

# PORTLAND INQUIRER

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The new officers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People speak well for a new era in Negro activity in the City of Roses. For the first time Portland has some of the really well trained and intelligent minds of the area heading an organization that has the interest of the Negro at heart. Representation such as this can and surely will do more than has ever been done before for the benefit of our people. Certainly there are plenty of others who would like to have been chosen as officials of this organization and would have done their best to warrant the confidence that would have been placed in them by the public but, lack of academic training would have presaged another era in which the NAACP would have become a laughing stock. Good intentions were never a substitute for academic training, and since there are less than a dozen Negro men in this area who are graduates of an accredited college the presence of four of them (two as officers and two as members of the board) on the roster of the NAACP should usher in a period of progressiveness such as has never been experienced here.

Dr. Robert N. Joyner, the newly elected president also has the honor and distinction of being the only Negro member of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. He is a well known and well liked physician in Portland, a comparatively new comer.

Mr. George Thomas, Race Relations Director for the Portland Council of Churches has been in Portland for less than two years and has already made his presence known in Church and Civic circles here. Mr. Thomas is the newly elected First Vice-President.

Rev. George W. Brown, pastor of the Gona Street Baptist church, an inter-racial church under the direction of the Housing Authority of the City of Portland is very well known to Portlanders although he has been a resident here less than a year. His interest and activities alone resulted in an investigation into the killing of Irwin Jones of Guilds Lake after the case had been considered closed. Rev. Brown is a member of the board of NAACP.

Mr. Edwin C. Berry also very much a newcomer is Executive Secretary of the Portland branch of the Urban League. His work in the interest of the Negro has been publicized by the Portland Inquirer. Hundreds of Negroes can testify to his untiring efforts in their behalf. Mr. Berry is also a member of the board of NAACP.

Portland should give these men a vote of thanks and show their appreciation of these highly trained men, each an expert in his field for giving their time and ability to such a worthy cause. Let's go all out for the revamped NAACP and show our appreciation by 100 per cent membership.

## Legion Defers Action on Abolishing Color Bar Against Negro Veterans

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Negro veterans of five southern states will have to wait another year before they can expect to enjoy the right to organize, or join, American Legion posts.

During the three hilarious convention days here, three resolutions to abolish jim crow within the great American Legion, representing approximately 1,500,000 World War I and II vets, were politely deferred, or put aside, until next year when the national executive committee is supposed to have adequately studied the question of racial discrimination which denies former Negro fighting men the right to form Legion posts in southern states.

A "hush-hush" atmosphere prevailed whenever the racial or religious issue was projected and extreme care was taken to block publicity about committee meet-

ing where racial and religious issues were discussed. The Johnnie Baker post, inneapolis, the Giles Post, Chicago, and James E. Walker Post No. 26, Washington, were among the many Legion posts known to have protested the plight of Negro veterans living under jim crow southern laws.

A very slight possibility exists that white Legionnaires from Atlanta may unite with liberal forces next year to amend the national organization's constitution and by-laws on state's rights. The all-white Atlanta pos has 3,000 members but they are unhappy because small posts throughout the state have succeeded in nullifying their national representation. They are now trying to have the national body intercede in their behalf, reports say.

Three reasons were given why Negro Legionnaires are optimistic about favorable action by the national group next year on the question of the right of Negro vets in some southern areas to organize their own independent posts. They are:

1. The rapid return of World War II veterans and their enrollment into the American Legion.
2. The tolerant attitude of

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## 'LIFE LINE TO FREEDOM-MERCHANT MARINE'

### SENTENCE SERMONS

By REV. FRANK CLARENCE LOWRY for ANP

1. He who simply goes along in an ordinary groove, just passes along, but sooner or later admits to himself that he doesn't seem to move.
2. If you can't see your own progress, don't expect anyone else to strain an eye looking for it.
3. When men say one thing and do another, each year makes it more difficult their own hearts, to discover.
4. Physical check-ups for heart disorders are becoming common; but spiritual check-ups, far greater in importance, are made at random.
5. The more constant the spiritual check-up, the less frequent the moral and physical breakdown.
6. All of us have to be constantly reminded that God has had from the beginning His unfailing ex-ray system as is indicated in His following advice to Samuel. "But the Lord said unto Samuel. Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him; for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." I Sam. 16:7.
7. God is the great physician who specializes in preventatives, though He carries effective cures for those who seek His treatment for Satan's deadly sores.
8. Man started his diseases from the garden of Eden, but God had all the answers for these before he started to hide behind leaves and trees.
9. Adam and Eve thought they could take the teeth out of God's law, and for that their posterity to the most part, have to wear false teeth.
10. And too, the ease with which some of their descendants lie, makes one feel that they think it is possible to tell the truth with false teeth.
11. Our foreparents picked a chance to pick the wrong fruit, but now some of their great grand children are resorting to picking pockets.
12. It is quite obvious that this modern man has not advanced much beyond the Adam and Eve stage; for he is still trying to hide from God and the nations are in a fighting rage.

young white veterans on questions affecting the rights of Negro soldiers.

