

1941

# The Aframerican WOMAN'S JOURNAL



CONFERENCE ISSUE

1941

Sophia Smith Research Room



# DIRECTORY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

182-9th St. N.W.  
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## THE AFRAMERICAN WOMAN'S JOURNAL

(Official Magazine of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.)

Editor, MRS. SUE BAILEY THURMAN, Washington, D. C.

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# THE AFRAMERICAN WOMAN'S JOURNAL

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VOLUME I

CONFERENCE ISSUE, 1941

No. 4

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A young Washington artist gives to JOURNAL readers the first drawing of "The Cedars," home of Frederick Douglass in Anacostia, designed especially to be hand embroidered on linen. We can furnish pattern for stamping at nominal cost. Restoration of the historic Douglass home is due to the foresight of the National Association of Colored Women, who raised the funds to purchase the property, dedicating the same in 1920, during the presidency of Mary B. Talbert. THE AFRAMERICAN WOMAN'S JOURNAL hopes that many home makers as well as school children in American homes will attempt to make with their own hands this elegant piece of needle work.

\* \* \* \*

The Conference Issue has given in summary reports from three important national meetings. A resume of annual boules and conventions affiliating with the Council, in sessions the first half of 1941 will appear in the Seminar issue.

\* \* \* \*

The Summer number will be devoted entirely to "The Negro Woman in National Defense." It will be concerned chiefly with a survey and report locating work being done by women in all the states, and pointing up problems, accomplishments, and areas of need. Presidents of Metropolitan councils and Area Representatives will be called upon to enlarge the staff of contributing editors in the preparation of this material. We invite also the creative contribution of every council member in the effort to make this a tremendously significant issue.



## FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT TO THE COUNCIL:

The Conference, as you recall, made very definite recommendations in its findings. The first one is important as it refers to the establishment of a National Shrine. The ownership of a building in which we could house historical archives of peculiar significance to Negro women is in itself a worthwhile thing. However, in addition to this, the acquisition of a permanent meeting place which would be available to all national groups as well as to the local groups in that community, and which building would reflect the competence of Negro women to purchase and manage such an institution is a project which we hope very much could be carried out at least within the next five years if not earlier. Such a building, properly managed, might prove to be a source of income after the initial cost had been liquidated.

"For those of you who are having conventions in 1941, we hope that sober, thoughtful consideration will be given to all of the difficult and pressing problems which we as Negro women are facing today, and that the women who meet with you, coming as they do from all sections of the country, will find inspiration and added courage to go on with the pioneering and significant work in which they are engaged. These are perilous and dangerous times; perilous, because in the struggle to maintain our democracy there is always that danger that the freedom for minority and economically insignificant groups will be suppressed or even entirely emasculated in the excitement and fear that possess people when they feel that their safety is being threatened, and dangerous, because in a defense economy, the problems which are ever present with us are in danger of being ignored or completely overlooked."

"There are three things we have in mind which we would like our member organizations to carry out as quickly as possible. They are,

"(1) Dissemination and interpretation of the findings of the National Council of Negro Women to all member organizations. We would like to suggest to all of our organizations who are having conventions in 1941 that they allocate a definite period of time on the program for a discussion of the findings.

"(2) The organization of local committees in all communities where there is a sufficient number of national organizations to make such a group possible. Certainly, most effective action can be secured by combined and unified efforts of the local organizations in the community. The united strength of these groups would be of incalculable value in working through our projects and ought not in any way impede or interfere with the individual program of any national organization. I think this would be a very advantageous step toward knitting together the activities and work of the National Council."

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## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

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### OUR PLEDGE

To make a lasting contribution to all that is finest and best in America so that her heritage of freedom and progress will be infinitely enriched by the integration of 12 million Negroes into the economic, social, cultural, civic, and political life of this country and thus achieve the glorious destiny of a true and unfettered democracy.

\* \* \* \* \*

### TO SERVE AS—

A UNION of National organizations of Negro women . . .

A CLEARING HOUSE for the dissemination of information concerning the activities of women . . .

A TRAINING SCHOOL for leadership . . .

A SPONSOR for a progressive plan of interracial development . . .

A COUNCILOR in the field of consumer education . . .

A GUIDE for the establishment of local councils . . .

A FORCE to inspire young women to greater organizational activity . . .

A VOICE for the 5 million Negro women of the United States . . .

A SUPPORTER and advocate of progressive labor movements . . .

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(3) The Council must put the strength of its 20 national affiliating bodies back of the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, *this year*. We support equally federal anti-poll tax legislation, which will secure for Negro and white Americans alike, all over the nation, full prerogative, and protection of citizenship, under the American government.

Sincerely,

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE.

THE AFRAMERICAN



# Paradoxes and Paragons



NEGRO history week in the United States is observed nationally in February of each year synchronizing with the birthdays of beloved Frederick Douglass and the Emancipator-President. The JOURNAL editor considered it a privilege to travel south this year—to Alabama, as guest of the Periclean Club of Birmingham, and thence to Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas for the extensive celebrations, remaining to visit groups of interesting women in parts of the Southern region. The interminable train rides were heightened, stimulated or depressed by autobiographies of three people—two American, one East Indian,—“Dusk of Dawn,” by Dubois, “Lanterns on the Levee,” by Percy, and “Toward Freedom,” by Jawaharlal Nehru. Outside spring was on its way to the old south and those nostalgic souls who use each advent to recreate so-called ante-bellum splendors were busy in lavish preparation for tourist trade. There were offerings of garden tours, sightseeing pilgrimages to old mansions with a promise to the visitors of a faithful re-enacting of old days. Servants in bandannas, poor little modern beggars dancing for dimes, and ultimately the “slave” voices of costumed choirs, singing light and carefree spirituals from cabins down in the “quarters.” I wish as an unromantic native that these pictures which must return, it seems, to the south from year to year, could be more complete. For historical significance, at least, even if mental realism were disregarded by them for the moment, these pageanteers would be required to include the slave markets, whipping posts, the sad face of a slave mother like Sojourner Truth, whose four children had been sold forever away from her during this recreated period, and the sadder songs of long ago with which the enslaved were more familiar—“Nobody knows the trouble I see, nobody knows my sorrow.” . . . . “Sometimes I fell like a motherless child.” . . . . “No more auction block for me, many thousand gone.” . . . . “Soon I will be done with the troubles of this world.”

There are scores like these—“sorrow songs” of a depressed people, as Dubois has called them in his “Soul of Black Folk,” which constitute the great folk offering contributed to the heirs of that inheritance today. The vaudeville minstrelry of “Hand me down the silver trumpet, Gabriel,” sung along the Natchez Trace this season, would not represent the miseries of Sojourner Truth. But, for that matter, she plays no part in any of the new dramatic efforts to recapture the past and give off as inconsequential the tragic suffering of the Ne-

gro’s daily life during the period of America’s slavery years. We believe rather that she would have preferred wide sponsorship of the reading of May Miller’s play, which took place in dozens of high schools last February, based on the life of Harriet Tubman and the feat of a lone slave-abolitionist who brought more than 300 of her fellows across the line to freedom during the night watches of her untiring years. Likewise Sojourner Truth would have wanted to go on the pilgrimage along with some of us to the particular mansions which are many in the south, erected by the manual skill of men in bondage. These rise as monuments to the faith they had in their own minds and abilities, the faith that made possible the building of stately halls with their doric columns and wrought iron grilles—from Alcorn Chapel to the sea, and the later work of Negro artisans and craftsmen in building steamships, rearing bridges, laying railroads, and tunnelling mountains for an ever-expanding nation. And it continues in the long line of achievements that have come down through the millions of their descendants in the variety of contributions made to the development of American life today.

There are new stirrings in the air and one cannot but hope that the cooperation of certain groups of scholars in the country will bear fruit. Arthur Rapier recently collaborated with Ira De A. Reid, the Atlanta sociologist, in writing their revealing study “Sharecroppers All.” W. J. Cash has released his important work, “The Mind of the South,” while Richard Wright and Paul Green consulted together at Chapel Hill and the resulting material, touched by the genius of Orson Welles, brings “Native Son” to Broadway. Paul Green continues his fine service by contributing dramatic sketches to the Free Company—a group of radio players who present on Sunday evenings a telling account of the leaks in American democracy. The Methodist Church Women, South, have embarked on a far-reaching interracial program, and listeners at the April banquet in New York to whom Paul Robeson sang, were inspired to new belief, as they heard the story of the Methodist women’s effort as told by their representative to the assembly. These women would have contacts between Americans of kindred mind and spirit extended, without which there can be no such thing as mutual understanding. They must regret that William Alexander Percy, the Greenville planter, who writes “Lanterns on the Levee,” could never have met or known James Weldon Johnson, one of the most sensitive poet-spirits ever born to American soil.



He probably missed his autobiography too, "Along This Way," the record of a life remarkably unusual in incident and personal distinction, published a few years before his untimely death in automobile accident, June 1938. I wonder, too, if Percy could have met at any time during his three years at Harvard, Louis Thompson Wright, the surgeon of New York City, born in Atlanta, educated in medicine at Harvard, graduating cum laude and leaving school to become in a short time a police surgeon, and receive a permanent appointment as surgeon in one of the largest municipal hospitals in New York, and membership in the National and the American Medical Society. Dubois had gone by that time, of course, for he took the three degrees at Harvard, at the close of the last century pursuing studies meanwhile in the University of Berlin. But Alain Locke, the philosopher and art critic was there for college, receiving the primary degree before going as Rhodes scholar to Oxford, and later returning for a Ph.D. at Harvard. There was Carter Woodson too, founder of the Society for the Study of Negro History, taking a Ph.D. in history at the Cambridge institution. Unfortunately, there has been no one to give Mr. Percy an interpretation of "the 12 millions" but his house boy, "Ford." This hapless creature appears in his book to be a worthless derelict who issues strange and morbid tales in abundance delivered, of course, "solely in the interest of science." It would seem that Ford is not deserving the sums of money expended in futile effort to rescue him from the immutable laws of retribution. A library or well equipped playground for the children of Greenville would make for fewer Fords in the world tomorrow. Nor would these sanctuaries of light and happiness be as expensive to sustain as the ever-recurring vagaries of a degenerate Ford. It is possible to believe, too, in this connection that if "the large amount of time, money and emotion" expended by white families in that section, as Mr. Percy states it, "in preventing criminals they employ from receiving their legal deserts," were appropriated for the education of little children in the schools, the chapter given as "a Note on Racial Relations" would be a considerably altered story. Colored children in Mississippi receive for their education "5.45 per capita annually, a.d.a. (average daily attendance); white children receive 9 times as much, or \$45.35 a.d.a.

