

Adam Clayton Powell—II

# Controversial Congressman Chooses Negro Role; Can't Prove Blood Strain

Editor's note: One of the questions asked most frequently by visitors to Washington is "What makes 'Congressman X' the kind of a man he is?" The answer is seldom simple. But never is it more complicated than in the case of Adam Clayton Powell. The following dispatch, second in a series, tells how Powell became a Negro leader and how it has affected his life.

By LOUIS CASSELS

And ARNOLD SAWISLAK

Washington — (UPI) — When Adam Clayton Powell was 12 years old, his family moved to Harlem, where his father was to serve for many years as a Baptist minister.

"The first night we were there," Powell recalled recently, "my mother sent me to the drug store. A gang of white boys waylaid me on the street, and beat me up."

"The next night, I was sent on another errand, and I took a different route. This time a gang of Negro boys beat me up."

"The third night the white boys grabbed me again, and asked me 'Boy, what color are you?'"

"I was scared and didn't know what to say so I just told them the truth. I don't know what I am, I said. 'I'm mixed.' So they beat me up again for being mixed."

Powell laughed uproariously as he told this anecdote to UPI reporters in his congressional office. But there was a look in his eyes which suggested the 12-year-old boy had not found the incident so amusing.

Unsure of Ancestry

Although Powell has become the American Negro's best-known and most controversial spokesman in Congress, he is not at all sure how much Negro blood is actually in his veins, and any uninitiated visitor would almost certainly take him for a white man.

At 54 he is a tall, slim-waisted, strikingly handsome man with long wavy hair, a neatly trimmed moustache, and a complexion which ranges from the shade of coffee with double cream to that of weathered brass, depending upon how much time he has been spending in the sun outside his beach home in Puerto Rico.

On his desk is a family photograph showing his father, mother and sister. All of them look white.

"I couldn't prove that I have any Negro blood," Powell said in reply to a direct question about his ancestry. Then he added: "I am a Negro by choice."

Part of Answer

In that sentence lies part of the explanation of Powell's strong hold on the affections of the Harlem constituents who have elected him to Congress 10 times despite a succession of scandals and accusations involving income tax returns, trips at government expense, relatives on the federal payroll and other matters.

Powell is a man who could pass for white — who, in fact, he has spent most of his life — but who has deliberately chosen to cast his lot with the Negro race.

The decision may have cost him something in terms of private snubs or embarrassments. But it has been professionally and politically rewarding.

Father Founds Church

Powell was born in New Haven, Conn., Nov. 29, 1908. But he has spent most of his life in New York City, where his father, the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Sr., built the Abyssinian Baptist church into one of the largest Protestant congregations in America (about 10,000 members). First located in downtown Manhattan, the church was

transplanted to Harlem when Adam Jr. was 12.

Young Powell grew up in comfortable circumstances, attended good schools, was graduated from Colgate university with an A.B. degree and went on to get his master's from Columbia. At 22, he became assistant minister of his father's church. Seven years later, he succeeded his father as pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist church — a post which he still holds despite a series of marital troubles that have shocked some of the church elders.

Marries Three Times

Powell has had three wives. The first, whom he wed in 1933, was Negro actress Isabel Washington. They were divorced in 1945, and Powell married pianist Hazel Scott. They had a son, Adam Clayton Powell III, nicknamed "Skipper," who has gladdened his father's heart by compiling a brilliant record in prep school and winning admission to MIT this fall.

The marriage to Miss Scott ended in divorce in 1960, and Powell married one of his congressional secretaries, a pretty Puerto Rican girl named Yvette Diago.

Although both of Powell's jobs — as minister and congressman — theoretically require him to maintain his residence in Harlem, his real home these days is a \$70,000 beach house near San Juan,

Puerto Rico, where he spends as much time as possible with Yvette and their infant son, born last year.

