the efficacy of counter propaganda which has originated with the opponents of a new philosophy of social and economic justice which began to assert itself effectively in the American Theatre about 1930 through such stage organizations as the Theatre Union, the Theatre Collective, the Group Theatre, the Labor Stage, and more recently the Mercury Theatre and the Federal Theatre.

A very old and crude propaganda technique, but an effective one, that of attaching unpleasant or unpopular labels to individuals, causes or movements which one would discredit, has been employed effectively by interested groups in America to create antagonism against theatre which is concerned with present-day social and economic problems. So often has the "red" label been hung upon the theatre which undertakes to create an interest in and sympathy for suppressed minorities or exploited economic groups that the term "propaganda theatre" and "leftist" theatre have become synonymous. As matter of fact, propaganda theatre is not by any means a modern invention. It is as old as theatre itself and throughout the history of theatre has been one of its important functions. Nevertheless, as result of this little game of name-calling and label-hanging, many people think of theatre as divided into two classes—on the one hand propaganda theatre, which has for its aim undermining "American institutions and ideals" and on the other hand all other forms of theatre, which are regarded as innocent entertainment.

All theatre is propaganda, varying only in degree and in the popularity or unpopularity of the point of view it attempts to propagandize. In these confused and troubled times no minority group can afford to assume an attitude of indifference even to the mildest form of propaganda, which through the medium of machine-made entertainment is now extended to every element of the population with far-reaching results. Two facts must be kept constantly before those who would be ever alert to any attempt to manipulate public opinion to the detriment of any group of people: first, that propaganda is and has always been one of the important functions of theatre; second, that theatre is one of the most powerful instruments of the modern world, excepting radio, for molding public opinion, creating attitudes and directing actions of groups of people. With development of motion pictures, which in America alone reach more than 100,000,000 people annually, theatre has become a social force of unmeasured potentialities.

Furnishing amusement and entertainment to the masses of the people is the primary function of the motion picture industry. Motion picture producers are well aware of the fact that people go to the theatre to be entertained and amused and not for the purpose of exposing themselves to indoctrination.

These producers, while not averse to propaganda so long as it meets the approval of the dominant political, economic and social groups, are careful to conceal or cleverly gloss over any unfavorable treatment or derogatory implications which may result in any appreciable reduction in the potential motion picture audience, which is meant to include every man, woman and child possessing the price of admission to the nearest motion picture theatre and transportation facilities to take him there.

According to Leonard W. Doob, propaganda is of two kinds, namely, unintentional propaganda, in which the propagandist unconsciously or unintentionally or at least without malice aforethought creates a stimulus-situation that results in forming or reinforcing attitudes; and intentional propaganda, in which the propagandist is fully aware of his aim and deliberately selects his stimulus-situations to produce the desired attitudes or action. Regardless of intent, the results are equally effective.

One of the most common devices employed in motion pictures for the purpose of creating attitudes is the use of stereotypes. In case of the Negro this stereotype is reduced to the invariable formula of the lazy, car-free, ignorant, comical "darkie." An important part of the technique is using only those types possessing distinctly Negroid physical characteristics, thus highlighting the attitude-stimulus against its competing ground, which is represented by distinctly Nordic types. No complicating factors of racial mixture or evidences of culture are permitted to confuse the emotional response to the stereotype.

There are in America thousands of people who have had little or no contact with Negroes and in some sections of this vast continent there are many who have never even seen a Negro in the flesh. The only concept which these thousands of white Americans have of Negroes is gained through the medium of motion pictures, in which the stereotype is controlled with the conscious and deliberate purpose of fixing in the minds of white Americans the concept of the Negro as an inferior being. Nor do the producers stop with the accomplishment of this concept. They go a step farther and attempt by suggestion and implication to create an attitude which defines the economic status to which the Negro should be limited—that of a menial. However important may be the part which he plays, the Negro in pictures is invariably cast in the role of a servant, thereby reinforcing an already dominant attitude.

In order to reduce probability that the stimulus employed to create these attitudes on face may not be perceived, the propagandist makes use of the technique of "perceptual repetition" to make certain that the desired attitude is firmly established. This technique of repetition rules out the probability of unintentional propaganda and reveals the treatment of the Negro in films as part of a conscious and deliberate effort to create in the minds of millions of theatre goers the belief that the Negro is inferior and that menial, laborious work is his natural heritage.

