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F.E.P.C. ORDERS SEAMAN'S UNION TO END DISCRIMINATION PRACTICE



Port Company Soldiers Turn Radio Stars

Soldiers of the 846th Port Company, Portland Port of Embarkation, Portland, Oregon, as they appear during their weekly radio program over station KWJJ.

The Harbor Harmonists are from left to right: T-4 Lennis L. Caldwell, Victoria, Texas; Sgt. Wm. C. Green, Kentucky; T-4 Tom Williams, Bellsumpter, Ala-

bama; Sgt. Noble Jones, Huntsville, Alabama; Sgt. Samuel Ward, Virginia; T-4 Jackson Davis, Zwolle, Louisiana; Sgt. James O. Walker, San Antonio, Texas; Pvt. L. V. Rodgers, Houston, Tex.

These soldiers, when not performing military duties, enjoy their hours of recreation in singing popular ballads and spirituals at their camp, St. Johns Cantonment. Their harmonizing attained

such a degree of excellence, that they have been signed for regular programs on a network extending through Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California. Their radio appearances are sponsored by the Public Relations Division of Portland Port of Embarkation, an installation of the Transportation Corps. Army Service Forces, Col. Robert L. Allen Jr., commanding. U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo.

Negro Army Choir Sings on Know Your Army

By Anna Morrison

The past Thursday evening on the program, "Know Your Army" over radio station KWJJ the Harbor Harmony Choir of the 846th Port Company sang a group of numbers. The Company, stationed at the Portland Port of Embarkation, is under the management of Lt. Friedmand, Public Relations Officer of the Port. Fifteen young Negroes made up this group of singers with 1st Sgt. Walker as their director, and they have been singing together just one month. The accompanist was an accomplished pianist in the person of Private Jerry Anderson. During the course of the broadcast he played two numbers and displayed his ability at the piano by playing the immortal "Dark Eyes" and then swinging into his own arrangement of an original Boogie

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Race-Hating Meeting Brings Statement by Ministerial Association

Rumors of intended moving of housing units of Negroes to the Montavilla area and a mass meeting last week in Montavilla which a church spokesman described as one rampant with race hatred, brought statements on segregation from the Montavilla Ministerial association Tuesday.

The association, meeting in Hope Presbyterian church, went on record as opposed to the segregation of any American people, expressing the belief that Americans should have the right to live where they wish.

Rev. Albert J. Wilson, who attended the mass meeting, declared it as being "Un-organized, Un-Christian, Un-democratic and Un-American. He further stated that the meeting was not educational in general and seemed to appeal to the emotions and instincts of racial intolerance.

Mr. Will Raleigh called and presided over the meeting. Mr. Raleigh is a truck dispatcher for a laundry company. A committee was appointed to meet the Mayor. One of the committee members being an operator of a beer parlor on 92nd and N. E. Glisan St.

The ministerial association also opposed the moving of temporary housing units of any kind. The association stated that such units are not proper housing for permanent homes.

"The association deplors the feeling of racial hatred of all peoples" an association speaker said following the meeting Monday. He said the association grew out of a mass meeting held last Friday at Vestal School, attended by some four hundred persons

and reportedly called under the name of the Montavilla Community Club." The rumor was that the Negroes were to be moved out to Montavilla, and that the meeting became one of race hatred. He added: "In the light of such an attitude we are making this statement today."

Elected as officers of the ministerial association were Rev. Russel Pedersen, Hope Presbyterian church, president; Rev. T. M. Baxter, St. Peter's Episcopal church, vice president, and Rev. Albert J. Wilson, Montavilla Methodist church, secretary.

The Portland housing authority, contacted Monday, said it knew of no plan to move housing units to Montavilla.

Inflation Compared To an Atomic Bomb At IBPOEW Rally

WASHINGTON — Addressing the 20th annual Educational Rally of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World at the Chris J. Perry Auditorium in Philadelphia, on Aug. 27, Robert R. Brooks, OPA Deputy Administrator for Information said that in the dangerous period ahead penny overcharges might have the same effect upon the cost of living and our hopes for a rapid return to full peacetime production that the atomic bombs had upon Japan.