Sparks Criticism

His frequent trips to Puerto Rico, some at government expense, and his very high absenteeism record (he missed nearly half of the roll call votes taken by the House during the past two sessions) have been remarked upon unfavorably by his numerous critics, in and out of Congress. But evidently they have not distressed either his constituents or his congregation in Harlem.

Throughout his 19 years in Congress, Powell has continually sought — and often found — dramatic ways to battle for Negro rights. His favorite tactic has been introduction of "The Powell Amendment" — prohibiting federal aid to states which draw the color line in dispensing federal dollars.

Next: Powell replies to critics.

## County Crews Work On Road Projects

Recent hot, dry weather is enabling county road crews to catch up with their work, according to County Engineer Robert J. Carstensen.

"If weather remains good the roads department will start its annual dust oiling and start prime oiling on those roads which it plans to pave this season," Carstensen said.

Crews are grading the south fork of Little Butte Creek rd. about three miles east of Lake Creek. A contractor is widening the bridge over Evans creek on the North River rd. near Rogue River, including construction of footings, and bridge abutments.

Grading has been completed on one mile of the Elk Creek rd., north of Sugar Pine creek; crews are rebalancing part of Rogue River dr., a half mile west of Shady Cove; and repair work is progressing on Kane's Creek bridge, 1 1/2 miles south of Gold Hill. The bridge went out during the Dec. 2 flood.

The Anderson creek bridge will be repaired as soon as a crew is free, Carstensen said.

DROWNS IN BASIN  
Seaview, Wash. — (UPI) — Robert McAfee, 10, drowned Sunday in the Ilwaco boat basin.

## The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Mrs. T. Y. — He's flunking. The school wants him to go to a clinic.

Mr. T. Y. — It's just adolescence. All he needs is some tutoring.

Mrs. T. Y. — After distinguishing himself in elementary school, winning two prizes at graduation, our 14-year-old son got very bad marks at the end of his first term in high school. Because his record shows a high I.Q., the school psychologist called me to his office to see if I could explain why Joe is failing. The only possible reason seems to be that he misses his cousin who moved to Canada. But they want us all to report to a clinic.

Mr. T. Y. — It's true that Joe is disappointed not to have his cousin in his class anymore. Herbie kept Joe on his toes; they were friendly rivals right through the lower grades, each trying to come out on top. But there's no need for treating Joe as though he's sick now. He just needs some jacking-up on his Latin and algebra. A few 100s on tests will give him back his old confidence. He's at a hard age.

The Council: Our advice to any family which is invited to avail itself of the facilities of a good guidance clinic is, "Grab it!" Such clinics are scarce, their waiting lists are

long, their services and results are unobtainable elsewhere at present. What are their services? Above all, they enable a teen-ager to "get it out." Maybe Mr. Y. is right, and all Joe needs is some experience with high marks in high school. But, maybe there is more than meets the eye, more than Joe would ever tell his parents, his cousin, his best friend. These Youth Counseling Centers have therapists who can draw out the whole story, either through talk, or through leading a child to "act out" his true feelings. Since parents also are interviewed and guided toward helpful handling of a child's problems, Mr. and Mrs. Y. will "have it made" if they follow through. Joe may still flunk and have to go to summer school. But it's the sort of flop that opens the way to the top.

GP MAN CRASHES

Corvallis — (UPI) — A helicopter pilot sustained only a scratched finger when his copter crashed in heavy brush in western Benton county Sunday, state police reported. James Taylor, 38, Grants Pass, employed by Reforestation Service, Inc., Salem, said the engine on his machine suddenly went dead as he was spraying brush northeast of Summit.

## Scholar Watching

# Diversion Suggested To Make Ordeal Of Graduation Exercises Bearable

By DICK WEST

Washington — (UPI) — Invitations to spring graduation exercises are falling around us now like the gentle rain from heaven.



West

A person never realizes how many nephews he has until the cement season begins. There is, however, a silver lining in this shower of sheepskin importuning. In most cases, we are not really expected to attend.

The great aching void created by our absence can usually be assuaged by a small gift.