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The Political Scene of 1940

Women leaders in many fields give their views and messages emphasizing the Council's 1940 program of Voter's Education to be conducted through its Citizenship Committee:

NINETEEN hundred and forty brings us to another general election year. All voters will be given an opportunity to express themselves upon certain issues affecting our government and their choice for persons to fill important offices that will determine our general, national, and in many cases state and local policies.

Under our Democratic system of government it is recognized that the people of right ought to govern themselves and that they are fully capable of doing so. Since the passage of the 19th Amendment all adult citizens are recognized as equal in civil and political rights and must have an equal share in government. Our democratic ideals hold that the privilege of voting and holding office must be accorded to all on equal terms.

All women, and more particularly, Negro women must accept their responsibilities as members of the electorate. It is our duty to initiate a program of education and intelligent, far-seeing operation in governmental affairs. For each loyal citizen desires a fair, honest and just government and in order for us to have such a government functioning efficiently and with justice, we must have the support of a competent and intelligent electorate, unreservedly devoted to the ideals of democracy. If politics will ever be purified women voters along with others must realize their responsibilities and insist upon only qualified persons being selected as candidates for any public office. It is not sufficient for us as women to vote in the primaries and general elections. This is only a part of our obligation as citizens. In addition to exercising the privilege of voting, we must be prepared and willing to accept political office offered in our many communities.

In this presidential year we have an opportunity to participate in the selection of persons, the country over, who during these critical times will determine the policies of our government. It is a duty to take advantage of the ballot in order that we may contribute toward bringing about the ideals of equality of opportunity for all people upon which our government is based.

MARY J. MCCROREY,

(Chairman of the International Committee of the National Council of Negro Women.)

MORE than at any other time in our history, the forces of intolerance are being loosed with savage fury upon the hapless minority groups of this country. The contagion from abroad was inevitable, but fertile soil was found in the confusion, misery and hopelessness resulting from the prolonged dislocation of our economic life.

The Negro, placed in an inferior social and economic status both by tradition and a subversion of the democratic ideal, finds himself the victim of a subtly vicious propaganda which seeks to keep him forever in a state of economic servitude. In the reabsorption by private industry of the unemployed and those on work relief, the Negro has been the forgotten man. This purposed indifference, this

A Symposium

wholly unamerican attitude constitutes a challenge. And there can be but one effective answer—the building of political strength and solidarity, the exercise of the ballot by every eligible Negro citizen. This may be realized through political organization and political education plus a determined and unceasing fight against disfranchisement in the Bourbon areas of the South.

BESSYE J. BEARDEN,

(Office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, New York City)

NEGRO Women in every Villa, Village, Hamlet, Town and City should prepare themselves to exercise the right twice given them, first in the Fifteenth Amendment where citizens of color, and in the nineteenth amendment when members of our sex were given the right to vote.

Who then, should be more willing to exercise this right than we, the Black Women of America?

The Political Situation of 1940 needs much careful and prayerful consideration. The masses of our women have come up through economic reverses therefore, it will behoove us to spend some time looking up the lives of the prospective candidates who are to guide the destiny of our nation and choose for offices those who have the good of the people at heart; who shall look keenly to the relief of the economic situation. And, if needs be, push prepared women into some of these offices.

ABBIE M. JOHNSON,

(Grand Daughter-Ruler of the Elks)

THE year 1940 is most momentous for the civilization of the world because of the current wars and the post-war problems which will follow at the close.

These problems will necessarily include a re-statement of the rights, immunities and privileges of the darker peoples everywhere. Because the United States of America is the leading Neutral of the world its voice will be one of the most influential at the Council Table. Therefore, the Negro women of America should so organize themselves that they can exert such influence on their respective parties that their collective voice will be heard in the post-war settlement.

ADDIE W. DICKINSON,

(President of the International Council of the Women of the Darker Races)

PERHAPS never before in the history of our country has the importance of a national Presidential campaign carried more speculation than does the present one. Everything, of course, depends on whether or not the President will run for a third time. It is against tradition as we know it, but these are unusual times. All of the President's measures could not succeed but the ones that have succeeded and which have integrated themselves into the national life of this country, such as CCC, FHA, SEC, FDIC, NYA and old-age pension, cannot be laughed off.

