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Portland League Secretary Honored

EDWIN C. BERRY, SECRETARY OF URBAN LEAGUE, HONORED

Under date of February 14, 1946, Mr. Edwin C. Berry, Executive Secretary of the Urban League of Portland, Ore., received the following letter: (Caption omitted)

"Dear Edwin Berry: With an enthusiasm I have never equalled with the committee this noon they instructed me to write to you immediately in hopes that you would be able to be a member of the Institute faculty.

I will not at this time go into the financial details, but if you indicate that you will be available I will be glad to discuss the matter with you.

Our normal demands upon a faculty member are, I think, fairly heavy, but perhaps not unreasonable.

Two major speeches and daily leadership of Round Table are expected during the ten days in addition to perhaps one outside dinner or club engagement.

The Institute is held in the very pleasant atmosphere of the Helen Bush School where comfortable faculty living quarters are available.

Very truly,
(Signed) Paul B. Johnson,
General Secretary.

Mr. Berry replied to this letter informing Mr. Johnson that "he considered it a great honor and opportunity and that he wished he could answer unequivocally 'yes' at the time; circumstances make it impossible.

He stated further that he had accepted speaking engagements at the National Conference of Social Work, which meets in Buffalo, N. Y., May 19-25; that he is also a candidate for an office at this conference; that he doesn't know just how long he would be detained in the East; therefore his reply will have to be delayed for the present; in the meantime he would exchange wires with his National Office to get their views, then he would be in a position to say "yes" or "no."

Our reporter in talking with Mr. Berry and his staff was informed that during the past week Mr. Berry had spoken to the following groups:

Duniway School PTA Subject, "Living Together — Americans All."

Lincoln High Assembly Program. Subject, "Understanding Others."

Roosevelt High School. Subject, "Negroes in Portland."

Parents Club—All Saint Parish. Subject, "Race Relation in American Democracy."

Presbyterian Business Girls Club (First Church). Subject, "Race Relations and Industrial Pal."

Home Service Staff, AMERICAN RED CROSS. Subject, "Assisting Negro Veterans Adjust."

On March 9th he is to address

Linfield College Inter-racial Institute, at McMinnville, Ore., the subject, "Race Problem in America."

Reed College Student Assembly. Subject, "How college students can help strengthen American Democracy."

He is also scheduled to speak at Washington Hi, Jefferson Hi, The Unitarian Church, and Grant High School."

Our reporter was also informed that the league will soon start a survey as is shown in the following announcement:

As you may know, the Urban League of Portland (is attempting) to aid this community in the integration of Negro Americans through employment, housing, educational opportunities, and the like.

We believe that all Americans should have a right to work on jobs for which they are qualified. We believe that it is un-American to deny work opportunity to persons because of race or creed.

We know that a decent job is basic to all good life. Limiting work opportunity for any group amounts to a limitation of citizenship.

At this time, work opportunity for Negro residents of Portland is extremely limited. Many employers (particularly in the retail areas and certain service fields) have expressed unwillingness to employ Negro workers because they feel that you—the public—would be displeased.

We do not agree with these employers. We believe in you, and your sense of fair play. We believe that nearly all Portlanders want to see the American principle of freedom of opportunity for all carried out in this area.

We do not seek preferential treatment for Negroes. We seek only equal job opportunities for all capable persons, regardless of race.

We are not proposing any innovations. Job opportunities in these fields are open to all workers in many progressive northern and western cities.

Therefore, we ask your co-operation in this effort to determine the real attitudes of Portlanders on this important American question. Thank you for your assistance.

Among its co-operating agencies in this survey are:

- Race Relation Division, Portland Council of Churches, N. A. A. C. P., Political Action Committee of Reed College, Marylhurst College Students, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Committee on Inter racial Principles and Practices, and many other school, community and church groups.

He stated further that the work on the survey would be done entirely by Urban League members and members of co-operating groups; that the survey is intended to reach 20,000 Portlanders. This will give tangible evidence of employment."

These are the questions that will be sent to the places and persons named above.

SURVEY OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED NEGROES IN RETAIL AND SERVICE OCCUPATIONS.

