

Athletes Will Go to Texas; States Texas AAU Official

That a majority of the Negro ranking track stars and champions will participate in the national outdoor championships in Texas this June was the opinion voiced by Dan Ferris, AAU secretary-treasurer, and Eric Pohl, organizer of the Southern Texas AAU, at a press conference in the office of Parole Commissioner Samuel Battle, 100 Centre st., last Tuesday afternoon.

"I am confident that most of the boys will be there," stated Pohl, who is a newspaperman on the San Antonio Express-News. Ferris revealed that he had talked to and got the consent of: Elmore Harris, Barney Ewell, Eddie Conwell, Herb McKenley, Eddie Dugger, Ed Taylor, and Dave Albritton. Lone objector, according to Ferris, was Eulace Peacock, national pentathlon champion, and a member of the New York Pioneer Club.

The conference was called for the press to interview Pohl, after Commissioner Battle, as a community leader had written to the AAU Texas officials. Newspapermen at the meeting were: Jimmy Cannon and Jerry De Nonno, Post; Toney Betts, Mirror; Lola Paine, Daily Worker; Dan Burley, Amsterdam-News; and Rick Hurt, People's Voice.

Stating that if "the Negro athletes come down to Texas like gentlemen, they will be treated like gentlemen," Pohl scored those people who object to Negro athlete's participation in Texas. Arrangements for Negro athletes, he stated, are: all Negro athletes will ride unsegregated on a special train from Saint Louis to San Antonio; Negro athletes will receive full equality while on the track; all of the track activities will be handled by a committee headed by Valmo Ballinger, Negro millionaire publisher of the San Antonio Register. The Negro athletes will stay with the best Negro families.

Pohl maintained that Northern critics of discrimination in Texas should note the discrimination in New York City, which, in his belief "is just as bad as Texas." All amateur athletic contests in Texas, with the exception of boxing and wrestling are interracial, he stated. The participation by Negroes in the national track championships will help in the attempt to make these two sports inter-racial also, Pohl averred.

Ferris informed the reporters that the AAU has been concerned with the treatment of Negro athletes in the championships since San Antonio was first proposed, and said that first proposals that all athletes, white and Negro, be quartered together in an "athletic village" outside San Antonio were abandoned as impractical and inconvenient.

Negro spectators at the meet will be seated in a special jimcrow section, Pohl stated. "You can't tear down the laws of Texas over night, you know."

Students Protest Prof's Attitude

WASHINGTON — Ninety-five students of the two upper classes of the College of Dentistry, Howard University, made a formal protest to the faculty concerning the relationship which existed between one of the part-time clinical instructors, Dr. Richard Otakaki, and the students of the junior and senior dental classes.

The students claim that the instructor assumes a curt and uncooperative attitude toward them in his routine dealings. In support of this protest the members of the two upper classes absented themselves from the clinic Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week, but attended regularly their other classes.

In a meeting with the dean of the College of Dentistry Friday the students agreed to return to the clinic on its next open day, Monday, March 4, since the clinic is closed on Saturday, on account of the celebration of Charter Day.



Justice Demanded In Tennessee

Columbia, Tenn.—As the Department of Justice in Washington awaits a report on its investigation of the 18 hour racial conflict which occurred here last week, the NAACP filed this week, a habeas corpus petition demanding the release of 34 Negroes held in jail as an aftermath of the bloody riot following the invasion of the Negro community by local police and state guardsmen. Other organizations are demanding trials for the police killers of the two Negroes in the local jailhouse on the day of the riot.

The petition demanding the release of the arrested Negroes charges that the 34, part of 101 jailed after a highway patrol detachment raked two blocks of Negro homes and shops with tommy guns, are held incommunicado, in violation of their constitutional rights.

Maurice Weaver, of Chattanooga, attorney for the local NAACP, filed the petition in the criminal court. Delegations have conferred with Governor Jim McCall, calling for immediate action against the white slayers of James W. Johnson and William Gordon, who were said by officers to have been shot in an attempt to escape.

Walter White, executive secretary of the national office of the NAACP called on the governor to protest the "promiscuous shooting and mistreatment of Negroes" by officers and state guardsmen.

White said that although the Columbia situation is tense enough for the state guardsmen

on duty to have doubled their strength, 42 Negroes who had been imprisoned in jail in Nashville were moved back to the jail in Columbia where the two others were killed last week.

NEIGHBORHOOD WRECKED

"This is no ordinary case," declared White. "A firsthand look at the situation reveals even more outrageous handling than was indicated in newspaper stories. The killing of two prisoners in the jail and the wounding of another indicates what the Negro citizens of the small community of Columbia are up against."

"Unless they receive outside aid, unless the country is aroused to condemn this kind of thing that took place in Columbia, Negro citizens of small communities throughout the nation will be helpless."

He said that there was deliberate vandalism by the militia sent in to keep order. They wrecked the office of Dr. F. L. Hawthorne, and the offices of a Negro insurance company. Not only that, he declared, but a plot is on foot to place the entire blame for the riot on Negroes.

MILITARY AIR HANGS

In a release to the Associated Negro Press, Nat D. Williams writing from Columbia, said that the blame for the first major post war racial outbreak is placed by observers on working conditions at the nearby phosphate plant at Mt. Pleasant, the determination of white supremacists to keep the Negro in his place, and the opposition of returned Negro servicemen and militant Negroes to go back to the "grossly inferior status" they suffered before the war.

Police officials state that four white men were arrested, but

they refused to name them, or to state whether they are still being held.

An atmosphere of military occupation still hovers over the embattled Negro neighborhood. Negro businessmen, barred for a week from their premises, began returning Sunday to check their wrecked establishments.

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