"The military victory has been won," Mr. Brooks said, "but we still have to win our final vic-

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Ship Personnel To Be Chosen Strictly on Basis of Ability Only

The President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice has directed the Seafarers International Union of North America to revise its policies and practices so that all needed and available seamen shall be hired or referred for employment on vessels of the Merchant Marine without regard to race, creed or color, Malcolm Ross, FEPC chairman, announced today.

The S. I. U., whose contracts to supply unlicensed crews to about a dozen steamship lines in the U. S. Maritime Service were frozen for the duration of the war emergency, was also directed to cease specifying the race or color of seamen requested by it from the rotary hiring list of the War Shipping Administration. Nor may the union continue its practice of refusing to accept for employment, because of their race, men referred by the WSA's Recruitment and Manning Organization, Mr. Ross said. All seamen are to be referred by the union to masters of ships on the basis of their occupational qualifications.

The committee's decision, which has been known by the S. I. U., an A. F. L. affiliate, for several months, was reached after a study of evidence presented at a hearing before a panel of the committee in New York on October 10, 1944. The union was charged in complaints filed with the committee with refusing during the years 1942, 1943, and 1944 to utilize qualified Negro seamen as cooks, bakers, oilers, ship carpenters, ordinary seamen, etc. After the hearing and prior to the issuance of the decision, a subcommittee of the committee visited and inspected ships operated under contract both with S. I. U. and with the National Maritime Union.

"The inspections were made," states the decision, "to enable the committee to understand and evaluate the evidence in this case in the light of conditions actually existing aboard the ships."

Also received in evidence by the committee was the transcript of testimony taken on February 25, 1944, and on subsequent occasions before the Special House Committee to Investigate Executive Agencies, generally known as the Smith Committee. The union had made protests to the Smith Committee concerning the refusal of the Recruitment and Manning Organization to honor S. I. U.'s discriminatory requests, Mr. Ross said.

WSA, which has had the responsibility for the operation of the merchant marine, has, through the R.M.O., utilized the rotary system for refusals to the unions. The man at the head of the list, whether Negro or white, has been the one sent to fill a request, a plan that R.M.O. has described as the "only fair and efficient method that could be used."

In response to the S. I. U.'s assertions that its white members will refuse to work under adherence to this system, and thus cause delay in sailings, the committee said that it was "far from convinced that S. I. U. seamen will so far forget their duty to the nation as to withdraw from employment if the union's current practices are modified." "It should be emphasized," the decision continued "that there is still need for manpower to operate our

Executive Sect. Of Urban League Visits Portland

Lester B. Granger, National Executive Secretary of the Urban League and one of the nation's leading Negroes visited Portland and spoke to an audience of approximately 400 people at the Public Library on Wednesday evening. Mr. Granger stated in his speech practically the same thing as the editor of the Portland Inquirer in a front page story of the Yank News of August 2nd,—that the Negroes that had migrated here and other places from the South were going to stay for the most part, not because they are receiving such fine treatment or such a hearty welcome, but rather that whatever the conditions are in their new community, they are better than the sub-standard conditions from whence they came. As Mr. Granger so aptly stated, "come Hell or high water," they are going to stay.

Mr. Granger gave several very practical suggestions for eliminating race tensions. Suggestions that are likely to be ignored by Jim Crow Portland. He was introduced by William L. Brewster Jr., president of the Portland branch of the Urban League. Mr. Brewster also introduced Mr. Edwin C. Berry, secretary of the Urban League.

Ed's note: That the suggestions made by Mr. Granger are likely to be ignored are based on facts gathered by the Portland Inquirer viz: A recent expose of the president of the Community Chest from whence the Urban League gets its funds for operation. Harold Wendel is the man, he is also general manager of the Lipman Wolfe store that refused to permit a Negro woman, graduate of the University of Oregon,

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Maritime Service. Not only must we bring home millions of veterans from the European and Pacific war zones, but our ships must be relied upon to transport the necessary supplies and equipment to our military forces occupying enemy territories."