The time will come again, no doubt, when the poor, ill-fortuned and disinherited of the delta region or some other part of the country, may be called upon to meet some kind of national or\* sectional disaster with bravery and courage. Then perhaps the persuasions would be somewhat on this wise:

"Great calamities are visited upon men to test their courage. You must rise to meet such an occasion like every other man who stands in the presence of the Great Creator and says 'I am your son.' For you too, are made in his image. This day you are tested and must prove

\*Lanterns on the Levee, Ch. XX.

yourselves to be greater than anything that can happen to you. God is watching to see how you will meet this crisis. The poor, the unlettered, the dispossessed have high qualities of heroism which spring from the Kingdom of Heaven Within. You are called upon to help yourselves and help others. May you be counted on to do a *man's* part? There is work to do, boats with foodstuffs to be unloaded. How many of the *men* present will meet the boat tomorrow?



Those of us who visited in Nehru's home in Allahabad, on the pilgrimage of friendship to India four years ago, are happy that his autobiography has reached America, coming by way of the John Day Company, and having been printed by the Cornwall Press of New Jersey. It is further heartening that this personal testament of a young leader of Indian thought, second only to Gandhi, has been given a kindly reception and as often praise by book reviewers of the American press, north and south. Nehru has been in prison in India since the fall of 1940, sentenced to serve four years of "rigorous imprisonment" for a speech considered "objectionable" by the British Government of India. It is interesting that this is Nehru's eighth prison term and most of his "Toward Freedom" was written during these periods in jail. His book is timely for those who want to be "students" of the Anglo-Indian struggle, and others who would dare to suggest in these times that there is nothing that resembles democracy in India.



It has been a pleasure to observe the working of women's organizations of America in the last few months. The Centennial Congress called by Carrie Chapman Catt was a springboard, followed by the conference at Vassar which brought together 17 women's groups. The National Council of Negro Women reported to the latter meeting its plan to study local community conditions through metropolitan councils as a part of a total national defense program. It has committed itself to aid the other women's organizations represented, in every way possible in the proposed community analyses of problems involving housing, hospital facilities, employment, recreation, consumer education, and the like, as they effect the Negro unit of the community. America and all of its citizens stand to benefit by having the searchlight trained on all communities thus revealing and pointing up problems which must be trusted for solution to an awakened public conscience.

*Sue Bailey Thurman*



THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
NEGRO WOMEN, INC., DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

## Program

### "Women Facing New Frontiers"

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24—8:00 P. M.

Meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee at the Headquarters of the National Association of Colored Women, 1114 O Street, N. W.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

##### Morning Session

9:00-10:00—Registration  
10:00-12:00—Opening session  
Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President, convenes the Conference  
Mrs. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, 1st Vice-President, presiding  
Invocation—The Rev. Solomon L. Michaux, Radio Minister  
Memorial Service in tribute to the officers, Mrs. Addie W. Dickerson and Mrs. Abbie M. Johnson, and members  
Minutes  
Introduction of Delegates  
Appointment of Committees  
Panel Discussion—Consumer Problems in 1940  
Miss Frances Harriet Williams, *Chairman*  
Mrs. Leila T. Alexander  
Miss Gertrude Brown  
Mrs. Mable K. Staupers  
Miss Mae Hawes

##### Afternoon Session

12:00- 1:30—Meeting of Standing and Appointed Committees  
1:30- 2:30—Lunch Hour  
3:00- 4:00—White House Conference

##### Evening Session

8:00-10:00—Public Mass Meeting, Auditorium of the Department of Labor, Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, presiding  
Music—The National Anthem  
Invocation—The Rev. H. B. Taylor, Minister, the 15th Street Presbyterian Church  
Greetings from the Nation—Congressman Arthur Mitchell  
Greetings from the District of Columbia—Judge Armond Scott  
Response—Mrs. Mary L. McCrorey  
Music—The Howard University Women's Glee Club  
Presentation of Officers of the National Council of Negro Women—Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune  
Address: Voters Education for 1940—Mrs. John Hope, Sr.  
Address: A Defense Economy—Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, Chief Civic Group Section, Consumer Division, National Defense  
Music—Miss Irma Allen

Address: The International Program of the National Council of Negro Women—Report of the Seminar in Cuba—Mrs. Sue Bailey Thurman

Music—The Howard University Women's Glee Club

Address: The Negro Woman Faces New Frontiers—The Honorable Hubert T. Delany, Commissioner, Department of Taxes, New York City

Music—Audience—"Lift Every Voice and Sing"—Johnson

Announcements

Adjournment

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

##### Morning Session

Mrs. Bessye Bearden, presiding  
9:00-12:00—  
Invocation—The Rev. Walter H. Brooks, Minister, the 19th Street Baptist Church  
Minutes  
Reports of Officers  
Reports of Committees  
Panel Discussion—Citizenship Responsibilities in 1940  
Mrs. John Hope, *Chairman*  
Miss Elsie Austin  
Miss Dorothy Height  
Mrs. Margaret Sims

##### Afternoon Session

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, presiding  
1:00-4:00—  
Music  
Invocation—The Rev. Arthur D. Gray, Minister, the Plymouth Congregational Church  
Reports of Committees  
Presentation of National Objectives in Council Program—1940-1941

##### Evening Session

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, presiding  
Mrs. Julia West Hamilton, Chairman of Dinner Committee  
8:15—Dinner Conference—  
Invocation—The Rev. Robert M. Williams, Minister, the Asbury Methodist Church  
Music—Mrs. Ethel Ramos Harris  
Greetings from Guest Organizations  
Address—Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, United States Minister to Norway  
Conference Findings—Mrs. Vivian Carter Mason  
Music—"God Bless America"—Audience  
Conference Benediction—Dr. Howard Thurman, Dean of the Chapel, Howard University



# High Lighting the Conference



MRS. HARRIMAN, MINISTER TO NORWAY (LEFT), MRS. ALETHIA FLEMING OF CLEVELAND AND MRS. BETHUNE AT THE COUNCIL DINNER MEETING.

## PROGRAM

NOTHING seemed more important to delegates at the annual conference than plans for the extensive program of Consumer Education for Women as outlined for 1940-41. Miss Frances Williams with her executive, Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, of the Chief Civic Group section of the Consumer Division of National Defense, prepared statements for the body covering a wide range of problems to be acted upon by the National Council. Hardly less significant, it being election year, was the tremendous drive given to Voters Education to be conducted throughout the council year climaxing the indefatigable effort of Mrs. John Hope and her National Committee on Citizenship.

At the White House Meeting the first afternoon of the conference, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt gave enthusiastic encouragement to a close study of local communities by organized women's groups to the end that conditions be better known and recognized in the community and resources for remedial action made available in every possible instance. The need of consumer education to benefit millions of American homemakers formed the basis of general discussion at the White House. Mrs. Bethune, the national president, introduced Mrs. Thurman, JOURNAL editor, who presented the first lady of the land with copies of our new venture in journalism, the first and Spring number, and the Archives and Seminar issues of the magazine. Four hundred and fifty women were in attendance at the White House session.

The Arts were not forsaken during the annual meeting. Members of the Howard University Women's

Glee Club under the direction of Miss Carolyn Grant sang joyous numbers for the gathering in Department of Labor Auditorium. They looked the part too, of those who inspired Longfellow's lines of long ago,

"How beautiful is youth, how bright it gleams,  
With its illusions, aspirations, dreams!"

The Men's Glee Club of Johnson C. Smith University sang for the banquet. They were presented by Mrs. Mary L. McCrorey, wife of the president of that University and chairman of the International Committee of the council. A quinchord quartet of Washington introduced one morning session with thrilling Negro folk music. Considering soloists there is no person among us who sings the Lord's Prayer by Malotte, with quite the spirit of Irma Allen. She is a product of Bethune Cookman College and was for some time sponsored in her musical education by the sainted Robert Shailor Holmes. Ethel Ramos Harris rendered for the dinner audience two of her original compositions to be heard later in a national radio program.

It was the United States Minister to Norway, Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, but recently returned to America, who gave the high note of courage and inspiration to the conference in a stirring account of the heroism of Scandinavians. Citing the heart and enduring spirit of brave women, of whom there are many in Norway, the minister referred to Sigrid Undset, the Nobel prize winner who had sacrificed one son in the army during the Nazi invasion and had fled her country and come to American to tell the story in lecture engagements to a vast number of her spiritual allies in the new world.



Misses Kathryn Heath and Schoshana Garber, fraternal dinner guests, representing the National Association of Deans of Women, and the National Council of Jewish Women, respectively, brought the felicitations and best wishes of their organizations. Pioneer Crusader Charles Edward Russell's greeting was his usual fearless challenge to minority groups, "You must ever help America redeem the right to call herself a democracy." He echoed the warnings of Tax Commissioner Hubert Delaney, who addressed the audience in Labor Auditorium the night before. The Minister of Haiti, and Madame Elie Lescot came as representatives of the Haitian government. Mon. Lescot has since been elected president of the Republic of Haiti. With his gracious family, he takes back to his country the warm and abiding good will of the National Council of Negro Women of the United States.

