FEPC-A CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY

(Continued from page 1)

article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

F. E. P. C.: A Challenge to Democracy

(By Richard J. Roche, O.M.I.) A steady job which pays wages is a very important thing. Very few people are able to live without using their hands and brains in exchange for money. Without a job, most men may not eat: without a decent job paying relatively decent wages a man cannot live anywhere but in a slum, cannot keep the ravages of disease from his home, cannot hope to plan for his children any brighter future than the drab, hand-to-mouth existence which is his own.

Most working people, many politicians, and even some businessmen have at least come to the Christian-and Papal-point of view: that since man is bound to lead a good life, and since a decent job with decent pay is at present a practically necessary means to good life, there is a right to work, to use one's skills for just wages which will support a man, and his family in decent comfort.

Recent years have seen this right extended, at least in theory, to workingmen in general. Yet here in the United States, many of those who have come to recognize the fundamental nature of this right to work are failingout of a false self-interest-to recognize the fact that this same principle applies to the minoritygroup working man (notably the Negro) exactly as it applies to all working men, or to working men in general.

It is not necessary to prove that the Negro worker has been the special object of the denial of the right to work. That is known to all of us. It has also become known to us that even a war-induced shortage of white manpower in the fact of amost grave international situation could not break down the bar-

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riers to any appreciable degree, could only erase his color." not only in industry, but also in many branches of government.

Qualified But Black

As an example in point, there is the case of the large and extremely important Federal agency which, not long after the outbreak of the war, was engaged in most vital war research. The research was impeded by a lack of skilled electrochemists. A young specialized knowledge in the very tional organizations director, who national office in Washington. field of research, was sent to the was one of the speakers of the Two hundredand five of these agency by a Federal referral of- evening, and William Pickens, workers are earning \$2,000 or fice. The young man was a Negro, chief of the interarcial section, more. The majority of these are But the personnel officer of the Other addresses were made by in OP ARegion II, which covers Negro chemist left.

obtain the personnel officer's sig- nance Committee, and others.

tion, and vital war research, Major Turpin. halted by a false labor shortage, went forward at once.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE LAUDS BOND BUYERS

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agency shook his head sadly Mayor Kelly of Chicago; Law- the States of New York, Pennwhen the young man presented rence F. Stern, chairman, Chi-sylvania, and Maryland and the himself: "I'm so sorry, but the cago and Cook County War Fi- district of Columbia (not includposition has been filled." The nance Committees; Aaron Payne, ing the national office.) Chicago attorney; Major C. Udeli The range in types of jobs held He had forgotten, however, to Turpin of the Illinois War Fi- by these OPA employes is wide.

discovered that he was not al- is an organization of Negro and enforcement program; 41 price or lowed to leave the building. So he white business and professional rationing executives, examiners, went back to get it. The sign on leaders of Chicago's southside inspectors and aides, including the door read "Enter, so he en- All expense for the War Bond one rent director and one intertered. The personnel officer was dinner was defrayed by the As- viewer. There are 14 information talking on the telephone and did sociation. In two previouns drives officers, 17 administrative offinot even look up. He was saying: similar dinners have been pro- cers, 43 investigators, five eco-. . the best qualifications I moted by the group. In the Sixth nomists, including one accounthave seen in a long, long time. War Loan Drive \$1,500,000 worth ant; 891 stenographers, typists Just what we need. . . Yes; would of bonds were sold by the asso- and clerks, and 14 machine operhave hired him on the spot if he ciation at its special dinner, ators.

while the Fifth War Loan dinner Because there was a President's netted sales amounting to \$1, Committee on Fair Employment 200,000. The association is headed Practice (F. E. P. C.) the Negro by James G. Shaw, Arrangements chemist soon obtained the posi- for these dinners are made by

OPA OFFICIALS INCREASE NEGRO EMPLOYEES

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ers, making a total of 1,250 persons. These figures do not include man, a university graduate with were James L. Houghteling, na- Negro personnel employed at the

There are nine attorneys assonature to his admission slip, and The South Central Association ciated with price, rationing and



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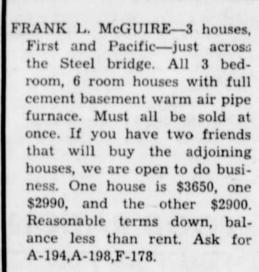
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