

People Not Satisfied With F.E.P.C. Handling Says Philip Randolph

An Associated Negro Press
Publication

Portland Inquirer

Serving the Pacific
Northwest

Oregon's Negro Weekly

VOLUME 2

PORTLAND, OREGON, OCTOBER 26, 1945

PRICE 10c

NUMBER 16

Mrs. Bethune Blasts DAR for Continuing Ban

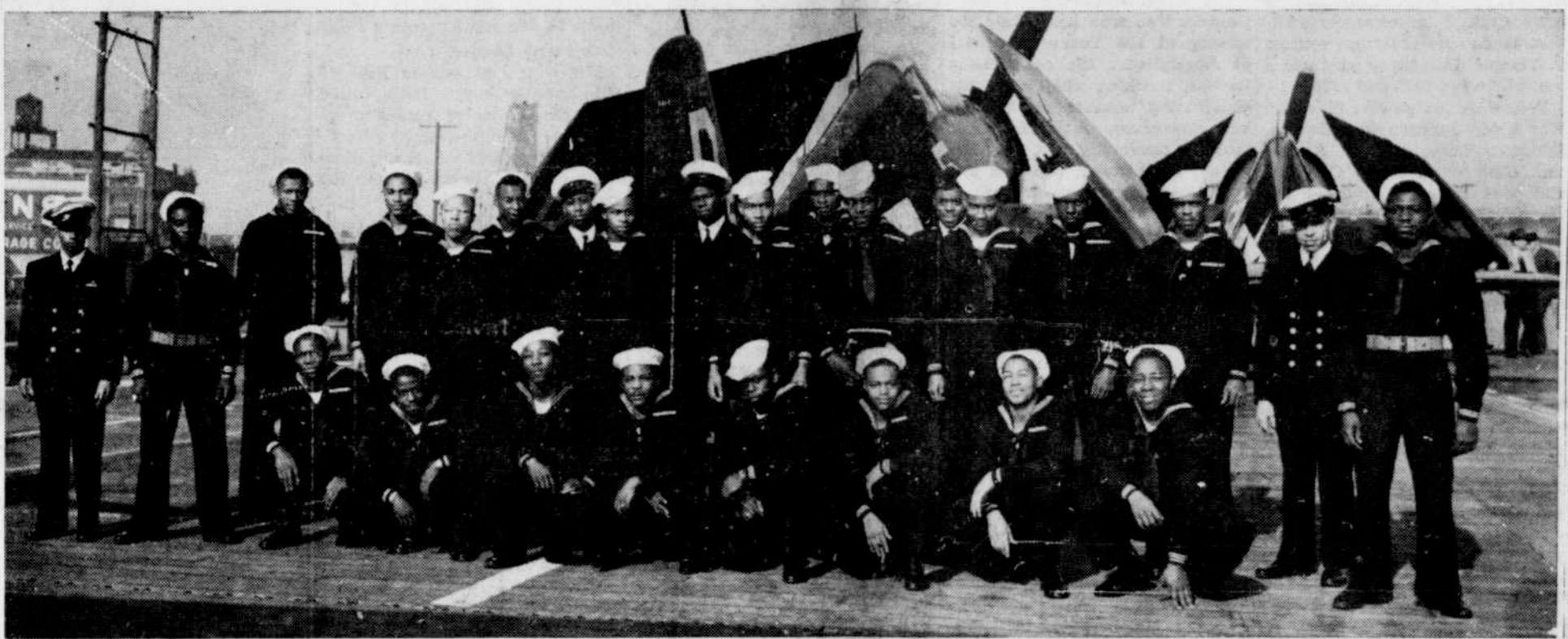
WASHINGTON (ANP)—Speaking on behalf of the National Association of Colored women, of which she is president, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune issued a statement Saturday, soundly condemning the Daughters of the American Revolution for continuing their ban against Negro use of Constitution hall which was used to bar Hazel Scott from appearing there.