### PERSONALITIES—

Once a year at Council meeting young and older women in leadership across the country meet on a common basis to plan the work of organization for the ensuing year. Undergraduate members of national sororities join alumnae chapters to consult with church and fraternal women and auxiliary groups in arts, business and the professions. Two veteran owners of newspapers, Mesdames W. A. Scott and Robert S. Abbott, and Mrs. Sara Spencer Washington, founder and president of the Apex Company, worked long in committee with younger leaders such as Sarah Pelham Speaks, Eunice Hunton Carter and Dorothy Height, while Mesdames Julia West Hamilton, Rebecca Styles Taylor and Alethia Fleming, contributing a distinguished background of club experience, conferred with Buena V. Kelly, Margaret Sims, Mary Huff Diggs and Dorothy B. Ferebee. A pleasant new presence was that of Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon who comes to take the place of our departed friend, Abbie M. Johnson. Present was Dorothy Porter with much talk of the seminar in Cuba (August, 1940) and the feat of the Archives Committee, of which she is chairman, to unearth the first college diploma granted a Negro woman in America (Oberlin, 1862) exhibited by the Council at the Chicago Exposition. The easterners came with Lelia T. Alexander, resourceful social worker of Waterbury, Connecticut, and Harriet B. Hall, leader of so many movements in Boston. First Vice-President Charlotte Hawkins Brown could be counted with this number, but we prefer to list her with March Church Terrell who presided at the Saturday business meeting, because these two were authors in the midst who had published each a most interesting book during 1940. Mrs. Brown's treatment on etiquette has been made a required text in many schools and Mrs. Terrell's "A Colored Woman in a White World" is regarded as one of the significant autobiographies to emerge in the country since "Up from Slavery." Their associate at conference was Mrs. Chris-

tine Smith, second vice-president, who represented the thousands of church women under her leadership throughout Methodism. Mayme Ivason Higgins, director of the Pre-school Nursery for Children, and Marjorie Joyner brought the invitation from Chicago which will take the next annual meeting to the Northwest. We missed Judge Jane Bolin, Portia Trenholm, Dr. Elizabeth Carter Brooks who wired personal greetings, Estelle Massey Riddle, Superintendent of Nurses at Homer Phillips in St. Louis, ex-Basileus Margaret D. Bowen and Miss Fannie Williams, both of New Orleans, and Mrs. Wendell Greene, president of the local Council unit of Chicago.

Carita Roane, Manager of the New York State Employment Service, gave up her work as executive secretary at the close of the conference, explaining that duties incident to her responsible post in New York City made the step imperative. Mrs. Roane had rendered distinguished service to the council. She was succeeded by Florence K. Norman, able recording secretary, who was for sometime director of a business college in Washington and who has worked with the Council since its founding and like the late lamented Dean Lucy Slowe has helped through the years with the arduous and painstaking task of articulating and interpreting the purpose, principles, and objectives of the national body. Bessye Bearden was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of Addie W. Dickerson as national treasurer. Vivian Carter Mason, brilliant Director of the Division of Field Administration of the New York City Department of Welfare, delivered the conference findings which closed the annual session.



FLORENCE K. NORMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



## REPORTS—

*Excerpts from President Mary McLeod Bethune's annual address:*

"This has been a historic year: the birth of a National Magazine; participation of the organization in the 75th anniversary of the Negro's citizenship in America; participation in the New York World's Fair; participation in the privilege of interpreting to the United States government through various channels of government, the needs, possibilities and resources of our group making for closer and more frequent cooperation; the establishment of a clearing house through distribution of thousands of letters advocating passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, abolishing of poll tax, and equalization of educational funds appropriated for Negroes in this country. I recommend for the Council's consideration: (1) the establishing of a Headquarters Building for the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., which will also serve as archives center in the Nation's Capital, (2) the extension of the *Aframerican Woman's Journal* as the official organ of the council, with editorial offices in Washington, (3) the setting up of a speaker's bureau to serve all sections of the country and (4) the immediate organization of metropolitan or local council units in as many cities and towns as may have sufficient chapters of national organizations affiliated with council, or life members, to form such a group."

At the close of the report the executive secretary read from the *Congressional Record* the letter written by the President of the Council on its behalf, to the President of the United States.

### *From the Executive Secretary's report:*

The executive secretary has cooperated by means of correspondence or in conference with the following organizations: The Council against Intolerance assisting in their sale of stamps; the National Consumer's League; the League of Women Voters; the Chicago Domestic Workers' Union, sending a special letter in cooperation with them to the U. S. Department of Labor asking for a special meeting to be called for domestic workers; The American Hygiene Association, promoting its 4th National Health Day; The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, circularizing material published by them in support of the anti-lynching bill; the National League to Protect Colored Workers in Sugar Refining Industries, attempting to awaken public interest in the serious plight of that group. The executive secretary and other individual members have represented the council in several important gatherings during the year. The secretary served on the Resource Committee and helped to edit the findings of the Symposium on Household Employment which met at Hotel Biltmore in New York in November. Representatives were sent to the annual meeting of the National Council of Family

Relations, the American Orthopsychiatric Association and the Conference on Human Needs. We were a part of the National Negro Memorial Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the World's Fair, in New York City, and conducted the Women's Archives section of the Negro Exposition held in Chicago, July-September, 1940. (See JOURNAL Editor's report.)

I cannot recommend too strongly that all national reports covering annual meetings and projects growing out of such meetings be filed in the office of the executive secretary of the Council. We are often called upon to give information concerning the type and scope of work covered by our constituent national bodies. The National Council should function first and foremost as a clearing house integrating the program of united organizations.

CARITA V. ROANE.

### *From the report of the Committee on Citizenship:*

It has been possible to reach approximately 63,000 persons in 26 states, during the citizenship effort of 1940. We have attempted to secure the voting strength of Negroes in the United States and have contacted organized groups, north and south, for cooperation. The immediate work ahead consists of registering all women and giving much needed training in the rudiments of voting, i.e., the use of voting machines, marking of ballots, etc. In connection with study groups on citizenship, Council members in the 48 states are urged to secure the constitutions of their respective states and study their voting laws. Council drives should follow this study to make our youth vote-conscious. As the special committee interested in the citizenship rights of our group, we would recommend that Negro Representatives be placed on the following strategic boards: National Red Cross Executive Board and the Planning Boards of National Housing Authority and the National Defense Commission. In collaboration with the Council's Legal Committee we hope to publish the primer of voters' education, requested by so many groups, for use in 1941.

MRS. JOHN HOPE, *Chairman.*

### *From the report of the International Committee:*

We conceive the task of this committee to be very great. Negro womanhood must be correctly known and appreciated all over the world, and we become mediums of interpretation both for ourselves and others in the significant and responsible role we play. Your committee is urging that all fraternal, civic, educational, religious and other bodies composing the council, include in their program a plan for the study of the principal problems affecting world relations. Sources for aid in that study are numerous: the Council on Foreign Relations of New York, publishes three excellent periodicals which this committee recommends, (1) *Foreign Affairs*, (2)



Annual Survey of American Foreign Relations, (3) Political Hand Book of the World. Also helpful materials may be secured from the World Peace Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and universities and colleges having department of International Relations. The Foreign Policy Association, having a national mailing list, conducts forums, and issues weekly, the Foreign Policy Bulletin and Reports, dealing with selected topics of interest on World Affairs. We recommend further that the council organ, the AFRAMERICAN WOMAN'S JOURNAL be used to disseminate information and interpret facts concerning Negro womanhood and Negro problems, throughout other countries, with emphasis on closer cooperation between Latin America and countries having a large Negro citizenship. Contacts are being made possible by the presence in some communities of faculty and student residents of International Houses. Also in many localities, another resource for interpretation and understanding has come through the fine element of those forced out of Europe, refugees who have rich culture and deep sympathy to contribute to the forces in the new world interested in preserving the principles of democracy and freedom. There should be among council members wide distribution of the translation of foreign publications bearing on a better understanding of the international situation, and the use of press, platform, radio and other educational agencies devoted to the same ideal. Our interest in helping to safeguard human welfare could best be expressed during these days in contributions to the Production Committee of the Red Cross, which is engaged in making and collecting garments for refugees of European countries, and the wounded and dying in foreign hospitals. We consider it a privilege to have this small share in the effort to save that which is sacred to Christian civilization.

MRS. MARY L. MCCROREY, *Chairman.*

*From the report of the Inter-Racial Committee:*

The committee during the year proposed as its objective to stimulate intelligent inter-racial cooperation and understanding by selective contact with all races in the U. S., to set forth at proper times and places peculiar racial problems facing Negro women today, to secure cooperation of other groups in helping to solve problems of unemployment and education, and to integrate ourselves as much as possible into organizations and movements whose objectives are for the betterment of women everywhere. Much of the Committee's work has been carried on by its members individually. The most singular contributions have come from Mrs. Vivian Osborne Marsh of California, and Miss Estelle Fitzgerald, of Rochester, New York. The former, who is director of Negro affairs of W.P.A., has had occasion to visit approximately 50 organizations in behalf of the Council's inter-racial program, including church, civic and

political groups, mass meetings and students in the various colleges and universities of California. Miss Fitzgerald's work likewise has been outstanding in that residence in the city of Rochester, with its many civic organizations, has given the opportunity for cooperation less usual in some other sections. The committee communicated with Mrs. Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, feature writer for the *World-Telegram*, commenting on her expository articles concerning the incipient riot which broke out in Cranbury, New Jersey, when migratory workers from the south settled there. We contacted Mrs. Ogden Reid, owner of the *Herald Tribune*, pledging our support and offering the Council's cooperation in the program of the New York *Herald Tribune* Forum conducted in October of each year. The objectives of the Council were set forth to the Women's League for Peace and Freedom. Subsequently, the League, for the first time, elected a Negro woman to the State Board and the local Council of New York. We were privileged to publicize as an illustration of gains achieved in the south, the story sent to us from inter-racial friends of Florida, concerning the placing of the Girls' Detention Home adjacent, and too near, to the similar institution for boys. Several of the most outstanding women of Florida resigned from the Board protesting that city officials in this instance were completely lacking in consideration and judgment. The social vision of the dissenting minority represents a growing attitude among women leaders in many places.

