

Readers Digest Branded As Anti-Negro, Anti-Labor by Teachers

MINNEAPOLIS — (ANP) — Additional evidence was presented to the National Council of Teachers of English here during its recent convention to prove that the Readers Digest is both anti-Negro and anti-Labor.

The fight to bar the magazine from public high school libraries was spearheaded by Mrs. Helen Rand Miller, an Evanston, Ill., teacher, and a member of the teachers' committee on magazines and newspapers. The teachers' organization began a probe of the Readers Digest following press criticism about the magazine, which boasts 11,000,000 circulation in America and foreign countries, in 1943.

Each Teacher to Decide

"The committee presents no conclusions as to whether the Readers Digest is suitable classroom material," a teachers' report said. "Each teacher will have to decide for himself whether or not, in view of the information contained in this report, the Readers Digest should be used in the classroom."

An insight of Readers Digest policy may be gathered from the comments made last year during the teachers' convention at Columbus, O., by Dr. Edgar Dale, of Ohio State university, following an interview with representatives of the magazine.

Anti-New Deal

"It seems to me that the Readers Digest question is a simple one," he remarked. "The editors who talked with me after the meeting admitted, and I wrote this down at the time, 'The majority of political articles which have appeared in the Readers Digest since 1922 have been against specific actions of the administration.'"

"When I said, 'Then the majority of your political articles are against the New Deal' they replied, 'Against specific actions of the New Deal.' I wrote down their statement in their presence, pointing out to them the necessity for adequate documentation."

The CIO has leveled more than one charge against Readers Digest that it is anti-labor.

Anti-Labor

"Theoretically speaking, the Digest claims to be impartial when it comes to labor questions, but it has repeatedly used the cloak of 'impartiality' to hide a one-sided, anti-union bias," said the Catholic Work editorial last

March.

While denying that they are anti-Negro, charges have been made that editors of the magazine are reluctant to publicize the cause of equality, justice and fair play for Negroes. Among the articles the teachers say the magazine has printed to promote and foster discrimination of Negroes are "A Negro Warns the Negro Press," January, 1943; "Sketches in Black and White," anecdotes, April, 1943, and "How the South Feels About the Race Problem," June, 1944.

Relations Council Has Substitute

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Neighborhood controls based on occupancy standards are proposed by the American Council on Race Relations to replace restrictive covenants based on race or religion.

Analyzing the effect on restrictive covenants and the current housing shortage on community relations, the council concludes that new housing must be developed on a non-segregated basis to check the spread of segregation to other aspects of community living, such as schools and recreation facilities.

The council's analysis was prepared by Robert C. Weaver, director of community services and former special assistant to the United Housing authority, and is published in an illustrated pamphlet titled "Hemmed In—the ABC's of Race Restrictive Covenants".

"Hemmed In" maintains that restrictive covenants have failed in the very purpose for which they were designed, protection of property values. The covenants force minorities to expand in a series of unplanned breakthroughs at the points of weakest resistance, carrying with them the overcrowding that perpetuates slum conditions.

New housing alone is not enough, says Dr. Weaver. There must be provision for the planned, orderly entrance of minority families into new neighborhoods. He advocates property agreements in these new neighborhoods limiting housing units to single families, barring roomers and establishing standards of maintenance.

"Hemmed In" outlines the history of race restrictive covenants, which were introduced after World War I when racial zoning was declared unconstitutional. The pamphlet then proceeds to describe the effect of the ensuing residential segregation on the community's economy and the psychology of the people who live in it.

"Hemmed In" advances a three-point program; abolition of race restrictive covenants, development of occupancy standards, and the building of new non-segregated housing. The pamphlet concludes with a warning that "If we simply create more and larger segregated areas in the postwar period, we will not have solved the problem; we

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will have attempted to postpone it. But it cannot be postponed without the risk of rising racial tensions and possible conflicts."

The American Council prepared "Hemmed In" after conferences with other national organizations and housing agencies indicated the need for a clear, simple statement of the causes, costs and cures of race restrictive covenants. The pamphlet can be obtained from the council offices, 32 West Randolph St., Chicago 1, at 10 cents per copy (discount on quantities).

Magazine Moves To New Quarters

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Negro Business, the new magazine for Negro business men, moved into permanent headquarters here last week at 3104 South Michigan boulevard.

Free literature will be sent to businesses on the magazine's mailing list from the new address, said the editor, Theries Lindsey. He added that a series of articles is being run on "How the new tax law will affect your business."

Negro Business is being sold by subscription only and will not be available on news stands, he disclosed.

Woman Educator Buried in Texas

FT. WORTH, TEX.—(ANP)—Funeral services for Mrs. Ada Belle DeMont, president of the National Association of Colored Women, who died here Wednesday following a brief illness, were held here Monday with burial in the local cemetery.