Said Mrs. Bethune: "We regret most grievously that the doors of Constitution hall are still barred to artistic talent because of race. There can be no enduring peace until such deep seated prejudice is conquered. The United States cannot hope to inspire the love of democracy in its foreign peoples as long as they themselves repudiate the principles of democracy here at home. "We have believed that when the DAR invited Miss Marian Anderson to sing in Constitution hall for the benefit of war relief in 1943 that their unfortunate and illogical stand of barring Negro artists had ended. It is distressing to discover in the latest action by the executive committee debaring Miss Hazel Scott, an outstanding artist, from the use of Constitution hall that this same reactionary stand is being maintained. "It is regretted that the DAR should forget that the spirit of unity, tolerance and understanding is needed more today than ever before in the history of our country. The Japanese and Axis propaganda addressed to the smaller nations tried to discredit the United States on the grounds that its democracy was not sincere. The DAR by its official action now picks up where the Japanese and the Axis left off. "We, the National Council of Negro Women, call upon all organizations, men and women alike, to join us in a sincere and courageous effort to make the principles of the United Nations charter work here at home in a very real and human way. We realize that there must be a spiritual undergirding of all our efforts to transform prejudice, hate and intolerance into love, understanding and brotherhood."

Plan Probe of Causes Behind Anti-Negro High School Strike

GARY, Ind. (ANP)—An investigation of the causes of the recent anti-Negro student strike at Froebel High school here was promised Wednesday by Charles D. Lutz, superintendent of schools. The school board authorized the probe Tuesday night at its meeting, he said. "The investigation will be made by a four-man committee representing groups, and will work under the guidance of a college or university professor trained in education and in research methods. The school board has authorized the employment of a person possessing these qualifications, Lutz announced. "Members of the four-man investigating committee are John Jadnak, representing parents of white pupils; C. V. Ridgley, former superior court judge, representing the public in general; Frederick Price, representing parents of Negro student and Finley French, mechanical drawing teacher at Horace Mann High school, representing Gary teachers. "Meanwhile a citizens' committee, headed by Fred Henderson, executive secretary of the Southtown Planning commission, was formed to discuss the racial issues at Englewood High School Wednesday. It recommended that a parent group be formed at the school. In a public report, it said that "the problems of Englewood High school relating to law and order are no greater than those in the city as a whole." The Rev. Herbert Jones, pastor of the Hope Presbyterian church, is one of the committee's officials.

Aboard the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Independence



Members of the crew of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Independence photographed on the flight deck of the flat top. Planes on the deck with wings folded form a background. The carrier anchored at the foot of Stark Street, Portland, is here for the Navy Day celebration. The members of the crew were honored at a party at the Williams Ave. U.S.O. and scheduled for another entertainment while units of the fleet are anchored here.

Back row standing, left to right: Stw. 2c Ed Watkins, Nashville, Tenn.; Stm. 1c J. W. Woodward, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Stm. 1c D. H. Holley, Dallas, Texas; Stm. J. M. Carson, Corpus Christie, Texas; Stm. 2c Wm. Brown, Muskogee, Okla.; Stm. 1c Earl Scott, Oakland, Calif.; Stw. 3c E. A. Pickett, Michigan; Stm. 1c J. G. Brooms, LaGrande, Ga.; Stw. 1c John J. Scruggs, Baltimore, Maryland; Stm. 1c T. H. Williams, Atlanta, Ga.; Stm. 1c J. J. Thomas, Louisiana; Stm. 1c C. H. David, Tampa, Fla.; Stw. 2c Dennis Randall, St. Petersburg, Florida; Stm. 1c J. Daniels, Cleveland, Ohio; Stm. 1c T. Barber, Columbia, South Carolina; Stm. 2c G. M. Clark; Stw. 3c A. A. Williams, Fredericksburg, Va.; Stm. 1c C. W. Williams, Jacksonville, Fla.

Kneeling front row left to right: Stm. 1c Willie J. Thomas, Cincinnati, Ohio; Stm. 1c Wilbert Ferguson, Trenton, N. J.; Stm. 2c Bill Clark, Philadelphia, Penn.; Stm. 1c Burton Floyd, Norfolk, Va.; Stm. 1c O. M. Austin, Norfolk, Va.; Stm. 2c Gerald Clay, St. Louis, Missouri; Stm. 2c Robert Calhoun, Jr., Florence, Ala.; Stm. 1c L. A. Brown, Bloomington, Ill.