We recommend as a committee (1) the continuation of research into the various women's groups to have information concerning their membership, program and national objectives, (2) planned meetings with student groups in schools and colleges promoting cultural education and contact, (3) active participation and identifica-



CARITA V. ROANE, FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMICS



tion of Council with movements designed to strengthen the position of women through the assumption of responsibility in all phases of American life and activity, and (4) the use of the magazine, newspaper, and any other media of the press, to define the status and accomplishments of Negro women in America.

MRS. VIVIAN CARTER MASON, *Chairman*.

*From the report of the Legal Committee:*

The committee has assigned its six member attorneys to specific legal studies for the year. Attorney Elsie Austin, legal advisor to the Recorder of Deeds in Washington, has watched carefully the lobbying project of the A. K. A.'s to determine its effectiveness, evaluating meanwhile the method and procedure employed by this organization and various other lobbyists groups at Washington. Attorney Sadie Mossell Alexander has projected the Council's interest in legislation for women in industry, through personal conferences with her senator and congressman from Pennsylvania, concerning extending the benefits of Social Security, and Wages and Hours Laws, to various working women's groups now denied them. She has given some time to lobbying at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, and recently received appointment to the Philadelphia commission on the Problems of Domestic Workers. Attorney Speaks, travelling widely through the south, has been chiefly concerned with citizenship. She has consulted with the chairman of the Legal Committee in several conferences, and with leaders of that section, on legislative changes necessary to secure complete enfranchisement for the citizens of the south. In this connection we work closely with the committee on citizenship in an advisory capacity, putting at their disposal the entire resources of the Legal Committee.

Attorney Austin and the Chairman of the committee attended the National Bar Association of Negro Lawyers at Columbus, representing the Council. This year the National Women's Bar Association threw open its doors to members of our race. The Chairman of the Legal Committee was one of the guests of honor invited with other attorneys active in national organizations, to the dinner given by this association at the New York World's Fair.

Realizing that defense is the greatest present concern, the committee has made extensive investigations and inquiries in regard to the place of the Negro in Defense Industries. Our findings reveal specifically that in Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, the law is being violated in that Negroes are not being hired in skilled and technical capacities in plants that have been awarded defense contracts.

As a result of the study made regarding the state of existing and pending legislation affecting Negroes, the

committee recommends that the following resolutions be urged upon the Congress of the United States:

1. Immediate passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill.
2. Extension of the Social Security Act to include domestic and agricultural workers.
3. Extension of the Wages and Hours Law to include persons engaged in domestic and personal services.
4. Amendment of the Defense Act, putting teeth into the clause providing that there be no discrimination in the hiring of labor in plants awarded defense contracts.

We recommend that the Council go on record as favoring:

1. Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment.
2. Abolition of the Poll Tax.

The committee would request the Council's authority to lobby at the Capital and in the respective states, in favor of or against bills affecting the interest of Negroes and to cooperate with other existing lobbies. We hope in collaboration with the committee on citizenship to help in the preparation of such literature as may be needed to further the work of that committee.

EUNICE HUNTON CARTER, *Chairman*.

*From the Report of the Editor of THE JOURNAL:*

Proposed and approved as the voice of the National Council of Negro Women with its twenty affiliating organizations, *THE AFRAMERICAN WOMAN'S JOURNAL* came into being April 2, 1940. Its so-called "christening dinner" was held in Sojourner Truth Hall of Howard University in Washington, D. C., and Mary R. Beard, the historian, came down from the Archives Center in New York to give the dedicatory address.

The editor with her advisory board, planned to launch out with interpretations of committees and their work and so devoted the first issue to a study of Anti-Negro propaganda in the press and on stage and screen, a definition of the political issues of a presidential year such as 1940, an appraisal of court actions affecting Negroes particularly within recent time, a resumé of the history and achievements of the Women's Council and, with emphasis on the arts, a presentation of black and white ink studies of Negro women, leading in various fields, by the artist, Lois Jones, and a historical drama based on a special event in the life of Harriet Tubman, by the playwright, May Miller.

*THE JOURNAL* made a historical study of the achievements of Negro women in the 19th and 20th centuries to be presented as the council's contribution to the Negro Exposition in Chicago. This work was made possible through cooperation with the World Center for Women's Archives in New York, and the Moorland Foundation in Washington, whose director is also chairman of the Archives Committee of the Council. The editor was



able to make the trip through New England collecting rare materials in New Bedford, Mass., strategic city in Negro history. Volumes of first books written by pioneer women were secured to the number of fifteen. First diplomas, awards and medals, early letters, photographs and records, were loaned for the exhibit by descendants and friends of those women of the past who were like "a dawn unto their day." These objects were on display in Chicago and viewed by thousands of people, including Negro children, during the exposition. A "Course in Progression with Dates of Achievement" published in connection with the articles exhibited, traced the genesis of Negro women's participation in social movements and professions, bringing the record up to date with instances of leadership in those fields today. It was the first all-inclusive study of its kind to appear, and, has been used extensively in public schools and colleges throughout the country since publication in the Archives and Seminar issue of the Magazine.

THE JOURNAL's next venture was sponsorship of the first Council tour of friendship to Latin America with the Seminar in Cuba, in August, 1940. Nine lectures on the Negro in Cuban Culture, delivered to the members of the seminar, have been translated from the Spanish into English and made available to organizations and students interested in the new emphasis on pan-American unity. The second Seminar of this kind will convene in Haiti during August, 1941.

Copies of the Council magazine have gone to women's organizations in twenty Latin-American countries, India, China and Hawaii. The gift of Mary Church Terrell has provided subscriptions for the libraries of all leading women's colleges in America. Hundreds of copies have gone to city libraries, and to universities for use in social science classes. The women's organizations meeting in the Defense Conference at Vassar received the Archives and Seminar issue and many sent their organizational papers in return. Two of the contributing editors, Mrs. W. J. Hale of Nashville and Mrs. Sara Spencer Washington of Atlantic City, disposed of 100 copies each, among the colleagues of their respective institutions.

Such is the achievement of a first year. The need of a five-year plan of development for the JOURNAL is indicated in order that time may be allotted for continued studies, and departments of particular service to Negro women developed with due consideration. We propose in future issues to feature an annual resumé of the accomplishments of National boules, conferences, and meetings, and we shall pursue further the yearly analyses of books and periodicals affecting attitude and reaction in America with regard to the Negro and other minority groups. An educational program relating to high school and college students is yet in the process of becoming. And the establishment of a Woman's Exchange, introduced in the first issue, effecting the sale of foreign and domestic handicrafts and art objects among Council or-

ganizations, we would recommend as an immediate first objective.

SUE BAILEY THURMAN.

## FINDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN IN ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER, 1940, WASHINGTON, D. C.

### SECTION I

We endorse the recommendation of our President, Mary McLeod Bethune, that the Council acquire national headquarters which shall be a memorial and a shrine in honor of those pioneer Negro women leaders who hewed a pathway for us to follow. Further that these headquarters shall be used to house and preserve historical archives depicting the history of Negro women.

### SECTION II

We recommend the establishment of a National Speakers Bureau, the purpose of which shall be to provide speakers who will be equipped to interpret the program, policies and objectives of the National Council of Negro Women of the United States, to groups of people everywhere and especially national organizations of other women whenever practicable and possible.

### SECTION III

The development of responsibility in our youth for the protection of democratic principles is of paramount importance. Negro youth have not been accorded equal or even proportionate opportunities in business, education or industry. We should therefore, be equally represented in every phase of the Defense Program which centers around the utilization of young people. We urge that the opportunities for training and employment which are being developed in the defense program be equally available to Negro youth and that every protection, measure and device shall be employed. Therefore the Council adopts a resolution authorizing its president to appoint a Committee on Participation and Integration of Negroes into all phases of the defense program.

### SECTION IV

We recommend that a vigorous educational program for citizenship be launched through the National Council extending into our local groups.

### SECTION V

We shall endeavor as the National Council to integrate the women of the nation through our various member organizations and work with the women of closely allied ethnic groups in Cuba, Haiti, South America and the



Orient. The Council accepts the gracious invitation which has come to us to hold a seminar in Haiti in the Summer of 1941. And as a step in this direction the Council will send copies of the organ THE AFRAMERICAN WOMAN'S JOURNAL to our sister organizations in Cuba and Haiti following up the seminar in Cuba, 1940.

#### SECTION VI

This body calls upon the President of the United States as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of this nation urging that he immediately issue the necessary executive orders to insure:

- The admission and training of Negro volunteers and draftees in all branches of the armed services, to wit, the Army, Navy, Marine, and Aviation forces;
- The calling up of all Negro reserve officers fit for duty and not engaged in indispensable services;
- Assurance that the R.O.T.C. units in Negro colleges will be trained in field artillery, aviation, etc., as well as for the infantry.

#### SECTION VII

We are pledged and firmly resolved to uphold, to work and live for those democratic ideals and principles, the retention of which more than one-half of the world has been forcibly denied and which we in America engage in a great struggle to preserve. The American Negro and all other minority groups in America must be welded into every level of social, cultural, economic and industrial activity if we are to achieve the fullest development of our racial and national life. At this time more than ever before in the history of America we must need secure a great national unity of purpose, of living and of achievement. In that process there must be spiritual growth which comes when men and women are driven to act in concert in the presence of danger or disaster. We therefore condemn every manifestation of separation of the races, segregation and differentials in treatment



VIVIAN CARTER MASON, MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

whether it emanates from the federal, state or local governments or any other source; and while we will defend if need be to the last extremity the right to live under this form of government, equally so we shall defend our right to be free men and free women and to continue to contribute to America and the world the rich heritage of the years.