Conducted by the Urban League of Portland, 6 S. W. Sixth St., with the co-operation of various religious, educational and com-

Navy Policy to Protect Rights

Negro applicants for enlistment in the regular United States Naval service were advised this week that official naval policy fully protects their right to enlist in any branch of the service for which they are eligible or qualified. Assurance came from Lester B. Granger, National Urban League Executive, who has been acting as special advisor to the Navy Secretary, after several cases had been brought to his attention involving recruiting centers in different cities where Negroes had been refused enlistment except in the steward's mate branch. Upon reporting these instances to the Secretary of Navy, Granger received the following letter from Mr. Forrestal:

"Instructions in effect to the Recruiting and Induction Service that anyone—regardless of race, creed, or color—who meets the physical, mental, and moral standards is qualified for enlistment or reenlistment in the Regular Navy in any of the general service ratings authorized in Recruiting Circular Letters, provided he is a citizen of the United States or of its insular possessions.

"Personnel separated from the service over three months may be re-enlisted, if physically and mentally qualified, under broken service standards. As such, they cannot come in as petty officers. If previous service has been with the Army, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, they are likewise eligible for petty officer ratings. Enlistees who have had no previous service in any branch of the Armed Forces are eligible for enlistment as Seaman or as Steward's Mates. However, colored enlistees are not accepted for general service unless able to pass the General Classification Test, given to all enlistees. If their mark is below the required standard, they are acceptable as Steward's Mates only.

"It is hoped that the above explanation will clarify Navy standards for all applicants for enlistment."

Please indicate below your own attitudes towards the employment of Negro workers in retail and public service occupations in the Portland area.

1. Do you feel that retail and public service jobs should be open to all workers on the basis of training and ability, regardless of race?
Yes — No — Indifferent —

2. If local retail stores should agree to accept qualified Negro sales clerks, cashiers, etc., how would you feel toward patronizing these establishments?
More likely — Less likely — No difference —

3. Would the employment of capable Negroes in the public service field (i.e., bus drivers, telephone operators, meter readers, delivery men, etc) meet with your approval?
Yes — No — Indifferent —

4. Please give any further comments in this space (a brief statement of the reasons for your replies would be appreciated):

Name: _____
Address: _____
Name and affiliation of interviewer: _____

The CIO and Negro Veterans

We believe that anybody who discriminates against anybody else because of race, color or creed is a fascist.

This isn't name-calling; it is facing the facts.

This accounts for our fight against the segregation of blood plasma for our fighting men.

This accounts for our successful fight to obtain honorable discharges for the Negro Seabees.

This accounts for the presentation by CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey to Chairman Irving Abramson of our Committee of a certificate for "outstanding service in the field of race relations."

It shouldn't be surprising, therefore, that the Committee should now present the story of William Sanders—Negro Veteran.

This is the story of Negro troops who, like William Sanders, fought fascism abroad only to find the seeds of fascism at home.

The story only poses the problem but does not present the solution.

Still, the CIO has not only been posing this problem for many years but has for an equal number of years offered a positive program to solve it.

CIO has been working for full employment for all.

CIO is on record for seniority rights and equal pay for equal work for all—regardless of race, color or creed.

CIO has been fighting for a permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee.

CIO has been fighting for adequate housing, medical and social services for all—and against Jim Crowism.

CIO has established a National Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination to wage the fight for equality of opportunity.

But equality of opportunity will be attained only when such stories as the story of William Sanders are recited in our textbooks as an ugly chapter in our history.

One of the best persons to write the current account of the Negro veteran is Luigi Creatore—a veteran himself.

Now in the Servicemen and Veterans Division of the National CIO War Relief Committee, Mr. Creatore for nearly five years served in the U. S. Navy and worked and fought alongside Negro troops. He learned that there is no color line in sacrifice and no color line for valor in battle. He learned, too, that the thoughts and ambitions of the Negro are like the thoughts and ambitions of all servicemen—to go back home, to get a job and to live decently.