On the other hand, the centralization of power in Washington and the tremendous cost of Government which witnesses the Treasury annually paying

Continued on page 28

A Symphony

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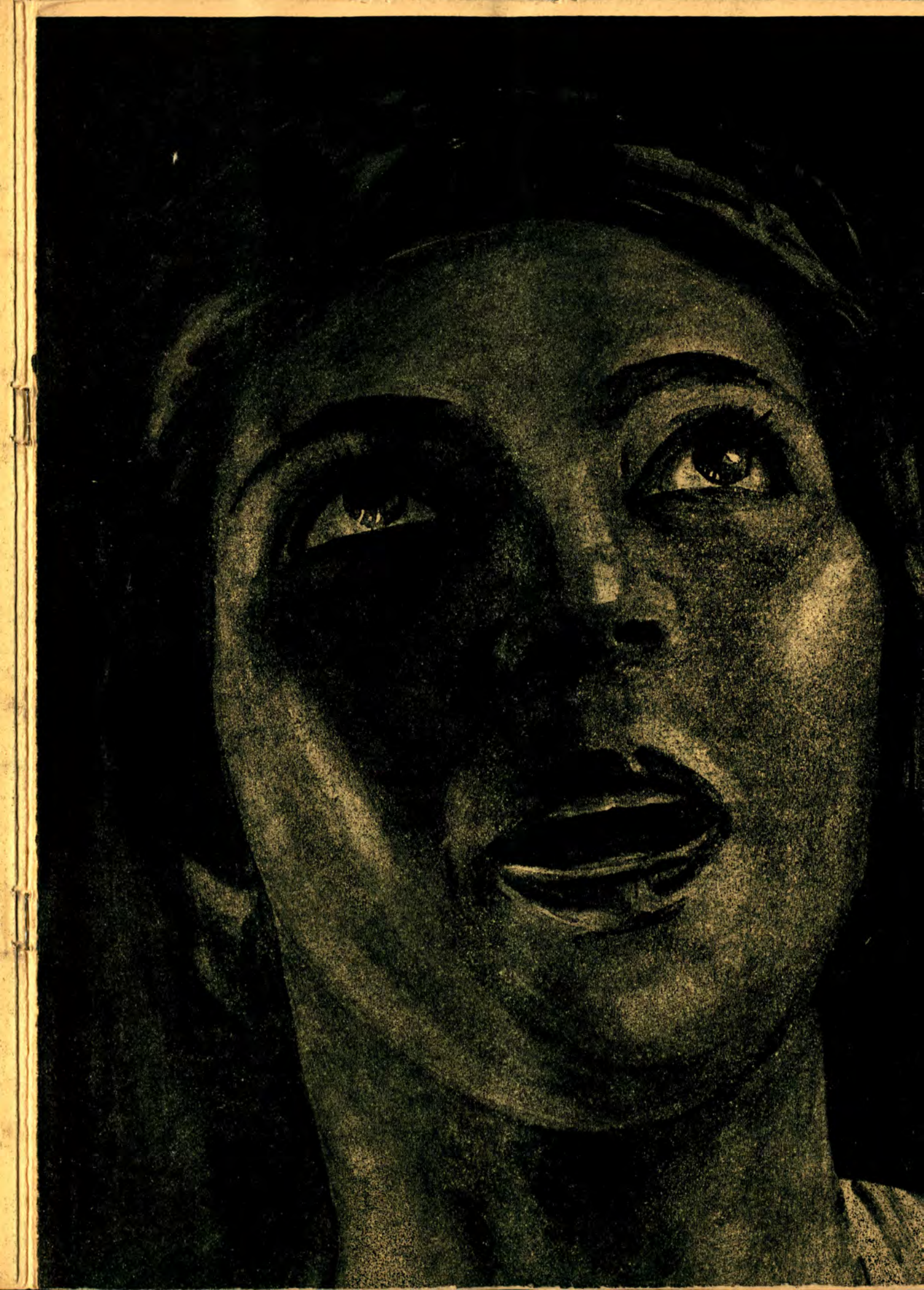
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1939