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# Defense Cooperation Program of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

**D**OCTOR Charlotte Hawkins Brown, first vice president of the Council, having been appointed chairman of a special committee presented the following requests from the Council to Miss Harriet Elliott, of the National Defense Board:

1. That there should be added to the National Defense Board a person, or persons, from the Negro race who shall serve as interpreter of the Board to the Negro people throughout the United States.
2. That a person, or persons, from the Negro group be added to the publicity division of the Defense Board to publicize information regarding Negroes through all newspapers of the United States, regardless of the racial ownership of the same.
3. That provisions be made within the training program of National Defense for more Negroes from the "White Collar Class," clerical workers, etc.
4. That all instances of industries discriminating in the matter of hiring on the basis of race, be investigated by a duly authorized agent of the government, and proper steps be taken to put an end to such discrimination.
5. That Miss Elliott bring these requests to the attention of Mr. Sidney Hillman, of the Labor Division of the National Defense Board.

Miss Elliott, in reply, pointed out that these matters do not fall within the area of her responsibilities on the National Defense Board, but that she would bring them to the attention of Mr. Hillman in discussion as soon as conveniently possible.

## NATIONAL BODIES MEET PLANNING PROGRAM OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

The president of the Council, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Mrs. Mary McCrorey, Chairman of the International Committee and Mrs. Howard Thurman, editor of the JOURNAL, met with twenty-five other national women's bodies called by Mr. Nelson Rockefeller to the Department of Commerce, to discuss plans for more effective cooperation between the office for Coordination of Commercial and Cultural Relations Between American Republics, and national women's organizations interested in Inter-American Relations.

It was Mr. Rockefeller's proposal confirmed later by the group, that the four major fields of effort for the people of the United States, in order to provide for an informed public opinion, should be:

1. Concerted community action to stimulate a general movement for popular education about Central and South America in every community of this country;
2. Concerted community action to provide for the teaching of Spanish and Portuguese in schools and in classes established for adults.
3. Concerted community action to increase purchases of products imported from the American Republics;
4. Concerted action among women's and other organizations to provide suitable hospitality for visitors and to establish direct and friendly contacts with similar groups and organizations in the other American Republics.

The National Council of Negro Women extended to the national groups present the material on Cuban Culture consisting of nine published lectures, secured during its Inter-American Seminar of 1940. Also the lectures on Haitian Culture to be delivered to the Seminar of 1941, will be translated upon our return and made available to these organizations.

## FINDINGS OF THE VASSAR CONFERENCE

**A** GROUP of fifty women, experienced in various fields of civic activity, met together at Vassar December 5 and 6. Among them were experts in certain government positions and special national private agencies and twenty executives of large national women's organizations. The purpose of this meeting was to take advantage of the general interest in National Defense and to discuss a working program, constructive and cooperative, which will dramatize for the citizens the need for finding their place, not temporarily, in the emotional rush to "do something," but permanently in the rational desire to make each community strong for defense and strong in time of peace.

The following basic principles were adopted:

(1) In a total defense program, non-military defense is as important as armed forces, and every man and woman should take part in it. The work of women in the defense program lies in the field of non-military defense. Many women are already engaged in defense industries and more will be undoubtedly drawn into them. Many women are engaged in the maintenance of the "home front" and more will be drawn into this field.

(2) The problems of non-military defense present themselves in the local community and must be met there, recognizing the community connections with the State and Federal groups. The problems in every community which will need attention fall under some of the following headings: Nutrition, Health, Housing, Recreation, Relief, Vocational Guidance and Training, Naturalization and Americanization, Employment, Education, Maladjustments in Family Life, Cost of Living, Labor Standards, Knowledge of Governmental Functions and Resources.

(3) The continuation and strengthening of essential community services and preservation of civil liberties are essential.

(4) It is essential that existing services, both public and private, as they affect total defense, be used and coordinated in any local plan for home defense and that as far as possible, the creation of new agencies be avoided unless necessary to meet a specific need which cannot be met by an extension of existing services.

(5) It is important that labor standards be maintained.

(6) It is also important that professional standards be maintained and that opportunity for genuine participation be given to less highly trained people and to volunteers. There is need for further extension of the cooperation between the professional and the volunteer worker and in this extension, responsibility for training and supervision should rest with the professional group.



It is the responsibility of both professional and lay people to be alert to new needs and opportunities for volunteer service.

(7) It is the responsibility of every citizen to understand and participate in the functioning of government in the local community.

Specific recommendations on the basis of these general principles were as follows:

(1) It is suggested that National Organizations advise their local groups to consult with other local organizations and to ask a community leader to call a meeting of all community groups, both men's and women's, for the purpose of directing the attention of the community to the need of coordination of effort in the community defense program.

(2) There should be a Citizens Committee, in every community, representative of all the interests of the community.

If there is a local Defense Council the work of such a committee should be integrated with it at once. The local Defense Council should be organized on functional lines recommended by the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense. If there is no Defense Council, the Mayor or Supervisor or proper authority should be asked to appoint one; if there is no immediate possibility of the formation of such a Council the Citizens Committee should proceed with such program as will meet the needs of the particular community.

(3) The functions of such a Committee should include:

- A. Studying community needs and resources, taking into consideration all the study material that is available and all that has been done and is being done.
- B. Coordinating the programs in all fields in the event that there is no existing coordinating body.
- C. Setting up sub-committees to meet special needs where necessary.
- D. Coordinating volunteer service through central recruiting, placing and training of volunteers.
- E. Planning and carrying out a program of interpretation to the community of needs and opportunities for individual participation.

(4) On all state and local defense councils, there should be at least one qualified woman who understands what women's organizations have to offer in the field of total defense.

(5) Any training program in connection with total national defense should include training for women and at least one qualified woman should be included on the local training committee.

December 16, 1940.

## ATTENDANCE

### Conference on National Defense

ALUMNAE HOUSE, VASSAR COLLEGE, POUGHKEEPSIE,  
NEW YORK

December 5 and 6, 1940

#### *Executives*

American Woman's Association  
353 West 57th Street, New York, N. Y.  
Miss Mary Dupee, member of the A.W.A. defense committee

Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation  
58 E. Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.  
Miss Elizabeth MacDonald, Eastern Regional Director, Delhi, New York  
Mrs. Edward D. Eddy, College of Home Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Campfire Girls, Inc.  
88 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.  
Miss C. Frances Loomis, Editor, Department of Publications  
Miss Ruby B. Lattimore, Associate Field Secretary

Girl Scouts, Inc.  
14 West 49th Street, New York, N. Y.  
Mrs. Paul Rittenhouse, National Director

Junior Leagues of America, Inc.  
Waldorf-Astoria, New York, N. Y.  
Mrs. De Forest Van Slyck, Executive Secretary

National Congress of Parents and Teachers  
600 South Michigan Blvd., Chicago, Ill.  
Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, The Eddystone, Detroit, Michigan.

National Council of Jewish Women  
1819 Broadway, New York, N. Y.  
Mrs. Sophia M. Robison, Executive Secretary  
Miss Viola Paradise, Editor of *Council Women*

National Council of Negro Women, Inc.  
605 Howard Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.  
Mrs. Sue Bailey Thurman, Editor, *THE AFRAMERICAN WOMAN'S JOURNAL*

National Council of Women of the United States, Inc.  
501 Madison Avenue (Room 1904), New York, N. Y.  
Mrs. Charlotte Payne, Executive Secretary



National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.  
1819 Broadway, New York, N. Y.  
Miss Louise Franklin Bache, Executive Secretary  
Dr. Florence Schneider, Director of Research

National League of Women Voters  
726 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.  
Miss Anna Lord Strauss, New York League of Women Voters  
151 E. 50th Street, New York, N. Y.

National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution  
Memorial Continental Hall, Washington, D. C.  
Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr., President

National Women's Trade Union League of America  
307-308 Machinists' Building, Washington, D. C.  
Miss Rose Schneiderman, 247 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Seven College Alumnae Associations  
Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts  
Miss Florence Snow, Executive Secretary, Smith College Alumnae Association

Young Women's Christian Associations of the U.S.A.  
600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.  
Miss Emma P. Hirth, Executive Secretary

Young Women's Hebrew Association  
31 West 110th Street, New York, N. Y.  
Mrs. Ray F. Schwartz, Executive Director  
Mrs. A. Louis Oresman, Recreational and Educational Committee

Women's Overseas Service League  
1711 Massachusetts Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.  
Miss Ruth M. McClelland, President

#### *Consultants and Speakers*

Advisory Committee to the National Defense Council, Washington, D. C.  
Dr. Caroline Ware  
Mr. Allen Moore, Asst. Director, Division of State and Local Cooperation

American Home Economics Association  
620 Mills Building, Washington, D. C.  
Miss Edna Van Horn, Executive Secretary

American National Red Cross  
Washington, D. C.  
Miss Rachel F. Staples, Assistant to Director, Volunteer Service.