RACE GAP NARROWING. NEW RABBI DECLARES

"We in this country are moving closer daily to breaking down the barriers between races and creeds and offer real hope to other nations."

That is the belief expressed by Alex Y. Klein, new rabbi of Shaarie Torah synagogue, 1926 SW 1st avenue, who recently arrived here from Sacramento. Rabbi Klein studied at the Hebrew Theological seminary in Chicago and filled pulpits in Birmingham and Appleton, Wis., before going to Sacramento last July. He intends to continue his studies thru extension work.

Returning to Armed Forces to Study Journalism



Above picture shows Joseph W. Brooks, advertising manager of the Portland Inquirer writing his last words to his many friends in the City of Roses.

Advertising Manager Says Farewell for Now

To my many friends in the City of Roses:

I am indeed grateful to you for the splendid hospitality shown me during my stay here in the Armed Forces and especially my re-enlistment leave. As advertising manager of the Portland Inquirer, it is a pleasure for me to thank the many advertisers who supported the programs I sponsored for the betterment of the paper and community life.

The debt I owe to the people, I am hoping to repay on my return after completing my re-enlistment term of service course in Journalism.

Realizing the many problems that confront you here, may you continue to fight for the real American way of life, through such channels as the N.A.A.C.P., Urban League, and organizations that stand for the Four Freedoms, of which our country was founded: Freedom of speech and expression, Freedom of religion, Freedom from want, and Freedom from fear.

My reason for writing this article is because I know from experience, we sometimes do not think seriously enough about community progress where we live until something unfavorable happens.

I am of the opinion whether I was born in Portland and vicinity or not, since I saw fit to come here my job is here; that I owe to Portland and myself all the contributions I can give. Seemingly some of us think because my home is in the far east or south, they owe nothing to Portland.

First duty of any person who has lived in a community at least six months should exercise his franchise merely by registering to vote. Of course old registrations must be renewed if they have lapsed through failure to vote within the past two years or whether there has been a change of residence. Then your voice means something in your community activity. Until then you are as a kite without a tail or a ship without a rudder.

The conquered peoples of Europe have learned to their everlasting sorrow that eternal vigilance is, indeed, the price of liberty. Americans must profit by their sad example. Fascism is a disease that begins with the creeping paralysis of indifference.

It must not get a foothold in America. Be vigilant. Register and vote!

Right now in Portland and vicinity we have candidates who are running for office worthy of your vote. 1944 Primaries in Oregon, Oliver E. Smith, a man who has always fought hard for minority groups and civic circles in and about Portland, lost by only 28 votes; but if the registration had been larger here, he would have won. Were you registered?

Political interest has now gained its foothold in Vanport. Samuel G. Whitney, prominent in religious and civic circles tossed his hat in the political ring as the first candidate to ever file from Vanport.

Next week I will continue my article on the progress as I see it has been made in the past two years in Portland and vicinity. Leaving now for Greensboro, N. C., for re-enlistment. Watch for next week.

SPECIAL FOR PORTLAND INQUIRER

The drive for memberships into the N.A.A.C.P. got off to a flying start on March 1st. Our goal this year is for at least 3,000 members. It is most encouraging the way people of Portland, Vanport, and Guilds Lake are responding. It means much to us who are trying so hard despite the lack of time we have to devote to the work we need most and also other obstacles which challenge us to circumvent them.

In all walks of life there are organizations and clubs that are important to the individual and others important to all. Memberships in the former is selective by the organization and by the selectee—on the other hand the latter comprises organizations which serve as the background for all other ones. The N.A.A.C.P. and the Urban League are the latter type. Both have as their objectives the adjustment of Race Relations and securing for American Citizens the rights and freedoms which the constitution of the United States so provides.

The N. A. A. C. P. receives no financial backing except that which you offer as members for your protection. Join your N. A. A. C. P. now! Join your Urban League when its membership drive begins! Have memberships in as many organizations as you choose; but first become a part of the organization that is diligently working to make this area a cleaner and better place in which you and your children may live. Help us to help you.

R. N. Joyner, Jr., M.D.
Pres. N.A.A.C.P.

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City*

Sec 562 P. L. & R.