3. Any compromise by the national organization to block a public hearing.

No protests are known to have been launched by Negro veterans against veteran jim crow hospitals but an anti-discrimination resolution was adopted by the national body on the GI bill of rights.

The convention brought together about 200 Negro Legionnaires, among whom were approximately 80 or 70 delegates and alternate delegates.

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## WE NEED MORE TRAINED PEOPLE-A LESSON OF THE WAR

By Dr. Herman Branson for ANP

(This is the first in a series of three articles to appear weekly by Dr. Herman Branson, professor of physics at Howard university, Washington, on a proposal to send able high school graduates to college to do work in the natural sciences at government expense. This first article deals with the background of the bills now before the United States congress; the second will discuss the Bush proposal; and the third will have fuller participation of our young people in all phases of American life.)

The Bush report to President Truman concerning the postwar training of scientists is of unusual importance to Negroes. The report grew out of needs revealed by the war. With 130 million people and the best educational system in the world, few of us would think that one of the most dangerous shortages in World War II was not in tools and materials but in well trained men and women.

We have always acted as though education is the problem of a single person or his family. If the child did not get through high school or through college, it was too bad—but it was not a loss to all of us. Everyone knows of some bright youngster whose family could not send him to school

or who fund it necessary to take a job as porter or helper when his ability would have fitted him for good work in a field such as medicine, or science, or law. But again we never thought of his failure to develop his abilities as affecting us. Now the opinion is held practically by all the major countries; that if we do not develop the talent of our young people, the loss is national, affecting not only the youngster but you and me and everyone.

The war made this opinion a harsh reality. When we needed trained men and women to do the many tasks connected with technical preparation, we didn't have enough. And though we achieved victory this time, if there is a next time, we may not be so

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lucky. Then, too, the complex scientific world in which we live requires for ever increasing numbers of highly trained people—far more than our schools have been producing.

The late President Roosevelt saw these facts quite clearly. In November, 1944, he asked Dr. Vannevar Bush, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) four questions, three of which are of great concern to us:

Second: "With particular reference to the war of science against disease, what can be done now to organize a program for continuing in the future the work which has been done in medicine and related science?"

"The fact that the annual deaths in this country from one or two diseases alone are far in excess of the total number of lives lost by us in battle during this war should make us conscious of the duty we owe future generations."

Third: "What can the government do now and in the future to aid research activities by public and private organizations? The proper roles of public and private research, and their inter-relationships, should be carefully considered."

Fourth: "Can effective programs be proposed for discovering and developing scientific talent in American youth so that the continuing future of scientific research in this country may be assured on a level comparable to what has been done during the war?"

"New frontiers of the mind are before us, and if they are pioneered with the same vision, boldness and drive with which we have waged this war we can create a fuller and more fruitful life."

The second concerns our health and we are, of course, in favor of the government action. The third is of great importance to Negro colleges seeking to grow and become more effective and efficient. The fourth concerns us immediately and directly, for our children are 10g of American youth and we want them to enjoy the benefits and not share fully the responsibilities of American life.

The President was impressed by the achievements of science in this war. He knew radar, of the proximity fuse, and of the prospects for an atomic bomb. He knew, too, that we of all countries had given least attention to finding and developing our best youngsters and that a continuation of this policy meant a weakened America.

Dr. Bush turned the fourth question over to a committee which recommended that the government seek out and train the ablest young people with scientific talent.

"We are convinced that there is no possibility that too much ability of the highest order can be discovered and developed; the needs of our complex social organization for brains and character at the highest level can never be surfeited. Moreover, it is appropriate to point out, when considering the need for scientific training that the first-rate scientist and engineer cannot do his work effectively unless he has a few good ones in a secondary role at his disposal as assistance and sometimes a great many as hands and as instruments for execution of his ideas."