American Nurses Association, Inc.  
1790 Broadway, New York, N. Y.  
Major Julia Stimson, President  
Horsechestnut Road, Briarcliff Manor, New York

British Library of Information  
50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y.  
Miss Helen Arbuthnot

Federal Works Agency  
Washington, D. C.  
Miss Agnes Cronin, Assistant

National Social Work Council  
425 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.  
Miss Bertha McCall

National Youth Administration  
Federal Security Agency, 2145 C Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.  
Miss Grete M. Franke, Girls' Work, Division of Work Projects

Social Security Board  
Room 302, 815 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.  
Miss Louise Griffith

U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau  
Washington, D. C.  
Miss Mary Elizabeth Pidgeon, Director Research Division

U. S. Employment Service  
Social Security Board, Washington, D. C.  
Miss Mary Patchin, District Superintendent, N. Y.  
State Employment Service, 342 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Westchester County Council of Social Agencies  
246 Bronxville Road, Bronxville, N. Y.  
Miss Lillian Quinn, Executive Secretary

Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, President of Vassar College



# The Negro in the Defense Program

By KATHARINE TERRILL

AT any time, but especially in times of stress and strain, one measure of our democracy—of our Christianity—is the degree to which the Negro can participate fully and freely in this “American way” of life.

The many sided defense program impinges upon almost every phase of our life. The defense industries take on more workers. Jobs and housing are paramount issues. Men from twenty-one to thirty-six under the Selective Service Training Act are called from their homes and communities to training in the armed forces. These Training Camps in turn create new responsibilities for the church and the community.

A searchlight turned on the defense program in its numerous phases reveals with brutal truth that for one-tenth of our people—eager fully to contribute their share—democracy does not exist.

Consider the case of John J. Allen. Mr. Allen is a graduate of the School of Engineering, University of Iowa; was employed by the Illinois State Highway Division giving satisfactory service. Through white fellow workers he learned that Griffels & Vallett, a firm of La Porte, Indiana, needed engineers for work on government contract. Their inquiries brought blanks which he and three of his white fellow workers filled out. After filing his application, he received a telegram to report for work at a salary of \$237.50 a month. He was so sure of success that he and his wife went to La Porte and secured lodgings, after which he reported at the factory. When he presented his telegram to the office stenographer she looked much confused. After waiting a long time the chief engineer came out and said “the company hasn’t given me authority to employ Negro engineers. I will take it up with them.” In order to have the case a matter of record, Mr. Allen returned to Chicago, sending a telegram accepting the offer previously given him by telegraph. Nothing happened so he telegraphed again. A registered letter was sent him by the firm saying they considered his attitude arbitrary and uncalled for. Mr. Allen answered, reviewing his experience and stating, that he would report it to Sidney Hillman of the U. S. Office of Production Management. In the meantime his white fellow workers all were employed and he has learned that the concern is still hiring engineers.

## *Take the Defense Industries*

Robert Weaver, administrative assistant to the advisory commission of the Council of National Defense, charges that the Glenn Martin Aircraft Company of Baltimore has persistently evaded the responsibility of hiring Negro workers.

“In spite of the fact that this company has large contracts from the government for planes, it has not hired Negroes,” Dr. Weaver said. “It is true there has been very little community pressure brought to make the company comply with the law. Perhaps, when this matter is attended to, conditions will improve.”

Defense employers all over the country are being polled on their job policy as it affects Negroes. The Kansas City returns were in first, and released with the comment that they would probably prove typical for industrial cities all over the country.

Each of the fifty-four employers interviewed in Kansas City now has or has had government contracts. The National Defense Advisory Committee has stated clearly that there must be no discrimination because of race in the employment of workers on defense contract jobs. *Yet of these fifty-four firms engaged in defense industries only four hired Negroes as anything but janitors, watchmen, or common laborers.* Thirty firms employed no Negroes in any capacity.

The firms interviewed were manufacturers of everything from Army uniforms to cot covers, to axle grease, to tanks, to structural steel. Thomas A. Webster, executive secretary of the Kansas City Urban League, is authority for the statement that there are in Kansas City Negroes possessing the requisite skill who are eager to go to work in every one of these industries. Almost everywhere they find the gates barred. Yet the few concerns that do employ mixed crews report themselves perfectly well satisfied with their Negro workers and perfectly content to go on giving them a just share of the work. For example, the Columbian Steel Tank Co., which made tanks for France and is now making them for the U. S. A. and Great Britain, uses fourteen Negroes to dip steel in the galvanizing process, a dozen others as painters; and reported to the Urban League “*No friction at all.*” The American Brake Shoe Co. had working when the survey was conducted: 180 employees—60 white, 60 Mexican, 60 Negroes. “*We have no trouble at all.*”

Those firms that laid their lack of Negro workmen to union rules were chiefly companies that had closed shop contracts with the A. F. of L. Machinist Union and Sheet Metal Workers Union. Several companies stated that they had no policy against hiring Negroes, but that the unions just did not admit them to membership, and they could not hire them without breaking their union contract. Meanwhile the Kansas City Urban League interviewed labor union officials as to their position on the question of Negro workers in the defense industries.



These are typical responses:

The business agent of the *Painters District Council* declares, "We have already considered the matter of Negro workers in the union in case we are unable to fill future labor supply for this area. . . . The union will accept applications of painters for both out of town and local jobs. The fee for new members will be spread over a period of time."

*Iron Workers Union No. 10* reports that there are "now no Negroes in the outside division of the Iron Workers Union. We had not considered the matter of Negroes becoming members but we should be glad to have a Negro committee appear before the Executive Body to discuss this matter."

*The Tent, Awning and Mattress Makers No. 173* says: "The union does not discriminate against Negroes. Negro members in the Union are engaged principally as mattress fillers. One Negro woman in a small plant is a power machine operator. There are no objections to Negro workers in any department of the mattress industry."

#### *Take Youth*

"What the colored people also find very hard to bear," writes Oswald Garrison Villard, "is that the great industrial preparedness program is doing nothing to relieve unemployment among Negro youth." For example, a young Negro recently completed the aircraft metals course at Bakersfield Junior College with a B average. This course was given by the San Diego Consolidated Aircraft Company which had agreed to hire graduates of the school. But shortly afterwards the firm sent out a call with the statement: "No colored persons accepted."

Then, there is the well-known case of the seventeen Negro boys recently graduated from the Manhattan (New York) High School of Aviation Trades. Their vocational training was especially to prepare young men for service in armament factories. Their white classmates who received exactly the same training, many of them with poorer ratings, have been accepted by armament concerns. Not one of these Negro boys has been able to find employment in the industry for which he is trained. Everyone knows that there is a tremendous demand for labor in factories building airplanes, tanks and so forth. But there are no vacancies for the colored boy.

#### *Take the Army and Navy Itself*

At the same time the question of finding employment for Negroes in defense industries was being discussed, the still unsettled problem of the status of the Negro in the Army and Navy was again brought to the attention of high ranking Army officers. In a statement Brigadier Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, of the Selective Administration, said: "The Conscription Bill states that there is to be no

discrimination as to race, but the bill also says *no man may come into the Army* who is not acceptable to the Army. I regret to say that the Army gets the final say."

General Hershey pointed out that there are relatively few positions for which the Navy will accept Negroes, while the Marine Corps will not accept Negroes under any circumstances. On the question of separate battalions of Negroes he said:

"The Selective Service system has nothing to do with where the man goes. We are, in a way, purchasing agents. What the Army does later is of no interest to us. Even though the Selective Service Act has specific provision against discrimination, the Army still has the right to introduce the question of acceptability," reports the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

#### *Take Ourselves*

Briefly this is the picture our searchlight reveals. What will we do?

#### As church people

1. We can inform ourselves. We can know what is being allocated for defense industries in our community. The local Chamber of Commerce will tell us. We can know our State employment services and other employment agencies—Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Urban League. Find out if there are local Negro committees with which we may cooperate and carry on joint activities.
2. We can discover what are the vocational opportunities for Negroes in the community—schools, NYA and plant schools. Not only for straight labor and repetitive jobs, but the full gamut of jobs offered.
3. We can let others know by acquainting the community with the information we have secured, be it favorable or unfavorable. We can report to our own church organizations, use the letter column in the local papers, and take the opportunity to speak before service and community clubs.
4. We can bring specific cases of discrimination against Negroes in the defense industries to the attention of Mr. William Knudson, Chairman of the Office of Production Management, sending copies of our communication to our United States senator and representative in Congress.

In all this we remember that if democracy is to have meaning, it must be realized by all the people. There can be no color bars. Opportunities for work, for education, for training, for participation in our common life must be open for every man, woman and child.

(Prepared at the request of the Church Women's Committee of the Department of Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches, and adopted by them at a meeting held on February 25, 1941.)



# Present Status of the Negro Nurse in the Army Nursing Corps

By MABEL K. STAUPERS

AT a conference on March 7th of the sub-committee on Negro Health of the Health and Medical Committee of the National Defense Council with Major General James C. Magee, Surgeon General, U. S. Army, the Surgeon General stated: "that Negro nurses and other Negro professional personnel would only be called to service in hospitals or wards devoted exclusively to the treatment of Negro soldiers." In discussing this discrimination with the Surgeon General, he made it quite clear that this was his recommendation and that he did not propose to change his opinion in this matter, although members of the committee brought to his attention that in the last war Negro nurses were integrated into the Army Service and did not serve Negro patients alone. These nurses were stationed at Camp Grant and Camp Sherman.

Members of the Committee further brought to the attention of the Surgeon General the fact that in many northern communities Negro nurses and other Negro professionals are serving in hospitals regardless of race. This is especially true in New York City, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Chicago and Boston. In Philadelphia, the Mercy Hospital is operated by Negroes, but because it is situated in a district that is populated by Whites, these patients use the hospital in large numbers. The Surgeon General claimed that the use of Negro professionals by White patients in the situations cited by the Committee were voluntary and that he would not place White soldiers in the position where they would have to accept service from Negro professionals. The Committee suggested that if the Surgeon General would be willing to try out the plan as it is now working in northern communities, they had the belief that the plan would experience no difficulty in station hospitals.

General hospitals are to be established by the Army for the care of long term cases. The Surgeon General stated that he had no plan for the use of Negroes in these hospitals, even in those sections of the country where Negro patients were unusually segregated.