—Photo by Margaret C. Robinson

Error Caused Laundrymen To Exchange Suds for 'Guns'

ASSEMBLY AREA COMMAND, France—A harassed MP, doing his best to rush reinforcements up to the line, mistook the 600th Quartermaster Laundry Company's big truck for a motorized infantry outfit and, as a result, members of that organization spent a most uncomfortable night in "no-man's land," between American and German lines, "sweating out" a hot night of artillery shelling.

Recalling those hectic days, members of the 600th gathered for an informal chat of old times at Camp Cleveland in the Assembly Area Command, where they are awaiting shipment to the United States. "That experience in Hamby, France last July was probably both the roughest and funniest we had," recalled Private Bersford Gayle of 174 West 141st Street, New York City, an 80-point veteran. "It was actually an MP's mistake. I don't know how it was possible, but he must have mistaken us for motorized infantry. "The MPs waved tanks, artillery, medical vehicles and combat trucks off the road to shoot our twenty large vans through," continued Private Gayle. "The French civilians were cheering us on from the sides lines and we began to think something was wrong. "And something was wrong, as we soon found out," interrupted Sergeant Charles C. Minter, one of the few tractor drivers in the company, and winner of a Certificate of Merit, who lives at 719 North Carey Street, Baltimore, Maryland. "We moved up a little farther and then turned into a valley and stopped," the sergeant said. "No sooner had we dropped our bags, however, than artillery opened up on us. We drove for cover and dug in as well as we could before trying to size up the situation. "We soon discovered that the Germans were on one mountain, the Americans on the other, and we were in the valley between." It was impossible for the outfit to move to safety until the following morning, when the company's vehicles left the area one by one so as to present a good target. Private First Class John A. Hall, Jr., of 154 21st Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., remembered well that evacuation. "Naturally everyone was anxious to leave as quickly as possible," he recalled, "and each vehicle was packed with men as it took off. Men even hung from the sides."

The 600th earned a commendation from Lieutenant General J. Lawton Collins, commanding General of the VII Corps, while the unit performed its duties under all conditions and sometimes within enemy artillery range. "We ran into unexpected trouble at Duderstadt, Germany, early in April," remarked Sergeant Wallace Twyman of 1528 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, who is assured of discharge with 92 points. "The infantry bypassed the town, and the company took over with some medics and a military government unit. We were threatened with a German counter-attack. We sent out patrols to look for SS troopers near the town and captured five soldiers in civilian clothes. "Corporal Albert Martin Jr., of 1202 Norman Street, Shreveport, La., remembered particularly when, at Aachen during the Battle of the Bulge, he and his buddies stood eight hours night guard in the bitter cold after a fulltime day's work, while the enemy bombed and shelled nearby. "At that time we were the only laundry company operating anywhere near the front in the Ardennes. "That was as bad as our situation in Kornellumster in October," he continued. "At that time we were operating a fumigation and bath installation less than three miles from the front. Jerry artillery hit some of the boys of the First Division who were in the same town. "Technical Sergeant Clifford McQueen of 1100 West Gonzales Street, Pensacola, Florida, a section leader who has received the Certificate of Merit, thought back to the early days of the campaign in France for one of his most memorable experiences. "We followed the combat troops rather closely during the St. Lo breakthrough," he recalled. "We were close enough to the fight so that, by standing on the tops of our vehicles on a nearby hill, we could look down on the city as it was being pounded flat. It was a terrific sight. I didn't think a living thing would be left, and I was almost right."

The 600th served most of its combat time with the VII Corps of the First Army and was frequently broken down into sections to work for such famous divisions as the 3rd Armored, 1st, 2nd, 78th, 83rd, 84th and 104th Infantry. It arrived overseas at Liverpool, England, in December, 1943, landed on the continent on the following July

Jobs for Negroes Slowly Fading Here According to Forum

"The Negro and Employment in Portland", was the topic of discussion at the second open forum conducted by the Portland Public Forum, last Friday in the public library hall.

