

## The OREGON MIRROR

Established in March 1959 - Negro Weekly  
Circulated by Mail - Newsboys - Businesses

Published Every Wednesday

4617 N. Williams Ave. AT 4-4551

PUBLISHER - J. Marcus Wellington, III  
MANAGER & EDITOR - Don Alford

# EDITORIAL

By Dean Gordon Hancock

### JUGGLING STATISTICS

Fifty years ago the college graduate heard little or nothing about statistics, while today it is threatening to run away with the field of mathematical sciences.

Today nothing is "proved" that is not proved by statistics. Or as one has said facetiously, anything can be proved by statistics. One of the fields where the statistician treads it seems with careless feet is in the field of race relations.

Some Negrophobe is always arraying statistics after a fashion that superior is loaded with statistics of the white man superior. Strangely enough the same statistics which "prove" that the white man is superior can be manipulated in such way as to prove that he is not superior. It all depends upon who is manipulating the statistical figures.

The most recent "Race and Reason" the latest in a series of publications designed to "prove" once and for all that the white man is superior, is loaded with statistics of one kind or another, and the average reader does not take time to examine and question what is "statistically" stated as a fact.

What we need through here is a wider interest by Negroes in "statistical" proofs. We must not abdicate this field for exploitation solely and mainly by the whites with specious designs.

The real point of this release is to exhort Negroes not to be overawed by the numerous statistical "proofs" that the white man is superior. It must always be remembered that white men are manipulating the statistics and it is up to Negroes to re-manipulate these same figures after such fashion as to make the Negroes' virtues stand out even as the white man's statistics make his vices to stand out.

With our faculties bursting at the seams with men and women of high degrees, it should be relatively easy to find those capable of manipulating statistics in such way as to throw light on the virtues of Negroes. The burden of manipulating statistics to give a true picture of Negro life is on the Negroes themselves and not the white man.

There is little need for the Negro to quake and tremble before the "statistical" findings casually flung around in ways that are detriment-

al to the Negro race. Statistics do not have the final word. We must always give attention to what the statistician wants to prove and eleven times out often he will prove just that.

A few years ago with the large incidence of high blood pressure throughout the nation, studies were made and statistics deduced to show that high blood pressure was a matter of hardening of the arteries which in turn was a matter of a Cholesterol deposit in the arteries.

Statistically, cholesterol became the great culprit, so it has come about that even in general physical examination, the blood is tested for its cholesterol content. Statistics had "proved" the correlation between cholesterol and high blood pressure.

Only a few days an authority on the subject from Great Britain disputed the whole assumption that there is any correlation between high blood pressure and cholesterol. He used statistics to "prove" his point.

There is just now a race on among the physicians of today to prove statistically how wrong were the physicians of yesteryear. What statistics proved was true yesterday statistics are proving untrue today and so it goes.

There is currently going on in the Twentieth Century world a great controversy over whether there is any correlation between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. A group of scientists has been arrayed for the affirmative and a group for the negative. And a statistical battle royal in the offing.

In England the scientists have spoken "statistically" and they are positive that there is that correlation. In America in general and Virginia in particular where is located the cigarette manufacturing capitol of the world, scientists are scientifically controverting by statistics what in England is statistically established.

And the fight goes on between the statisticians using the same body of statistics. This is written in the hope that Negroes will not get too excited over the numerous attempts to establish statistically that the Negro is inferior.

## Baltimore Passed Up Because of Discrimination

BALTIMORE. — The American Association of University Professors has decided not to hold its 1964 convention here in the absence of legislation banning racial discrimination in public places.

Such legislation failed in the Maryland General Assembly and has been pending in the Baltimore City Council.

Bentley Glass said last week that the Association's council had advised him to decline invitations to hold the meeting here. These were received from Gov. J. Millard Tawes and Mayor J. Harold Grady.

## Nominate Arizonan as Ambassador to Ghana

WASHINGTON. — Controversial Ghana is to get a new American ambassador. He is William P. Mahoney, a 45-year-old Arizona lawyer who was nominated for the post by President Kennedy last week.

Mahoney will succeed Francis H. Russell, who has resigned because of illness and is now in a Washington hospital.

In 1960, Mahoney was Arizona campaign manager for President Kennedy. In 1938, he was defeated by Republican John L. Rhodes in a race for Congress.