According to the Surgeon General, the procurement allotment for Negro nurses is 56 at the present time. He further stated that he would do nothing to have this allotment increased. These 56 nurses are to serve at Camp Bragg, North Carolina, and Camp Livingston, Louisiana, just as soon as the station hospitals at these camps are completed. According to information ob-

tained by the Committee, approximately 50,000 Negro soldiers will be stationed in Southern camps.

Since the Surgeon General previously stated that Negro nurses and other Negro professional personnel would only be called to service in hospitals and wards devoted exclusively to the treatment of Negro patients, Negro nurses are being discriminated against in that they are not to be called to service in Northern station hospitals and by limiting their service in Southern hospitals.

\* \* \* \*

Council members will be eager to have the ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY submitted to the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, Inc.

Seven years ago on May 15, 1934, the headquarters of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses was established at 50 West 50th Street. During this time at each convention I have brought you a report of the events of special interest, especially those which indicate development and progress.

Before I tell you of the events of the past year, I shall briefly summarize the work of the previous years.

During the first two years of this period we were housed through the courtesy of the National Health Circle for Colored People. It was in October, 1936, following the New York Convention that we became a tenant and signed a lease with the National Health Council for our present office.

At the close of the fiscal year in August our bank balance was one thousand and fifty-four dollars and sixteen cents, (\$1,054.16). The balance at the end of the first year was forty-three dollars and forty-six cents, (\$43.46). Each year the nursing organizations have increased their contributions. In New Orleans in 1935, contributions from these organizations totalled two hundred and forty (\$240.) dollars. At Hampton three years later the contributions from these organizations totalled five hundred and ninety-three (\$593.) dollars. Total contributions during the past year were three thousand, three hundred and fourteen (\$3,314.) dollars, which includes the twenty-five hundred (\$2,500.) dollar contribution from Mrs. Chester Bolton. Mrs. Bolton's first contribution in 1935 was two hundred and fifty



(\$250.) dollars. During this five-year period, we have also received contributions from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the General Education Board and the Elmhurst Foundation.

Our membership has increased from one hundred and seventy-five (175) in 1934 to a membership of eight hundred and sixteen (816) in 1939.

We now have a full time stenographer clerk. For four years we used part time service supplemented by National Youth Administration workers. We still have three part time National Youth Administration workers.

Because of the increased volume of work, I am no longer working part time. During this entire year it has been necessary to work full time.

The work which the organization has done toward the progress of the Negro nurse during the five-year period is as follows:

Stimulating the New York State Board of Nurse Examiners to give accreditation to schools outside the State who meet the standards of the State.

Opening of Catholic University to Negro nurses through the cooperation of Catholic friends.

The establishment of the Public Health course at the Medical College of Virginia through the cooperation of the College, the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, the United States Public Health Service and the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Cooperation with the New York State Nurses Association in the passage of a Nurse Practice Act which offers registration in New York State from July 1, 1938, to July 1, 1940, to nurses registered in other states.

Promotion of annual regional conferences and other field trips in the interest of local organizations.

Cooperation with the Baltimore Local and Citizens' Committee for employment in City Hospitals for Negro nurses.

The organization of a Citizens' Committee for the New York Local Nurses Association.

Cooperation with Opportunity Magazine in editing the November, 1937, issue on Negro Nursing.

Cooperation with the Vocational Committee of the New York Citizens' Committee on editing and publishing a vocational pamphlet on nursing for high school students.

Working with National and Local Placement Services on job promotion and placement.

Cooperation with Federal, State and City agencies on promoting Negro health as a means of promoting more jobs for nurses and improving the health of Negroes.

Placement of Negro nurses in administrative and other special jobs.

Cooperation with the Julius Rosenwald Fund in getting Negro nurses for training as midwives at the Lobenstine Clinic in New York City.

Cooperation with citizens in New Jersey and New York to open tax supported hospitals to Negro students. Stimulating interest in and publication of the National News Bulletin, official organ of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. Preparation and distribution of a bibliography on Negro Nursing.

Developing nurses in leadership through committees, regional conferences and the National Organization.

During this year a National Advisory Council was organized with Mrs. E. P. Roberts, of New York, as chairman, and Dr. M. O. Bousfield, of Chicago, vice-chairman. This council, since its organization, has been most active. The continuation of the Tuskegee and Lamar schools are direct results of their activity. The bulletin on the National Health Act was prepared through the cooperation of the Council members. Mrs. Roberts registered a strong protest when it was discovered that our President would, through a New Orleans hotel regulation against Negroes, be barred from participation in the National League of Nursing Education meeting. This protest among others from your Executive Secretary, your President and other friends of nurses is directly responsible for the fact that in the future, convention committees of the American Nurses Association and the League will find out first what the attitude of a city is toward full participation of Negro nurses.

Again this year the American Nurses Association was approached through the board of directors regarding membership for Negro nurses in sections where they are now excluded. We are awaiting a report from the American Nurses Association, which I understand will be given at the next biennial meeting.

Three years ago an approach was made to the American Journal of Nursing for a listing of this organization in their official directory. I am happy to announce that we have been requested to furnish the Journal with the names of our officers directly after the National Meeting, for the directory.

A plan has been worked out with the Federal Council of Churches for a survey of hospitalization for Negroes. The object in interesting the Council in this survey is to stimulate more jobs for Negro nurses and to improve the quality of care to the patient.

A committee of public health nurses has been organized for the purpose of preparing material about the Negro nurse in Public Health, especially in the South. Our group is told constantly that Negro nurses from the South who go to Northern schools will not return to the South. This survey will show definitely and conclu-

*(Concluded on page 37)*



## The Arts

CAMILLE NICKERSON of Delta Sigma Theta appeared before the Washington Chapter of the National Association of College Women early in March, in a special recital of Creole Folk Songs, playing her own accompaniments on the piano and guitar. Knowing that metropolitan councils in the Northwest had plans for future programs presenting Miss Nickerson, the editor of the JOURNAL in an interview induced the artist to give some history of the songs relative to their early origins in and about New Orleans, and the part she has played in making them available to American audiences. Creole music, in her opinion, represents one of the richest offerings to be presented at this time when all the Americas are seeking out their own indigenous folk arts.

Born and reared in New Orleans, Miss Nickerson received all of her early musical training at home. Her father, William Joseph Nickerson, a pupil of Professor L'enfant, was for thirty years director of music at old "Southern," organizing the first colored female orchestra assembled in this country. Small Camille began playing piano accompaniments for the orchestra when she was eight years old and from this time on became the "little musician" for the entire colored population of the city. Appreciative friends from this community gave her a purse of \$200.00, when a few years later she left to take up studies at Oberlin Conservatory. Her Creole mother and her father had taught their daughter to love and appreciate the songs heard on the street, the early morning call of the vendors, the gay music of street dancers, and the plaintive songs of the lovers. It was not like the music of spirituals for Creole songs were not sad. This, Miss Nickerson explains, is possibly due to the difference in attitude between the French masters of New Orleans and vicinity and the Anglo-Saxons in other parts of the south where "spirituals" were produced. The Creole

songs, she says, are chiefly melodic and rhythmic in character. The most interesting feature of many of them is the syncopated melody of the Negro, against the "Habañera" rhythm of the Spaniard—an irresistible combination—not often met with nor excelled.

During the years at Oberlin, where she received the bachelors and masters degrees in music, and later at Juilliard, Miss Nickerson gave most attention to arranging piano accompaniments for the many old melodies she had been able to recapture. One of the most delightful street cries is that of the vendor who goes from door to

door selling "Pain Patatte."

This the artist describes as a delicious potato bread. At our insistence, we received suggestions as to how it is made. The potatoes of course, are sweet. For this culinary delicacy, two cups would be grated raw, and added to a mixture of one-half cup of butter and one cup of sugar, creamed together, and eight well-beaten egg yolks. The whole is flavored with one-fourth teaspoon each of mace, allspice, nutmeg and cinnamon, and the eight stiffly beaten egg whites added last. It is poured in a greased pan (as for pudding) and baked in a moderate oven for three-quarters of an hour. This may be served with sweetened cream flavored with nutmeg. Some council members will like to feature this for the various

Pan-American dinners we shall be giving this spring. (It is rich, to be sure, but so is the atmosphere out of which it comes.)

Miss Nickerson presents her recitals in the lovely crinoline gowns of 19th century New Orleans. And whether the scene is the International House of New York, or a small salon or drawing room like that of Crandall Hall at Howard University in Washington, the quaintness and charm of another period is recreated for her listeners, and American music given new beauty and meaning through the vibrant resource of Creole songs.





## STATUS OF THE NEGRO NURSE

(Continued from page 35)

sively that this is not the case. In addition it will point to some of the factors in the economic status of the Negro nurse such as differentials in salary and a lack of appreciation for her professional training.

More and more we must integrate ourselves in nursing situations for all nurses as far as we are permitted to do so. Every effort should be made by local groups to bring about this closer cooperation.

The National Organization for Public Health Nursing has completed a comprehensive plan for a community health survey. Nursing organizations should make this a part of their Fall program. Copies can be obtained from the National Organization for Public Health Nursing with specific guides as to procedure. Nursing organizations in Oklahoma, Chicago, and Washington, D. C., have cooperated with other citizen groups on such a survey this year.

We have approached the Post Office Department regarding placement of our nurses in Post Office first aid rooms. The Department reports that these are selected from Civil Service lists.

During this year a State Association was organized in Oklahoma. Arkansas has reorganized its association, other organizations have worked to improve their setup and a new Local Association was organized in Los Angeles, California. Alabama has completed the organization of their State Association. This office assisted these organizations by working out copies of suggested by-laws and by helping with suggestions for procedure. I was present at the meeting of the Alabama State Association and the South Carolina State Association.