The Rev. Thompson L. Shannon of First Christian church, presided as moderator during the question period.

Mr. Edwin C. Berry, executive secretary of the Urban League, made plain the facts that as cutbacks in war industries increase prejudice is mounting against hiring Negro employees. He also commented on the way in which Portland had accepted an increase in Negro population without guidance, education, or plans to absorb these people into the community. "Three Roads Open

"Now, as we face the future, three roads are open in the path of race relations," he said. "The first, to ignore facts and do nothing, has been tried. "The second, to continue to oppress and compress the Negro population has also been tried and failed in other communities. There is nothing left but to take the third road, face the problem honestly and see if some degree of unity and equity can't be obtained in our community. "Stanley Earl of the state C.I.O. council reviewed the status of Negroes within that union and stressed the facts that though Negroes were accepted for membership and often held offices within the C.I.O., actual hiring of employees was still conducted by employers. "We have tried to outlaw racial discrimination within our organization," he stated. "It has been our national policy, although we may not have been able to carry it down to the last person within the organization, since we have a membership of some 5,500,000 in the C.I.O."

Thomas J. Sheridan, speaking for the United States employment service, reviewed the cutbacks now being effected in Oregon industries and serving to throw much of the Negro population out of work. He declared a program to kill rumors and generalizations against this minority would pave the way for a greater selection in job placements for Negroes. "Doyle Pearson, executive sec-

15th and two days later began twenty-four-hour day operations which lasted until after VE day. The unit was awarded five battle participation stars for its service in the ETO.

Soldier, Sailor Jailed For Wrecking Church

CONWAY, S. C. (ANP) Willie Guage and Whiteford Deitz, soldier and sailor respectively, both white, were being held in the county jail here Monday on charges of having wilfully and maliciously destroyed property in the Hemingway Chapel colored church here early Sunday morning.

The men are accused of having entered the church about two o'clock in the morning, turning on lights, breaking up all chairs and most of the seats; of having thrown a seat out of a window, breaking out all window panes except four and doing as much damage as possible to the heater. "Completing their havoc, the two then rang the bell which aroused Golden Bellamy, who lives nearby. Mr. Bellamy summoned aid and the sheriff who effected the arrest. "Church-goers Sunday observed the wreckage and also noted that the men had pulled up a tombstone in the cemetery of the church and placed it in the middle of the road. Also that flowers had been torn from many graves and strewn about the grounds. "No reason for the incident has been given.

Philip M. Connolly of the C.I.O. and radio commentator John B. Hughes. "Included among the recommendations are support of a state and national FEPC, city-wide committee to guarantee freedom of the air, introduction into the schools of material to combat prejudice, distribution of educational material, and the holding of further meetings, both on a neighborhood and a city-wide scale, and numerous other suggestions to advance democracy and defeat the home enemy, fascism.

Among the prominent speakers were Mayor Fletcher Epperson, author Carey McWilliams, B'nai B'rith leader David Colmen, George Campbell of the AFL,

Truman Quizzed About FEPC

WASHINGTON (ANP)—The people are not "altogether satisfied" with the "recommendation and proclamation stage" of handling the FEPC as being used by President Truman, and are anxious to know what more he intends to do to implement his public commitments on this legislation. This feeling and attitude was expressed firmly and directly by A. Philip Randolph, co-chairman of the National Council for a Permanent FEPC during a press conference at the council's headquarters here last Thursday afternoon.

& "I think the President's two statements on FEPC were splendid and represent a good job in putting it on his 'must' list," Randolph declared. "I am impressed by the feeling of the people, however, in their desire to know how far he is going in drawing on the forces at his disposal to take this legislation through congress. "Randolph was reporting on the completion of a 30-day tour he had just completed in a score of cities where he had been observing the trends in reconversion since V-J Day. Particularly was he concerned about these matters as they affect America's minorities. "Recalling that two weeks ago the President had instructed his cabinet members to keep an eye on various pieces of legislation which he had recommended to congress, and asking them to give him periodic reports on progress, Randolph disclosed that he had just written the President inquiring which of the cabinet members had been delegated to observe the trend of permanent FEPC legislation. "Discussing his findings on the trip, the labor leader held that "the processes of an unplanned reconversion had distilled all the re-agents necessary for an explosive mixture. The social chemistry in many cities," he said, "indicates inevitable violence unless congress adds an important ingredient to the mixture. This vital ingredient is hope for the minorities."