A WOMAN OF AFFAIRS:

Mary McLeod Bethune, in Ida M. Tarbell's list, is "one of America's fifty most illustrious women." Her dreaming brought forth the Bethune-Cookman College of which she is now president. The thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of this college brought Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt to Daytona Beach to give the special address for this celebration. Mrs. Bethune's distinction as a club leader reached its zenith in 1939, when the National Council of Negro Women, which she founded, comprising 17 national affiliating bodies, began the new program for its second five-year plan. Mrs. Bethune has given a ministry to wider concerns of the country, in recognition of which she was granted the coveted Spingarn Medal in 1935. At present she serves as a member of the board of directors of the World Center for Women's Archives and as the only Negro member of the Red Cross Commission for Florida relief, and gives sponsorship to the Spanish Relief Campaign, the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Statue plan, the Women's National Charter Group and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. All of these and many more would be listed on the leisure time record of this indefatigable woman. Professionally, she is the Negro woman of the country holding the highest government position serving in the capacity of Director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration.



A SINGER:

Marian Anderson sang to 75,000 people, at Easter, in Washington, 1939. It was the occasion of the unprecedented outdoor concert given under the auspices of the United States Department of the Interior, in order that Marian Anderson could sing to the multitudes who wanted to hear her in the nation's capital. A few months later in June she received the Spingarn medal, the highest award that could be given her by her own people. She has become the "dream person" of every little colored girl in America. These delight to go back stage and receive the little pat that comes with the autograph of this very famous woman. Here is, in Toscanini's words, a voice that occurs "once in a hundred years" and Jean Sibelius said in parting, after the visit and song fest in his home, "The roof of my house is too low for you."



HARRIET TUBMAN.

HARRIET TUBMAN to whom this first issue of the Aframerican Woman's Journal is humbly dedicated, is the patron saint of millions of Negro people. Born in upper Maryland and running away to freedom, she returned many times to bring nearly 400 Negroes out of slavery. During the Civil War she rendered brilliant service as a spy for the Union Army. At one time \$42,000 was offered for her capture. Surviving the war she retired to Auburn, New York, where she lived to a ripe old age, her death occurring March 10, 1913.

The one-act play in the preceding pages was written by May Miller, the distinguished playwright and daughter of the late Kelly Miller, who has also given fine treatment to the lives of Sojourner Truth and the daughters of King Henry Christophe in other one-act plays.

THE NEGRO WOMAN IN THE MAGAZINE PRESS

These findings would not merit the attention we have given them, if the women's magazines of the country were not read by more people of potential importance in America, than any other literature. Millions of housewives have their minds made up and attitudes unconsciously determined by what they read from month to month in the women's journals. We believe that respect and regard for other peoples must be given sanction in the American home. We attempt to rid our children's speech of all the vulgarities; the use of odious forms, "Chink", "Jap", "cracker", "pickaninny", "white trash" and any others employed by the crass and insensitive. We are grateful to any publications that help us to teach them the essentials of taste which includes a sensitiveness to the nuances of the feelings of all peoples and presumes an awareness of their worth and dignity.

PROPAGANDA TECHNIQUES

Motion picture producers hang their propaganda on those minorities which they can more safely risk offending without incurring any appreciable loss or criticism. The Indian, the Mexican and the Negro are the racial groups most frequently singled out for unfavorable propaganda in American films. The same producers who malign these racial groups with relative impunity are very careful to avoid offending ever so slightly such minorities as the German, the Italian, the Pole, the Scandinavian, the Irish and even the Jew. Although the Jew is numerically a minority in America, he is not culturally or economically a minority in this country. The Jew, it should be noted, was not treated with this same degree of consideration in the living theatre prior to the development of the motion picture industry and its present control.

There is no avenue open by means of which propaganda favorable to the Negro can be disseminated to the millions of people whose attitudes and actions relative to race are carefully controlled and directed through the agency of motion pictures and radio. The propaganda techniques employed by these agencies are so subtle as to require careful study and analysis on part of those who would combat the effects of this propaganda, which is erecting powerful barriers against inter-racial cooperation and good will and ultimate realization of the democratic way of life in America.