Mahoney holds a law degree from Notre Dame, where he coached track and taught English for two years after graduation.

## New Orleans Drops Racial Bars In First Grade of Public Schools

### Job Hunting Course Open Free To All

NEW ORLEANS. — The New Orleans school board, responding to heavy pressure by the federal courts, has voted to drop racial bars in the first grade of all public schools in September.

The board currently is under a federal court order to desegregate the first six grades but has filed an appeal.

Under the board's decision last week all children entering the first grade in September will be permitted to attend either the white or Negro school for their district, whichever they choose.

This action cancels the pupil placement plan for the first grade, but that system of assignment remains in effect for the second and third grades. In the pupil placement plan, Negro children who apply for transfer to white schools are individually screened by the school board.

The board action was by a 3-0 vote. Two members, including Emile Wagner, outspoken opponent of school desegregation, were absent.

The board also authorized Supt. O. Perry Walker to start a study on how to abolish bi-racial school districts, starting with the first grade.

Federal Judge J. Skelly Wright, appointed to the Court of Appeals in Washington, ruled last month that use of the pupil placement plan in a bi-racial school system was unconstitutional.

Twelve Negroes now attend first and second grades in six previously all-white public schools as a result of Wright's original desegregation order of May, 1960.

The city's Roman Catholic schools are scheduled to be desegregated in September, by order of Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel.

## Georgia Nurses Drop Race Bars

DETROIT. — The president of the American Nurses Association announced last week that the Georgia State Nurses Association had quietly removed its racial bars on membership.

Miss Mathilda Scheurer said the Georgia group had taken the action quietly last August without fanfare following a suggestion by the parent body that it admit Negro nurses.

The Georgia State Nurses Association had long been the only state nurses organization which did not admit Negro nurses to full membership. Negro nurses in Georgia became members of the ANA only through direct application to ANA.

A spokesman for the Georgia group verified the announcement of the elimination of racial bars, and said some Negro nurses had already become members of the GSNA.

## Civil Rights Appointment Believed First

WASHINGTON. — Clarence Clyde Ferguson Jr., professor of law at Rutgers University was sworn in today as general counsel of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights. He is believed to be the first Negro ever to serve as the chief legal officer of a Federal agency.

Ferguson, 37, is a graduate of Harvard Law school and a member of the Massachusetts and New York Bars.

Before becoming a member of the law faculty in 1955, he served as an assistant U. S. attorney (1954-55), assistant counsel to the Moreland Act Commission to Investigate Harness Racing (1953-54) and as counsel to Baltimore, Paulson and Canudo, a New York City law firm.

At Rutgers, from which he is now on leave, Ferguson taught federal procedure, bankruptcy and creditors rights. A native of Wilmington, N. C., he was an honor graduate both at Ohio State and at Harvard Law school where he won the Ames prize for the best oral argument.

## Baltimore Gets 1st Negro Postal Superintendent

BALTIMORE. — Dallin E. Wicks, assistant superintendent since 1950 at the Druid Hill Station Post Office, has been appointed superintendent of the Arlington Station by Postmaster William F. Laukaitis.

The promotion of the veteran of 26 years postal service makes him the first of his race ever to head a Post Office Station in Baltimore or to reach the GS-10 rating in the post office.

Arlington Station is the base for approximately 85 letter carriers serving Zone 15.

Wicks, 54, is a native of Baltimore. He attended Douglass High and College Center here. He resides with his wife, Gertrude, and two sons, Anthony, a Morgan College junior, and Roland, a ninth grader at Woodbourne Junior High.

FOR THE FINEST OF FOODS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Visit

## THE COTTON CLUB

FRIENDLY - COURTEOUS AND EFFICIENT SERVICE

Oregon Mirror Twist Contest Every Tues.

3 SHOWS NIGHTLY 2125 N. VANCOUVER AVE.

## BUD MEADOWS SAYS...

WHAT'S FREEDOM OF CHOICE ?

In America, it's the privilege of choosing the church you want to attend, the movie you want to see, the food you want to eat, the laws you want passed . . . It's also the privilege of choosing exactly the car you want to drive. That's why we try our best to keep the largest possible choice of styles, models, accessories and colors in both Pontiacs and Tempests. So, you always find the largest selection anywhere in the west, at Meadows Pontiac.