At times, of course, the ceremony cannot be avoided. It is to those of you who are facing such an ordeal that I address this message.

Take heart, kind friends. I may be able to point out a way to make it bearable. I have found that I can better endure the gaseous orations and the seemingly endless processions by occupying my mind with a pleasant little diversion called "scholar watching."

and plumage. I happen to have at hand a scholar watcher's pocket manual that I obtained from the publishers of the Encyclopedia International. From it I have gleaned a few tips that you might find useful.

Almost anyone who has even been to a graduation exercise can instantly recognize the familiar "black-tasseled bachelor." But, not everybody can distinguish it from the "black-tasseled master," which also is a fairly common species.

The trick is to study the cut of their gowns. The bachelor has long sleeves with cuffs that flair down into points, whereas the master has oblong sleeves that are open at the wrist.

The "gold-tasseled doctor" also is easily spotted, but it appears in a variety of subspecies that provide a real challenge to the scholar watcher.

Among those most often found in the western hemisphere are the "purple-hooded lawyer," the "blue-hooded philosopher," the "yellow-hooded scientist," the "pink-hooded musician" and the "scarlet-hooded theologian."

The plumage of the doctorate genus is not always uniform, however. You may see a "scarlet-hooded theologian" with scarlet bars on the gown. On the other hand, the bars may be black.

On rare occasions, the scholar watcher may spot a European savant among the domestic flock. Most likely its coloration will be richer and more varied. But that doesn't mean that it is any smarter.

As a matter of fact, a neophyte watcher should never attempt to identify scholars by their I.Q. The one at the bottom may be your sister's oldest boy.



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### STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN  
Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Tuesday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

1 You	31 Musical	61 Year
2 New	32 Struggle	62 Peace
3 Health	33 Is	63 Luck
4 Enjoy	34 News	64 Social
5 Kindred	35 Or	65 Social
6 Voice	36 Year	66 Ideas
7 Not	37 Be	67 Something
8 Wonderful	38 Lie	68 Break
9 Be	39 Unexpected	69 And
10 Clothes	40 Worthwhile	70 To
11 Sound	41 Visitor	71 Concern
12 Forget	42 Year	72 Be
13 Spirits	43 Likely	73 Circle
14 Confused	44 Inspiring	74 Advice
15 Good	45 Ambition	75 You
16 In	46 And	76 Be
17 Professional	47 Use	77 Important
18 Year	48 May	78 Oh
19 Day	49 Anticipate	79 Don't
20 Move	50 The	80 To
21 Dream	51 Year	81 Be
22 To	52 Up	82 Move
23 Friends	53 Friends	83 Live
24 Enter	54 Enter	84 Spirits
25 Drive	55 Drive	85 Desk
26 In	56 In	86 Work
27 Groups	57 Groups	87 Oversee
28 Get	58 Get	88 Yes
29 Pick	59 Tailors	89 Expect
30 New	60 Back	90 Up

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## Quick! There's an S-55 Merc.

Car-spotters don't have time for second looks. An S-55 Merc is liable to have one of those big Marauder mills up front (up to 425 horses). So look quick... for the S-55 emblem on the rear fender panel. Of course, if you happen to catch one standing still (extremely rare), you can tell an S-55 by its lush, leathery sports-bred interior. Very elegant (in a masculine way). And very suggestive of what happens when this car goes var-o-o-o-m.



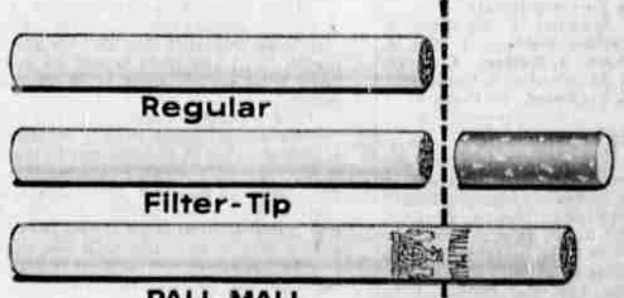
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