LE CONSEIL NATIONAL DES FEMMES NOIRES DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Le Conseil s'est proposé la tâche de concentrer l'attention de la conscience publique de l'Amérique sur la paysanne noire des Etats du Sud, "qui peine comme une esclave à la maison comme aux champs, pour créer un foyer à la majorité de la population noire". La considération qui lui a été accordée a eu pour résultat les récentes études faites dans l'intérêt des travailleuses rurales et domestiques, et l'encouragement donné aux écoles d'apprentissage pour domestiques existant dans diverses parties du pays.

Le second plan quinquennal de travail insiste sur la nécessité d'apporter appui et collaboration aux mouvements ouvriers progressistes; sur les lois fédérales contre le lynchage; les efforts gouvernementaux pour la préservation des ressources naturelles dont dépendent des masses énormes qu'affectent les fléaux des tempêtes de sable, les inondations et l'érosion du sol; la campagne pour l'obtention du droit de vote pour tous les citoyens de l'Amérique, et l'effort spécial à apporter à l'Education Electorale, par la publication et la diffusion d'A.B.C., sous la direction du Comité des Droits du Citoyen; l'établissement de nouvelles relations avec la Femme Orientale, en particulier en Inde Anglaise (Congrès National Féminin de l'Inde), et avec l'Amérique Latine, par le moyen de tournées, groupes d'études et échange de documentation et de délégués d'associations; la campagne nationale contre la propagande par la presse, la T. S. F., le théâtre, le cinéma et les manuels scolaires visant activement ou sournoisement à attirer la méfiance publique sur la race noire; création d'un bureau d'orientation professionnelle et de consultations pour la Jeunesse Noire; la collaboration avec Mme Mary R. Beard dans son effort pour réunir des documents sur la femme dans le passé et le présent, pour le Centre Mondial d'Archives Féminines; la participation aux divers projets nationaux des groupements féminins de l'élément-racial majoritaire aux Etats-Unis et en tant que membre collectif du Conseil International Féminin.

EL CONCILIO, ETC.

El segundo plan que también cubre cinco años de actividad, hace hincapié en el apoyo y respaldo de movimientos progresistas de obreros; legislación Federal en contra del linchamiento; intereses del gobierno en la preservación de resortes naturales que afectan un gran número de personas implicadas en tales calamidades como inundaciones y erosiones; una campaña para asegurar franquicia para todos los ciudadanos Americanos, y trabajo especial para electores; educación por medio de la publicación y distribución de cartillas bajo la dirección del comité de Ciudadanía; el establecimiento de nuevas relaciones con mujeres del Oriente, sobre todo India (el All India Women's Congress) y con la América Latina, por medio de viajes o excursiones, conferencias e intercambio de literatura y delegados; campaña nacional en contra de la propaganda remitida por la prensa, el radio, el teatro, y textos escolares, que tratan directa o indirectamente a desacreditar la raza de color; la formación y desarrollo de un departamento de supervisión y dirección vocacional para la juventud de color; cooperación con la Señora Mary R. Beard con el fin de obtener datos sobre la vida de las mujeres del pasado y del presente para "The World Center of Women's Archives"; participación en los distintos programas de organizaciones de mujeres en los Estados Unidos como también en el Concilio Internacional de Mujeres.

The White House Conference on Children in a Democracy

By Ora Brown Stokes

IN the auditorium of the Department of Labor on a cold morning last January, sat more than five hundred persons as members of the Conference to study the child in America. They represented nearly every state in the Union, the island possessions and every strand in the American social skein. There were important fraternal delegates. Miss Charlotte Whitton, Executive Director of the Canadian Welfare Council, brought greetings from Canada. Fru Betzy Kjelsberg, factory inspector of Norway, gave good wishes and tearfully forecast "the threat on the doorstep" of the democratic institutions of her own country.

Secretary of Labor Perkins ably assisted by Miss Katherine Lenroot, of the Children's Bureau, directed the Conference carrying through the program outlined for it months before by a planning committee of which Dr. T. Arnold Hill of the Urban League, and Dr. Charles Johnson, of Fisk University, were members.