"We have only to look about us, from the pint view of citizens, to know that the current need for creative brains is not being met; there is too much wrong with the world and with our country to have doubt about that. As scholars and administrators of scholarly affairs we also know out of our own experiences that there is a deficiency in the supply of first-rate scientific workers. All of us know of problems in science whose solutions are urgently needed for individual and the collective welfare. The limiting factors, all along the line, are brain and character."

The committee recognized that the chief cause why more able young people do not go to school are the reigns in which they live and the little money their families have. They proposed that each year 6,000 young people be

## BETWEEN THE LINES

A NEGRO IMMORTAL — Booker T. Washington takes his place in the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is thus honored. America is a great country in spite of the many things that can be written against its record. When a slave can make the long journey from slave cabin to the Hall of Fame, his country is the largest explanation.

Even innate genius cannot avail where circumstances are not propitious. Even color-struck America is a great country and this fact cannot and must not be denied, for such denial is refuted by the achievements of the Negro race since emancipation. The significant thing about Washington's entrance into the Hall of Fame is not the mere fact that he was chosen for such honor; but that he was such an overwhelming choice. Moreover it is doubtful if there is an intelligent person throughout the world who will dispute the wisdom of the choice.

It was said of Abraham Lincoln that he was the gentlest memory in history; there is something of the same halo that rests upon the moral brow of Washington. There is about Washington a spiritual charm that begets affectionate veneration. The Negro race should feel encouraged that color lines break down before the Hall of Fame. As long as written records endure among men, the saga of a son of slavery will be told to the generations of mankind.

It is not soothing to think on what the race would be without Tuskegee, the brain child of Booker T. Washington. He left as a heritage to mankind not only a lofty philosophy but a tangible expression of such philosophy. He was no mere dreamer and academician. He was a practical dreamer who made his dreams come true and in this he proved a benefactor of mankind. In the last analysis there must be something to a man besides mere talk. He must have a residuum of tangibility that outlives his short day of life and this is not saying that he can be great unless he leaves a Tuskegee as a legacy to succeeding generations. But when to philosophies we add tangible achievements there is always added lustre to majestic lives and living.

Perhaps the opposition that Washington encountered mellowed our memory of the great man. He was at times bitterly assailed and at times by those who were not worthy to unloose the latches of his shoes. But Washington taught the more excellent way of not wasting time replying to hecklers. His very bigness was his surest defense. Then too Washington not only had a philosophy but he has a strategy the lack of which at the present is seriously handicapping the Negro in his struggle for survival in this country. Washington knew in his time what many of us are just finding out, namely, that claims to citizenship that are unbacked by solid achievement are worthless. He taught that the prime consideration in seeking our rights is to be worthy of them, a fact that it is easy to overlook under

selected and sent to colleges of their choice. The committee recommended further that 300 young people be sent for graduate training each year in science and technology. The cost would be about 29 million dollars each year after the plan was in operation.

The students in college will be called scholars. Those in graduate school fellows. The scholars would receive up to \$500 monthly for tuition and other fees; plus \$50 monthly for personal support if single and \$75 monthly if married. For the fellows, there would be up to \$500 for tuition and fees and up to \$100 monthly for support.

"The scholars and fellows should be chosen solely on the basis of merit without regard to sex, color, race, creed or need." "All those who receive benefits under this plan, should be enrolled in a national science reserve and liable to call into service of the federal government, in (Continued on Page 5.)

the stress of untoward circumstances.

Then too Washington chose not to make a frontal attack in the fight for rights. He made the attack through industrial education, a flank attack, if you please. He felt that in the contest of citizenship as in the test of the gridiron, that the weaker team should stay on the defensive and rely on strategy even as a lighter football team seldom resorts to power plays through a big tough line; but rather turns to forward passes and deceptions.

Of course it was in this sphere that the two schools of thought among Negroes were founded. There is a school that does not believe in strategy but in power. These spurn the flank attack and brand it as cowardly. This school of thought for better or worse is in the ascendancy among Negroes. This position naturally points a direct challenge to the opposition who are glad to respond in kind. The stubborn opposition offered by certain elements in this country to the Negro's every attempt at advance could possibly be rooted in the accepted policy of Negroes to make frontal attacks.

If our attacks are going to be frontal, then we may expect the opposition to be frontal also. Washington thought that a flank attack would be better and so declared himself and paid the price of his conviction. We of the present generation who advocate the frontal attack must also be prepared to pay the price thereof. Hail Booker T. Washington—Negro immortal!

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