We have come to the place in our program when we must work for the purpose of nursing among Negroes and the advancement of the Negro nurse. We must eliminate all prejudices and personality conflicts if the group is to succeed. We must foster sympathy and understanding among ourselves and believe that the advancement of each individual is a step forward for the entire profession.

## THE CENTENNIAL CONGRESS

(Continued from page 28)

in every group, with full representation, so that right straight down the line they know why things are done, when they are done, and it can be interpreted to not only the labor group, but the farm group and every group, because we all are inter-dependent.

It is not a question any more of "I belong to a trade union, and for me it is good to have this or that." It is a question of "I am a part of the United States of America, with the greatest responsibility that any group of people at any time has ever carried. Therefore, I am a part of any labor question, of any social question, of any political question that faces us today."

That is what I have got out of all this. I think that is really what you have in the back of your mind; what Dr. Burns has in discussion the economic question; what Mrs. McCormick has when she thinks of the international question; what Miss Winslow, Mrs. McAllister, Miss Martin, Miss Buck have. Really what we are all thinking about is the tremendous breadth of our responsibility, which means that we have to go on studying, because a lot of us do not know much about labor, of the farm, or even the city conditions, to which we are closest.

But it also means that we have to begin actually to do things much more vigorously than we have done them in the past and I think we have to begin in our own communities. That is the obvious place where every one of us must begin. There is no use in waiting, because life does not wait. At the present moment life moves so fast that you have to run to keep up with it from morning till morning.

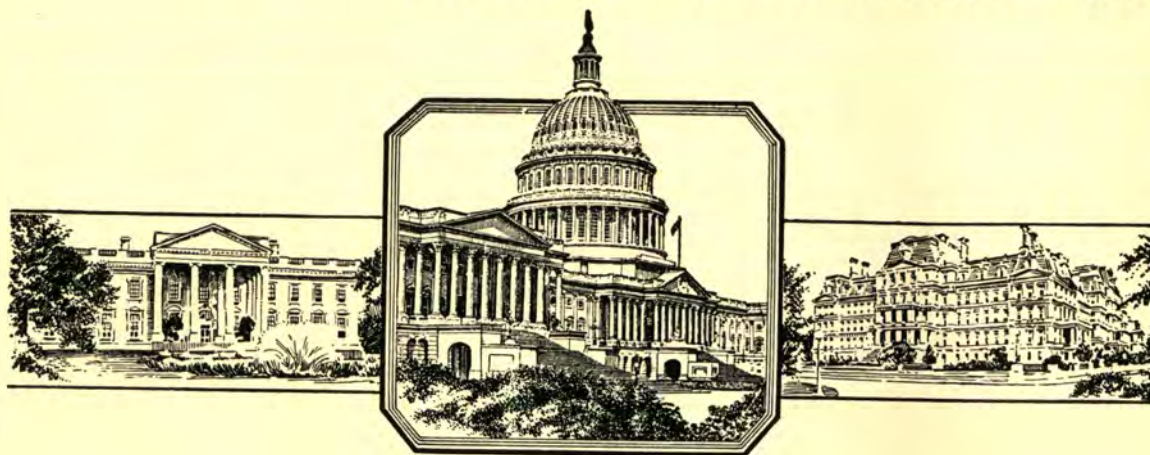
I think everyone of us will leave this room with a feeling of how great our responsibility is, thinking of where we can take the very next step in our own community which will be effective in increasing education as far as the needs of the whole people are concerned and in focusing the need for every woman to do a job, not just to sit and to twiddle our thumbs and think that it is hard to run a house, but actually do a job that serves the community.

That is what I get out of it. I think we have had a profitable morning.

(The pp. 14-28, are placed in  
woman - 20C - (1941) -



# The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Continues Health Project and Establishes National Non-Partisan Council



AS an affiliated member organization of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., we have crystallized our efforts to promote two projects, namely, the Health Project in Mississippi, and our National Non-partisan Council on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C.

Believing that "health is the nation's first line of Defense," in Mississippi for several years, we have maintained a health clinic giving medical aid and attention to the indigent people of rural Mississippi, as well as rudimentary education in personal care of the body, sanitation in the home and its surroundings. At the annual Boule held in Kansas City, Mo., in December, 1940, the Sorority voted \$2,500 for the continuance of this worthwhile project in 1941.

Furthermore, as a group of college women, we are aware that today America has come to the cross roads in an effort to maintain her democracy. It is with us as it has been in all countries—the treatment accorded minority groups and people is the acid test of its power to be a democracy. This does not mean that these dissident groups may remain quiet and have their civil liberties and rights guarded in a vital democracy. Such is not true.

Such minorities must be ever vigilant to preserve and extend the prerogatives of citizens. Frederick Douglass believed that, "this history of progress of Liberty shows that all concessions have been born of earnest struggle. If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing ground. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

Our National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs was founded with Douglass' belief as its guiding motive.

Under the chairmanship of Miss Norma E. Boyd, the founder, in 1938, work for 1941 began in the offices at 1538 New Jersey Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. The program primarily functions in interest of having the Negro integrated, and given full participation in every phase of life in a democracy. The main objective of the council is to study situations and bills as they come before the Houses of government; and to make the Negro a well informed voter. In this effort, we seek to acquaint the Negro people generally with the nature of proposed and pending legislation affecting them, and in addition advise them of official attitude represented by their respective congressmen relative to such legislation. Bulletins are sent to each of the A.K.A. chapters throughout the United States and through the chapters to the surrounding communities, giving the findings of the National Representative who attends sessions of Congress regularly as well as significant Congressional Committee hearings.

We give expression to the citizenship ideal of the National Council of Negro Women in attempting to make of every Negro a well-informed citizen. Also maintained at the national headquarters is a Civil Service Bureau and clearing house to give information and encouragement to Negroes who qualify for and desire to take civil service examinations.

The National Non-Partisan Council is sustained by a grant of \$4,000.00 voted by the Boule at the Kansas City session. Jeanetta H. Welch is National Representative and Kathryn Johnson, the executive secretary, at the office in Washington. These two presume not to speak for A.K.A. alone but for the larger membership of National Council of Negro Women, when legislation is pending that affects the vital interest of Negro womanhood.



THE COUNCIL TAKES PLEASURE IN PRESENTING THREE YOUNG WOMEN ARTISTS AVAILABLE FOR CONCERT SERIES IN COMMUNITIES AND COLLEGES: SEASON 1941-42.

**SYLVIA OLDEN** *Pianist*

**CAROL BRICE** *Contralto*

IN JOINT RECITAL



SYLVIA OLDEN was started in her first lessons by her talented mother, a graduate of Fisk University, later a teacher in the Washington Public Schools. Her mother was her only teacher until she entered Howard University, where she studied for two years under Cecil Cohen. Miss Olden continued her studies towards a Bachelor of Music Degree at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where she was a piano student of the director, Dr. Frank H. Shaw. For one year Miss Olden was an instructor at Talladega College, Alabama. Since then she has received the highest praise and commendation for her artistry as piano soloist, organist and accompanist. Dr. Shaw says of Miss Olden: "She is a young pianist of superior ability and attainment who is deserving of high recommendation. She has an abundance of technical preparation and knows how to use it for an artistic and musicianly performance."



CAROL BRICE is a cousin of Charlotte Hawkins Brown who reared her from babyhood at the Palmer Memorial Institute, N. C. From an early age she sang with the famous Sedalia singers in its many concert tours. While in high school Miss Brice won first place in a state-wide music contest as contralto soloist. Continuing her music studies she became a vocal student of Frank Harrison at Talladega College and upon graduation there won a fellowship at the Juilliard Graduate School of Music in New York City, where she has since been a voice student of Francis Rogers. Harry T. Burleigh is among the prominent musicians who has praised Miss Brice's singing. Through his recommendation she has become a choir member and soloist of the fashionable St. George's Episcopal Church, New York City. Harry T. Burleigh's tribute is, "Miss Carol Brice has in my opinion a very beautiful and natural voice, which has been carefully and intelligently trained under competent teachers, and in my opinion her work indicates a musical career of real distinction."

*For particulars address*

**The Musical Artist's Bureau**  
NEW YORK CITY



## THERESA CAVER

Poet and Dramatic Reader

has been for many years "Your Poet Friend" in the Heartsong Hour, over Station CKLW, broadcasting from Detroit. She has appeared in recital in leading cultural centers of the country where her artistry has received warm admiration and acclaim. Dorothy Mattison, writing for a Massachusetts daily, says:

"Theresa Caver read her own lovely lyric lines in a guest broadcast over Station WTAG. There is a thrill of discovery in hearing the exquisite voice of this artist for the first time because it seems certain that she is heading for real fame, and surely her program should be broadcast over a national hook-up where a wider audience may learn of her talents."

Edgar A. Guest in his preface to her book of verse writes: "Theresa Caver soars to the heights of pure poetry, singing of the joys, sorrows, dreams, and aspirations of all mankind. She exemplifies for a bewildered world the truth that art is universal, and beauty makes brothers of us all."

*For information address*

*Miss Caver, care of*

THE ESSEX BROADCASTERS,  
Inc.  
DETROIT, MICH.



## THE SEMINAR IN HAITI

*The Aframerican Woman's Journal* announces the second annual Seminar conducted by the *Journal* under auspices of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., to be held in the beautiful country of Haiti.

DATES: AUGUST 14-30, 1941.

EXPENSES: FROM NEW YORK TO NEW YORK, \$180 (ALL INCLUSIVE).

MEMBERSHIP: Council Members to receive first place. The group limited to those persons interested in making a significant tour of friendship to the Latin American Republic.

PROGRAM: Lectures, Seminars, Excursions into rural Haiti, Official Reception to be tendered by His Excellency, Mon. Elie Lescot, President of Haiti.

*For particulars address*

THE EDITOR,

605 HOWARD PLACE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C.



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MISS LOU SWARZ, St. Louis  
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