The history of this movement goes back to President Theodore Roosevelt who called the first such White House Conference in 1909, followed by Woodrow Wilson in 1919, Herbert Hoover in 1930, and Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940. The Conference meets every ten years. This one was said to differ from its predecessors in that the whole life of the child was considered in the eleven topics discussed by the various committees.

In this brief account one can only mention the interesting highlights. There were no party lines observed, the occasion being non-political and purely democratic in every aspect. On Friday night of the Conference, President Roosevelt speaking after Miss Perkins had presented a brief outline of the accomplishments of the Conference, made the following statement:

"After reviewing the record of the past ten years, your Conference finds that we have definitely improved our social institutions and public services. You conclude and rightly, that to have made progress in a period of hardship and strain proves that America has both strength and courage. But we have still much to do. Too many children are living under conditions that must be corrected if our democracy is to develop to its highest capacity. You have charted a course for ten years or more ahead. Nevertheless, the steps we take today will determine how far we can go tomorrow, and in what direction. I believe with you that if anywhere in the country any child lacks opportunity for home life, health protection, education or moral and spirit-

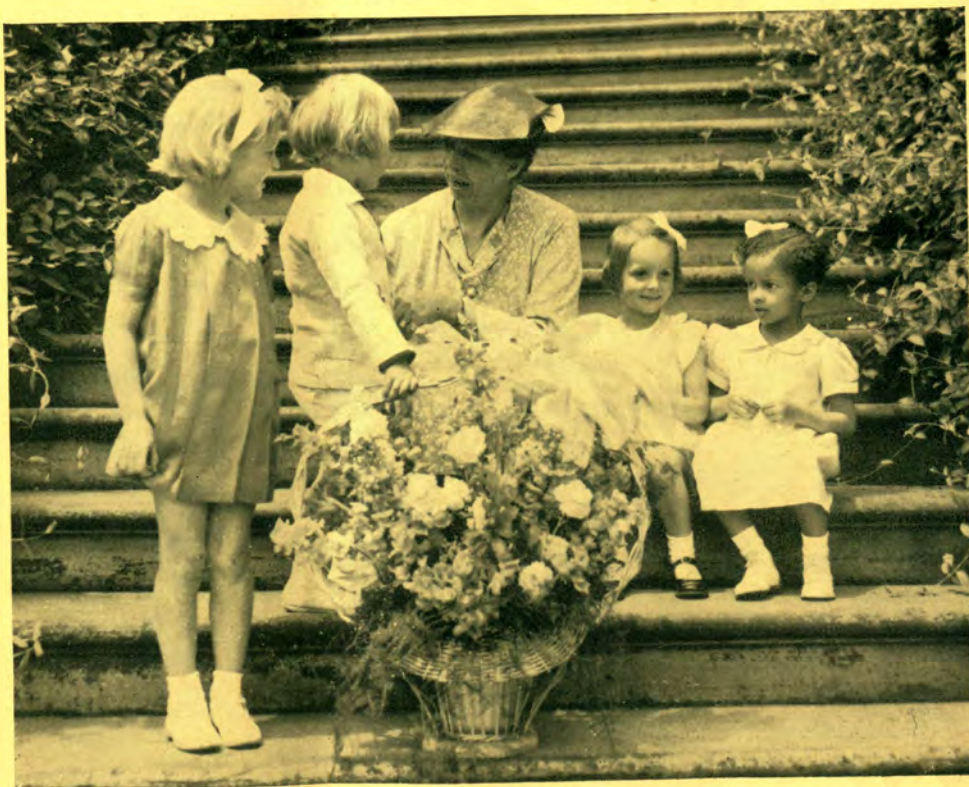
ual development, the strength of the nation and its ability to cherish and advance the principles of democracy are thereby weakened.

I ask all of our fellow citizens who are within the sound of my voice to consider themselves identified with the work of this Conference. I ask you all to study and to discuss with friends and neighbors the program it has outlined, and how its objectives can be realized. May the security and happiness of every boy and girl in our land be our concern, our personal concern from now on."

During the sessions challenging statements in behalf of youth were made by Floyd Reeves, director of the American Youth Commission, and by W. R. Ogg of the American Farm Bureau Federation, who stated that the conservation of the children of the nation is of more importance than the conservation of soil, water, or forest.