Mrs. DeMont, born here more than 50 years ago, devoted her early life to teaching after graduating from Prairie View college. She rose to be principal of the Negro high school at Mineral Wells, Tex., and was later awarded an honorary doctor's degree by Bishop college.

At the time of her death she was president of the National Association of Colored Women and secretary of the Women's auxiliary of the National Baptist convention, Inc. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. C. DeMont, a Baptist preacher of Cleveland, O., two daughters and nieces.

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United States Swindle Case Flops; 18 Dining Car Workers Dismissed

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Charges of conspiracy against 18 dining car employees of the Erie railroad in the famous GI meal swindling case were dismissed by Federal Judge Walter J. LaBuy here Thursday.

The charges were brought by the U. S. government upon evidence supplied by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation last summer, who posed as junior stewards and passengers while conducting the probe into the alleged meal swindling racket that reportedly deprived traveling GIs of chickens, steaks and chops paid for by the government.

All but one of the 18 men pleaded not guilty to the charges. Robert Edward Hairston, a Chicagoan, pleaded guilty and became a U. S. witness, but his testimony was insufficient to convict the 17. The government withdrew his guilty plea and freed him along with the rest.

Judge LaBuy expressed no doubt that some were guilty of fraud, but remarked that the case could not be continued "because of insufficient evidence of conspiracy."

The release of the men is being hailed here as a crowning victory to the cause of labor unions by Local No. 351 and the Joint Council of Dining Car workers. A declaration that both railroad unions would defend the accused men to the last was made some time ago by Richard W. Smith, secretary-treasurer of the Joint Council, and Harrison T. Brooks, representative of Local No. 351. The union's defense was not made in a spirit to condone stealing, but with a determination to make the government prove its case, they said.

"The statement that dining car waiters were out to exploit GIs had definitely been proven

false," said Henry L. Balaban, the union's lawyer. "The charge of conspiracy also has been proven false. I was of the opinion from the beginning that such charges could not stand."

Meanwhile, conviction of 24 New York Central dining car workers seem imminent in New York on the same charges, Brooks disclosed. About 100 white and Negro dining car workers were rounded up in the east at the same time as they were arrested here.

Conviction of the men in the east is said to be due primarily to conceded convictions by union leaders, who frantically tried to gain release of the men by maneuvering behind-the-scenes.

Colored Drivers Permanent Says Yellow Cab Co.

PHILADELPHIA — (ANP) — Clewell Sykes and H. F. Holmes, president and vice president of Yellow Cab company of this city, in a recent conference with heads of three agencies, stated that the hiring policy of Yellow Cab with regard to colored drivers is a permanent measure; that an applicant's qualifications will determine his employment; and that seniority governs length of service without regard to race, color or religion.

It was revealed that there had been only a few unfavorable repercussions concerning the use of Negro drivers and that the acceptance of these men by the other drivers to date had been favorable.

Company officials warned however, that part of the responsibility for making a success of this movement must rest on the shoulders of the men themselves, because drivers have to take a great deal.

The men who met with the officials were Dr. John K. Rice, president of the North Philadelphia Civic league; Arthur H. Fauset, president of the United Peoples Action committee, and Charles H. Shorter, executive secretary of the NAACP.

Marines Coming Home from Pacific

OKINAWA — (ANP) — The 9th and 10th Marine Depot companies, including the highest point ment of the 18th and 19th Marine Depot companies and the 3rd Marine Ammunition company, have started sailing for the states.

They made their departure from this rugged island in late November. In an exchange of men, the 10th sent several of its veterans with point scores in the 30's to the 3rd, to wait until this colorful unit hit high seas for San Francisco around the first of the year.

All marines of the 9th and 10th Depots have over 50 points and have served 24 months in the Central and South Pacific. All have been with their two companies since their activities in the winter of 1943 and participated in their training and maneuvers along the east coast.

Their Pacific records list duty at Guadalcanal, Fiji, Pago Pago, New Caledonia and Okinawa.

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Save 4 White Tots Caught in Fire

ANNISTON, Ala.—(ANP)—Four white children were saved from burning to death in their home here Monday night by T/5 Joe D. Benson, 29, of Water Valley, Miss., and Pvt. Booker T. Tibblett, 21, stationed at Ft. McClellan.

The two soldiers happened to see the fire as they were going back to camp.

Benson knocked on the door, arousing Doris Haywood who broke out a glass in the front door and then went into a bedroom and returned with a sleeping baby which she handed through the opening to Benson. Then Benson battered the door and went in search of the other sleepers.

Parents of the children, Mrs. Hazel Haywood and T/Sgt. and Mrs. J. D. Johnson, were away from home at the time of the fire which destroyed their four-room home.

The two rescue heroes were handed a \$100 purse by city employees and friends and commended to their commanding officer at Fort McClellan.

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