Using a blackboard and chalk to illustrate the equation he had in mind, Randolph said that "Un (unemployment) plus 'H' (hunger) minus 'X' (hope for a fair chance at a job) equals 'R' (riots). "Failure of congress to enact FEPC legislation, he continued, makes it difficult for him to see how "violence, perhaps exceeding that which after the last war brought terror to 26 American cities in one year, can be prevented." He then cited figures to show the extent to which Negro layoffs have outstripped those of the general population in a half dozen assorted industries. Negroes employed in government, however, showed no disproportionate decrease, he observed, owing to the fact that the FEPC still has jurisdiction over government agencies and has been acting. "Asked his attitude about the possible transfer of FEPC to the labor department, Randolph said he would be opposed only because the agency would have to investigate government agencies—perhaps even the labor department itself—and ought to be free. He felt no particular alarm about Labor Secretary Lewis B. Schwellenbach's attitude and position. "Randolph said he plans to make another tour in behalf of the national council and will participate in a series of mass meetings to arouse wider support in behalf of the legislation.

TAN YANKS AWAIT V-A DAY
WASHINGTON (ANP)—Negro soldiers in France received the news of the Japanese surrender with satisfaction at knowing they would not have to go to the Pacific, but the realization that their fight would not be over until what the "V-A Day," it was revealed last Wednesday by a civilian war department official. "Doy Davenport, who assisted in the establishment of the information and education programs in the European Theatre of Operations, told the Capital Press club last week that the boys were

Letters continue to stream in from railroaders in military service protesting bitterly that they are just "hanging around, killing time." They want to come home and go back to work for the "Iron Horse." "Many of the railmen in service have read stories about the shortage of labor on railroads in the States, particularly prior to the Jap surrender, and they appeal to the railroad workers' paper to expose the alleged waste of manpower by the "brass hats" in the military railway battalions. "Their appeals reveal the extent to which the military authorities failed to cooperate with the carriers, the rail unions and the Office of Defense Transportation when the great drive was on to get men and supplies to the West Coast. "One such letter has come from a member of the Firemen and Enginemen, now stationed in Austria as a road foreman of engines. In that capacity, he said, he has traveled about considerably and seen first hand the squandering of manpower. "With few exceptions, the work now is 'just killing time,' the writer said. "Many are doing just routine jobs which could easily be handled by 18-year-old replacements and make possible the release of railroad men, many of whom are between 30 and 45 years, but who do not have the necessary 85 points for release. "Our own battalion ceased rail work of any kind on or about July 5. We have since used our time in swimming, ball playing and the like. "In a similar letter, a member of the Railroad Telegraphers, who has seen plenty of service abroad, but who is now back at Camp Claiborne, La., complains that a railman, though they have had several years of active overseas service, are now being subjected to time-wasting "refresher courses" at the camp—that is, veterans are being treated like raw recruits!

Johnson Acquitted In Ivy St. Slaying

Otto Johnson 31, was acquitted this week on a charge of second degree murder. He was tried before Circuit Judge James R. Bain and pleaded self-defense. The jury deliberated less than an hour. "On June 14, Johnson said he fatally stabbed Mrs. Anna Mae Blackwell 45, of 522 N. Ivy street after she had attacked him with an axe. "After the attack Johnson went to Seattle, Washington, where he was picked up by Portland police officers and returned to Portland. He stated that he did not know that Mrs. Blackwell was dead when he left the city. "First reports following the murder were that she had been attacked with the axe but it was later proven that that she was stabbed a dozen or more times in the breast and head. "thinking in terms of 'Victory in America', meaning the day when 'they would be liberated from the hatred and prejudice that they had known at home.'"

Army Wasted
Time Declare
G.I. Railmen