The following topics were reviewed before the group as a whole having been discussed in separate study-groups: The Family as the Thresh-hold of Democracy; Economic Resources of Families and Communities; Housing the Family; Economic Aid to Families; Social Services for Children; Religion and Children in a Democracy; Children in Minority Groups; Health and Medical Care for Children; Leisure Time Activities; Child Labor and Youth Employment.

These reports were presented by the Chairman of the respective groups with the veteran Homer Folks of New York, always on the job to pilot things through. A special White House feature was the formal meeting and reception held in the great East room, after which Mrs. Roosevelt, the ever gracious hostess that she is, greeted each guest in attendance, inviting them into the White House



Dining Room to be served. Thus closed a Conference whose ideals were stated in the following quotation: "Secure family life is the foundation of individual happiness and well being." And from Secretary Perkins, the findings of the body offered "a pattern of behavior for people in relation to children, a standard to which all good men may repair." Certainly each delegate left feeling bound to interpret its findings to his own community.

Seen and heard at the Conference were the following educational and social leaders of our group: Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, Mrs. Jennie D. Moton, Dr. F. D. Patterson, Mr. T. Arnold Hill, Dr. Chas. S. Johnson, Mr. H. B. Evans, Dr. Ambrose Caliver, Dr. B. E. Mays, Mrs. Mabel Stauners, and Dr. Bousfield. Mrs. Bethune and Eugene Kinckle Jones were members unable to attend.

THE POLITICAL scene of 1940

out more money than it is receiving and thereby more deeply impairing the credit of the country is also an argument.

Whether the voters will sustain the New Deal in office or turn to some other party depends very largely upon the best formulas or plans that can be presented to the voters as to how to relieve unemployment. This is the most vital issue for the voters to consider, parties to the contrary notwithstanding. Certainly this is the most vital issue before the Negro voter as he has felt the pinch of unemployment more than any other American citizen.

DAISY E. LAMPKIN,
(Writer and Lecturer)

ONLY through the intelligent and effective use of franchise can a democracy or any group in a democracy survive. The average American's apathy toward his privileges and duties as a citizen accounts largely for many of the difficulties involving the nation as a whole.

The Negro should be especially vigilant in obtaining and using the franchise which is the only means of correcting the many ills to which he is subjected.

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc., through its citizenship department is launching a drive for 100 per cent registration and voting of all individual members and organizations affiliated with it.

Our effort is to work diligently in all parts of the country to bring about complete enfranchisement for all Negro citizens.

LUGENIA B. HOPE,
(Chairman Citizenship Committee of The
National Council of Negro Women)



MOTHER'S DAY, 1940, will bring a special and unique gift to the Aframerican Woman's Journal and the Council which it represents. Mr. Wade McCree of Boston, as an expression of appreciation to the Derricotte Foundation which sent his daughter on a scholarship-tour to India, 1939-40, presents both to the Derricotte Foundation and the Aframerican Woman's Journal, the Mother's Day seal above which celebrates "Negro Motherhood on Mother's Day."

The seals were executed by an artist in Chicago and made up on transparent paper, in lovely brown and red tone colors. They will be 8" x 10", cut in convenient size for pasting on windows in Negro homes, on May 12, Mother's Day. The face of the woman used is not a likeness of any one person. Rather the effort has been to picture the composite Negro Mother whose patience, love, and courage have been our power and inspiration through the years. The seals will be available to churches, clubs, YMCA and YWCA, and fraternal groups, at ten cents. A high percentage of this amount is given back to the group that handles the sale of the seals. The remaining goes to the Derricotte Foundation to be used according to the donor, "as a sum of money inspired by the memory of Negro mothers and a will to do them honor, to promote the furtherance of scholarships for Negro women in the Orient; and to the Aframerican Women's Journal, magazine of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., for its educational program to benefit students at home."

Any group wishing to handle the seals may write for particulars to the Journal.

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THE JOURNAL is publishing in the summer issue a directory of Negro business and professional women in every state in the union. Will Council members help us to locate the women in business and professions in your state?

Also

THE WOMAN'S EXCHANGE—a service department of the journal, in charge of the sale of women's handicrafts (lovely quilts, embroideries, needlepoint, knitting, crocheting, etc.) begins in the next issue. Do you do fine work that the woman's exchange could sell for you?

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